

BREA Minutes

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

Attendees: Arnie Aronson, Elliot Auerbach, Louisa Barone, Robert Barone, Carmen Benkovitz, Peter Bond, Robert M. Brown, Victor Cassella, Anita Cohen, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Sheryl Gerstman, Louise Hanson, Lillian Kouchinsky, Al Mallen, Ken Mohring (by phone), Arnie Moodenbaugh, Liz Seubert, and John Skalyo.

Liz Seubert opened the meeting at 1:05 pm.

The minutes of the Feb. 10, 2015 meeting were accepted as presented.

Ken Mohring gave the Treasurer's Report (by phone) for Steve Shapiro. BREA has a considerable amount of money set aside. Ken is appointing a committee to look into possible ways to use this money. He hopes to meet with this committee before the next BREA meeting, on Tues. April 14.

Business:

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz reported that she continues to receive checks for new and renewal memberships. Since Treasurer Steve Shapiro was away, Dave Cox and Louise Hanson deposited these checks in the BREA TFCU account after the meeting adjourned. Carmen had also received ambiguous information from someone signing up as a new member – she was unsure whether it was the husband or the wife. She was told that Bonnie Miller in HR could look up which one was the former employee.

Carmen handles the mass emailings to BREA members. She asked that people sending her messages to be forwarded to the membership explicitly include a title or text for the subject line.

Retiree Mailing List/Contacting New Retirees: Ken Mohring mentioned again that he and Mona Rowe have been trying for some time to obtain HR's cooperation in gaining access (e.g. email addresses) to BNL's new retirees.

Medical Insurance Benefits:

Retiree Experiences: It was decided that BREA members should be surveyed regarding their experiences to date dealing with the recent changes in BNL's retirees' health care coverage. This survey will be included in the May/June Newsletter as well as emailed to members with email addresses. Ken Mohring said that suggestions of what to include on the survey should be sent to him.

It appears from discussion at the meeting that the HRA's (Health Reimbursement Accounts) are giving rise to most of the current problems. Anita Cohen warned people to make sure that they are signed up for and receiving the proper amount of reimbursement each month. She had only received the *balance* from her January premium payment in February, with no acknowledgement of her February premium payment. Carmen Benkovitz was upset that she has been unable to contact her original SelectQuote agent.

Annual Luncheon: The June 10 luncheon at the Bellport Country Club was announced to BREA members in the March/April Newsletter. The May/June issue will carry a registration form. Lillian Kouchinsky said that the \$500 deposit to the venue has been made and that they have been given the menu items chosen at the January meeting. She will meet with them again in late April or early May. She anticipates that the people who helped her last year – Bonnie Sherwood and Kathy Einfelt – will be available again this year. Bob Barone asked if there could be one or two more wait staff present.

Newsletter: Anita Cohen described the upcoming May/June 2015 Newsletter. In addition to the registration form for the June luncheon, this issue will include Ken Mohring's President's message, a survey for members to fill out regarding their experiences with the recent changes in BNL health benefits, and a listing of deaths. Elliot Auerbach mentioned a Social Security data base as a means of verifying a death. This record of deceased persons is public information and can be subscribed to.

On a happier note, Ken Mohring said he is pleased that so many different types of items are being included in the Newsletter.

Plum Island Tour: The tour of Plum Island will not occur before August or September. More information will be forthcoming once the date is finalized.

Sailing video: The date and location for the BREA-sponsored presentation of Eric Forsyth's latest sailing video has changed since the announcement at the Feb. meeting, due to Lab-initiated scheduling conflicts. It will be presented on Tues., April 28, at noon, in the Hamilton Seminar Room (Chemistry Building). If there is difficulty scheduling technical assistance because of whatever is happening in Berkner that day, Bob Barone said he could do it, that he is very familiar with Hamilton. Eric would need to provide his own laptop.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

April 2015 meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 14, 1 pm, Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

May 2015 meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 1 pm, Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson