

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015; Bldg.400, Rms RSB 1&2

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Elliot Auerbach, Bob Barone, Louise Barone, Mulki R. Bhat, Robert M. Brown, Nate Carter, Victor Cassella, Anita Cohen, Cheryl Conrad, Dave Cox, Leslie Fishbone, Sheryl Gerstman, Louise Hanson, Georgia Irving, Mark Israel, Robert Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Al Mallen, Lois Marascia, Robert Marascia, Ken Mohring, Lois Moller, Arnold Moodenbaugh, Arnie Peskin, Mona S. Rowe, Lloyd A. Schairer, Steve Shapiro, John Skalyo, Joan Skelton, Richard Skelton, and Elaine Zukowski.

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:06 pm.

Business:

Minutes: The minutes for the October 13, 2015 meeting were accepted pending several small changes.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Shapiro reported that other than depositing dues checks, there has been no recent activity. Any BREA member who would like to know more about the BREA accounts should contact Steve directly.

Use of BREA Funds: Steve Shapiro has been checking into the science center and museum that is being planned for the historic Nikola Tesla laboratory site in Shoreham, The Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyff, as a possible recipient for a donation from BREA. They have already received significant funds from crowd sourcing and the Elon Musk Foundation (Elon Musk is the CEO of Tesla Motors), which allowed them to buy the property. The laboratory building was designed by the noted (and notorious) architect Stanford White and is currently undergoing an extensive renovation. A striking feature of the building is its windows. Steve will explore what it would cost to restore one of them. They are also looking for volunteers. For more information on Wardenclyff, check them out on Wikipedia or at www.teslasciencecenter.org.

Membership: Sheryl Gerstman reported that BREA currently has 429 members. Of these, approximately 104 are delinquent in their dues. These numbers may change, as she is systematically reviewing computer records and past mailings from members, when available, going back several years. Currently, she does not have working email addresses for 114 members. To get in touch with Sheryl regarding BREA membership, dues, or to update your mail and email addresses, etc., please email her at sigronkonkoma@gmail.com or send her a letter addressed to BREA Membership Chair, 46 Richmond Blvd. Unit 3B, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-3692.

Sheryl asked Mona Rowe to repeat a notice in an upcoming "BREA News" Newsletter that reminds people that BREA membership is for the calendar year, not for the 12 months after the check was written. Sheryl also mentioned that BREA has a 99-year-old member who lives in Bellport. Someone

suggested that Mona write a piece about her for the Newsletter. Mona Rowe responded that she is always looking for retiree stories for the "BREA News" Newsletter.

Newsletter: Mona Rowe reported that the Jan/Feb 2016 "BREA News" Newsletter will be mailed to all retirees, not just BREA members. BNL will handle the mailing. Mona will ask HR's Melissa Schuchman (formerly Bittrolff) to provide Copy Service with the latest list of retiree addresses. Because of the size of the mailing, BREA will pick up the tab. Steve Shapiro said that up to now, even with the increase in number of yearly issues from four to six, BNL through Chris Carter has paid for all of BREA's Newsletters.

The Jan/Feb 2016 Newsletter will include a message from the new BREA President, a description of the medical screening and compensation programs, a membership form, a notice to send Sheryl Gerstman updated email addresses, the "In Memoriam" column, and "some fun things". The material for this Newsletter must be submitted earlier than usual to Copy Service and the Mailroom because of the December holidays.

Steve also said that Melissa Schuchman had recently asked for copies of the Newsletter to include in new retirees' packets. Mona will increase the number she normally sends to Melissa. Statistically, about 50 people have been retiring per year. However, Mark Israel mentioned that approximately 80 "separation packages" have been or shortly will be offered to BNL employees.

General Announcement Emails: Ken Mohring raised the issue, as he has at previous meetings, that it would be desirable to have an easy way to send out general announcements to BREA members via email without bothering the Membership Chair. Outlook is the current software used for the membership files. Bob Barone said that with Outlook, one can create a distribution list that can easily be sent to others. Ken asked him to meet with Sheryl Gerstman after the meeting to further discuss the matter.

BREA Elections: The nominating committee, composed of Louise Hanson, Arnie Moodenbaugh, and Georgia Irving, proposed the following roster for the 2016-17 BREA officers: President, Liz Seubert; Vice President, Bob Kinsey; Secretary, Arnold Moodenbaugh; and Treasurer, Steve Shapiro. The candidates were chosen in time for the ballot to appear in the Nov/Dec 2015 "BREA News" Newsletter. Write-ins are allowable. Louise Hanson and Lillian Kouchinsky agreed to count the ballots at the December meeting.

Medical and Drug Insurance Programs: Most of the discussion centered on SelectQuote Senior (SQ). SQ is not currently meeting people's expectations, based on what retirees were told a year ago. The document that was mailed out to retirees by SQ on Oct. 9 only dealt with the 2016 change in the HRA account servicer. Arnie Peskin thought they would also be sending a mailing that outlines the different medical plans they broker. He called and apparently they are not going to do so. If you are unhappy with your current supplemental medical insurance, you need to call an SQ agent to go through the various options. Dave Cox remembered that according to presentations and emails last fall, SQ was to provide retirees with a "retention specialist". This has failed to materialize. He called, got "somewhat of a runaround" and a "lukewarm response", and was then told someone would get back to him. That had not happened by the time of the meeting (four days later). SQ sent out a brief survey last August. This survey did not go to everyone. Sheryl Gerstman thought it was quite inadequate. Ken Mohring was

asked to bring up SQ issues with Denise DiMeglio. Ken agreed that the responses from SQ were not what we expected. He said it is apparent that we retirees must take the initiative if we want information.

With regard to drug plans those wishing to change their drug plan can do so either through SQ or on their own. The Medicare system lists *all* available plans, whereas SQ represents a subset. Anita Cohen said that she found a plan on the Medicare list - Silverscript, not available through SQ, that she felt best suited her needs.

BREA Constitution: Arnie Peskin is leading an effort, with help from Louise Hanson and Bob Kinsey, to review and up-date BREA's Constitution. This was spurred by the timing specified in the current version for the election of the nominating committee. Arnie thought that the Constitution in general needed to be looked at, not just this provision.

Primary HR Contact for Retirees: The primary contact person at HR for retirees, whom many of us knew as Melissa Bittrolff, has recently changed her name to Melissa Schuchman. Her contact info is given below:

Melissa Schuchman (formerly Bittrolff)
Brookhaven National Laboratory, Benefits Office - Building 400B, Upton, NY 11973
Telephone 631-344-2877, Fax 631-344-7133, E-Mail schuchman@bnl.gov

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 pm.

December 2015 meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1 pm, Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

January 2016 meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1 pm, Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson