

BREA MINUTES

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 1 p.m., Bldg. 400 Room RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach (by telephone), Louisa Barone, Bob Barone, Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Nate Carter, Anita Cohen, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Robert Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Ken Mohring, Arnold Moodenbauch, George Oldham, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Jackie Timko and Thomas Timko.

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:05 pm.

The Minutes of the January 10, 2014 meeting were accepted as presented.

Steve Shapiro gave the Treasurer's Report. We had been asked to consider endeavors for which some of the money could be used. However Ken said, as he did last month, that until a Lab contractor is selected we should hold on to the money we have. Since the BNL Bulletin ceased publication, Human Resources (HR) has asked BREA to include items in the Newsletter, which will now be sent out six times a year. At one point it seemed that HR might help pay for additional printing and mailing of the Newsletter, but this now seems unlikely. At present, the Lab finances four issues. BREA may have to fully support the other two issues.

Old Business:

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz reported a substantial increase in membership renewals and that we now have about 360 members. She has eliminated all old and invalid email addresses and now has a current accurate list. In the next Newsletter, we will ask for updated email addresses from members. U.S. mail addresses for the Newsletter seem to be all correct.

Medical Benefits: As a result of meeting of the BREA Committee for Health Benefits and Operations of the Lab which met on December 5, a statement/question concerning benefits for retirees was prepared, reviewed at the regular BREA meeting on December 11, submitted to DOE in December, and included in the DOE solicitation process.

In the fall Bob Lincoln noted that he wanted to meet with us early in 2014, he has not yet set a meeting date.

Information on alternative insurance plans shows that BNL retirees are better off at this time than retirees at some other Labs, but the outlook is not bright. Some of the older BNL retirees, who left when salaries were much smaller and before current inflation, are in great difficulty to pay new premiums.

DOE/BNL Contract Solicitation: Dave, Steve and Ken attended the January 30th DOE Informational Meeting. About 40 people attended. The DOE request for proposals (RFP) is about 90 percent complete. BNL's Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was mentioned, and if the CAC wants anything included in the RFP their input was required within a week of the January 30th meeting. In the DOE presentation the NASA project was not mentioned under

income/commercialization. DOE is seeking a five-year contract and then yearly extensions for 15 additional years.

Obituary Notices: There is still an issue about having these notices put on the public Web (the BREA website) even though they have always been public in the past (through the Brookhaven Bulletin). Mona reported that Bonnie Miller did not see any issues at her end. In the past, Joe Gettler used to get the information for the Bulletin. Mona talked with Joe who said that he would forward them, but he only receives them sporadically, there is not a regular schedule. Currently, the Lab. Legal Department is against the dissemination of the information. It was decided that Mona and Steve will seek assistance from Peter Bond, the Laboratory Ombudsman.

A partial solution is to print obituaries in the Newsletter, first of those people we learn about from HR disseminations, and secondly, from information we can obtain from BREA members. We could include a notice in the Newsletter asking people to submit entries.

Luncheon:

Lillian Kouchinsky provided an excellent selection of five suitable restaurants to choose from, with information on menus and prices, ease of access for less active members, etc. These were: Bellport Country Club, Lombardi's on the Sound, Atlantis-Sea Star Ballroom, Hotel Indigo, and Ladakins. After a vote the Bellport Country Club was selected, with the suggestion that we have information available to ask this year's attendees about other venues for the future. The main concern is feedback about acceptable travel times and geographic locations.

It was decided to keep the price the same as last year. Lillian will give Mona the price to be included under "save the date" in the next Newsletter. Steve will give Lillian a check for the required deposit. The registration form will be included in the Newsletter. The luncheon date is Wednesday, June 11.

New Business:

United Way.

We will include a message about the Lab fund raising effort in the President's Message section of the Newsletter. A related item was that Michael Thorn needed volunteers to help at the blood drive on Wed. (the next day from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.). Ken will inform Michael that we would like to publicize such requests, but we need at least a one week lead time to prepare and send out email notices, and for our members to plan their time.

Visit to the Long Island Horticultural & Research Extension Center in Riverhead: To be discussed when the snow is gone.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Minutes submitted by Eena-Mai Franz and Liz Seubert