

# BREA Minutes

**Meeting Date and Place:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

**Attendees:** Elliot Auerbach, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Martine O'Conner, Frances Scheffel, Stephen Shapiro, Richard Skelton, Myron Strongin, and Joyce Tichler (by phone).

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:00pm.

The minutes of the Sept 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as amended by Joyce Tichler.

Ken Mohring did not present a Treasurer's Report because he had given a detailed report on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> covering the months May – August 2010, and the only changes to those figures arose from September interest payments.

Old Business:

BREA-sponsored on-site tours and lunch on October 13 (the next day): These were cancelled by Elaine Lowenstein of BNL's Tour Office on Friday Oct. 8 because she needed all her tour people for a major BNL PR event on October 13. Although the cancellation is understandable given the scheduling conflict, it is very unfortunate that BREA was not given earlier notice, because considerable effort went into the planning of and publicity for BREA's event. Ken Mohring has notified everyone who signed up of the cancellation. It was decided that we should reschedule next spring, aiming for a date in late April, taking care to avoid the week that the Lab devotes to Earth Day celebrations.

BREA brochure: Eena-Mai Franz passed around Mona Rowe's mock-up for insertion in a Bulletin issue to be mailed off-site. The sheet is double-sided with photos from the June luncheon printed on the backside. Approval has been sought via email from Liz Seubert, the Bulletin editor.

SeniorNet: Ken Mohring filled in for Ronnie Evans. Those present discussed ways for BREA/BNL to be more proactive in promoting SeniorNet. Dave Cox mentioned that he has found the SeniorNet meetings/lectures in Huntington to be very informative. It was decided to ask Ronnie to try arrange for a "meaty" article in a December Bulletin.

BREA website: Ken Mohring said he now has time to devote to filling in gaps on the website.

BREA newsletter: Eena-Mai Franz presented for Mona Rowe. The next issue, due out in November, will probably include the following:

- (1) Material from Elliot Auerbach on changes to Medicare included in last summer's health care legislation. Elliot believes that the specifics will be announced soon, hopefully in time for this issue of the Newsletter.

- (2) Aqua-Therapy for Active Seniors program, point of contact, Joanne Rula. Since this program begins on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, before the Newsletter goes out, Dave Cox will send out an email “blast” to BREA members.
- (3) Membership renewal for 2011.
- (4) Main article – to be determined
- (5) President’s Column by Eena-Mai Franz

Retirees’ BNL e-mail accounts: None of the working group set up at the Sept 14<sup>th</sup> meeting (Mona Rowe, Arnie Peskin, and Thomas Schlagel) were present, so this item was put off until the November meeting.

Contacts with retiree organizations at other DOE Labs: Joyce Tichler passed on information to Myron Strongin and Eena-Mai Franz that she had collected in the past from Lawrence Livermore (LLNL Retiree’s Association), Oak Ridge (the ORNL.gov website has news on retirees), Argonne and PNL. She said she found that the best way to find out info about retirees is to contact someone you know who is still working at the lab in question. Myron said he will continue to look into this.

Eric Forsyth presentation: Ken Mohring will speak to Ruth Comas today about possible November dates for a Berkner Hall lunchtime presentation, and then communicate with both Eric Forsyth and the Bulletin.

Follow-up on the June 9<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting: At this meeting, attended by Arnie Peskin and Eena-Mai Franz as BREA representatives, the CAC (BNL’s Community Advisory Council) voted on a resolution concerning controversial experiments at the AGS proposed by NASA on squirrel monkeys. Eena-Mai said that the CAC members recommended that the decision on whether to go forward with these experiments should be left up to the Lab Director and that they expressed full confidence that the Lab would do the right thing.

New Business:

On September 21, Eena-Mai Franz and Mona Rowe attended an informational meeting about DOE’s Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP). Under this program, external teams of health experts screen former workers who may be at significant risk for disease because of occupational exposures to substances such as beryllium, asbestos, silica, welding fumes, lead, cadmium, chromium and solvents. This program is in its early stages at BNL. More information will be forthcoming once BNL finalizes its plans.

Nov. meeting: Tues, Nov. 9, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Dec. meeting: Tues, Dec. 14, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson