

BREA Minutes (final; approved by voice vote at meeting Nov. 8, 2016)

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday Oct. 11, 2016; 1:00 PM, BNL Berkner Room B, Upton, NY

Minutes recorded by Mona Rowe in A. Moodenbaugh's absence.

(revised for publication by Secy. A. Moodenbaugh Moodenba@optonline.net).

Attendees: Violet Bezler, Nate Carter, Cheryl Conrad, Ronnie Evans, Les Fishbone, Sheryl Gerstman, Louise hanson, Georgia Irving, Terri Kneitel, Jim Lemley, Beth Yu Lin, Al Mallin, Ken Mohring, Mona Rowe, Lloyd Schairer, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Barry Siskind, Joan Skelton, Richard Skelton, and Peter Yamin.

Contact Brookhaven Retired Employees Association:

BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation / Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

President Liz Seubert opened the meeting at 1:01 PM. Sign in sheets were circulated for attendees, with names collected shown above.

1. Minutes. Liz Seubert circulated the September minutes and a sign-up sheet. Barry Siskind noted that the minutes did not capture the issue Louise Hanson had raised about her husband not being able to get a guest appointment. Liz said the minutes would be amended. They were then accepted as amended.

2. Treasurer's Report. Steve Shapiro gave an accounting of BREA's money: \$4K in savings, \$9K in checking and \$25K in CDs, totaling \$38K. Sheryl Gerstman, responding to a comment from Steve about a questionable request for payment, gave some general advice concerning an email from a source purporting to be from a commercial or financial institution: never reply directly to an email you were not expecting. If you want to reply, use the contact info (email or website) from your own records to do so.

3. Membership Report. Beth Lin reported that BREA has 456 current members. Of those members, 386 have email addresses. An additional 78 on the list are in arrears, some going back many years. Sheryl sent emails to those of the 78 who had email addresses to notify them that their memberships had expired. Since the September meeting, seven individuals have paid their dues.

4. History of BREA. BREA celebrates its 20-year anniversary in 2017. Mona Rowe reported that Arnie Peskin's article on BREA history is done. Anita Cohen is looking for photos [Ed note: additional information about photos post-meeting from Anita Cohen: A. Cohen has found photos of BREA luncheon planning committee from 2001, 2004 and 2009, as well as photo of Graham Campbell, and still looking through Bulletin archives]. Dave Cox suggested looking for photos starting in 2003 and 2004, March and April. Perhaps someone like Joyce Tichler has photos from the first luncheon. Liz volunteered to look through old Bulletin files. Steve suggested a supplement if we have enough material to fill it.

5. Newsletter. The November/December BREA News will contain 1. in Liz's president's message, information about the recent letter and form BREA retirees received from the Taben Group about Health Care Reimbursement accounts; 2. Anita Cohen's wrap-up of BNL science and accomplishments over the past year; and 3. an article by Beth on membership renewal. Because the Taben form is due on December 2, 2016, Mona Rowe said that the newsletter will be in mailboxes before Thanksgiving. Correction from Mona: In fact, the newsletter will be mailed by the end of October, not in November, as she said at the meeting. This next issue is a November/December issue.

Barry Siskind (siskindb@gmail.com) volunteered to help Mona Rowe pick out key points in the Taben Group's letter to put in the newsletter for retirees. Mona Rowe will ask Melissa Schuchman (at HR) how retirees can get another Taben form.

Questions and comments from the group:

Medicare Part B? What does that mean? [All current and retired employees must register for Medicare A Hospitalization at age 65. For continued comprehensive health coverage, when 65 years of age and retired, or when retiring after 65, you must register with Medicare and begin paying for Medicare Part B OR Medicare Advantage. Part B is basic Medical coverage commonly supplemented with a Medicare Supplement and Part D drug plan. Medicare Advantage replaces Medicare A, B, Supplement, and often Part D.] Retirees over 65 should obtain Medicare Supplement or Advantage medical insurance options through SelectQuote in order to receive the BNL HRA supplement. It is not a requirement that Part D drug coverage be obtained through SelectQuote.

If you are currently enrolled in Part B, Supplement, and Part D drug coverage, and want to keep everything the same, do nothing and all policies – medical supplement insurance and prescription drug plan or Advantage plan – are automatically renewed. If you want to change your insurance, contact SelectQuote.

BREA should meet with BNL HR to discuss costs and push for an increase in reimbursement from the \$170/month we have been receiving since 2015. HR recently mailed the summary plan description for the 2016 BSA Health Reimbursement Account Program. Getting this document now seemed like a mistake.

The January/February 2017 newsletter will contain the BREA history and, perhaps, material on the Lab's 70th anniversary. BSA's 20th anniversary is in 2017 or 2018. Will have to check.

Recent Passings. Bob Chrien, Lester Corliss, Alyce Daly

Steve Kramer Talk. Liz Seubert and Mona Rowe reported on Steve Kramer's talk about volunteer work to support a school in a village in Haiti. The audience numbered 22, thanks to promotion by Christine Carter to BERA clubs and Mona to NSLS-II and Steve's colleagues at NSLS and NSLS-II. Several members asked for Steve's slides, which Mona has as a pdf. Contact Steve Kramer at SKramer_1953@yahoo.com. The charitable organization site is LifeandHopeHaiti.org.

6. New Business.

Guest Appointment issues. A retiree brought up the problem of her retiree spouse having difficulty getting a guest appointment, which would maintain his bnl.gov email address and ability to collaborate in ongoing work. Many around the table agreed that it's become difficult to get a guest appointment. One retiree, who volunteered for retirement in January 2016, said, "In order to have a guest appointment, you have to be part of an outside organization." He does not and, thus, could not qualify for a guest appointment, but he was able to have his BNL email address extended for one year.

Steve Shapiro said that this policy does not seem to be similar to that at FermiLab, which gives guest appointments to retirees whether or not they have taken a buyout. Consider asking Steve Schwartz to come and talk to BREA. Steve Shapiro volunteered to talk to Schwartz first. The Lab's legal counsel may be concerned about possible legal issues surrounding these appointments. The Lab has formed a committee to reevaluate guest appointments. BREA should be represented on the committee in order to advocate for retiree interests, and to communicate to retirees any policy made.

Wifi access. Perhaps we need to give instructions to retirees on available WiFi access. at BNL.

Social gathering. L. Seubert related an idea from Jackie Mooney, who suggested we gather for lunch more often than the more formal annual luncheon in the summer. After discussion around the table, we concluded that we should meet for lunch before some BREA meetings (the Nov. meeting could be a good start), since folks are coming to the Lab anyway. Let's start with lunch on site, perhaps in Berkner Room B assuming that it can be reserved. Going off site is appealing, since people come from different localities. Perhaps brunch at a nearby restaurant would work out if we start the meal at 11 a.m. Liz said that the brunch/lunch group will either grow or fade away. No way to predict what will happen.

Physician dropping Medicare. One retiree told the group that his own doctor is dropping Medicare. Instead, he's offering a plan in which his patients pay a certain amount, entitling them to care for that year. [Ed. note: when on Medicare and accessing a medical practice or facility, you should confirm that the business accepts Medicare; most do, but it is not a requirement.]

What can BREA do for the community? A retiree asked about the Tesla Science Center. Steve Shapiro reminded the group that a donation of a window would be about \$10-20K, too much for BREA's budget. Ken Mohring suggested approaching BSA to join with BREA in supporting the science center. "If the names are listed alphabetically on a plaque," said Steve, "BREA would be first!"

Meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm. Next BREA meetings will be

Tuesday Nov. 8, 2016 (Election Day), 1:00 pm, BNL Bldg. 400, Rms. RSB 1 & 2.

Tuesday Dec. 13, 2016, 1:00 pm, BNL Bldg. 490 Conf. Room (Medical, directly south of Bldg 400).

(locations tentative; check location in Agenda posted on BREA website the week of the meeting)