

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, March 11, 2014; Bldg. 400, Berkner Hall, Rm. D

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Louisa Barone, Robert Barone, Robert Brown, Nate Carter, Dave Cox, Frank Dusek, Kathy Einfeldt, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Lillian Kouchinsky, Al Mallen, Ken Mohring, Arnie Peskin, George Oldham, Mona Rowe, Steve Shapiro, Bonny Sherwood, Richard Skelton, and Ron Yuhas.

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:07 pm.

The minutes of the February 11, 2014 meeting were accepted as presented. Many “thank yous” to Eena-Mai Franz and Liz Seubert for preparing the January and February 2014 minutes.

Steve Shapiro gave the Treasurer’s Report. He has deposited the dues from recent membership renewals. There have been no expenditures.

Business:

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz said the renewals are still coming in. She is still working on correcting bad email addresses.

Benefits: Ken Mohring said that not much is going on with regard to health insurance. He also said that yesterday’s (3/10/14) Monday Memo reported that TIAA/CREF carrying fees for employees will decrease. Will this reduction also apply to retirees? Ken said he will ask Denise DiMeglio. Louisa Barone said that historically, retirees have paid the same management fees as current employees.

Retiree access to the “Monday Memo”: Retirees can sign up for BNL’s “Monday Memo” and “This Week” by looking for “lists” on the BNL website.

DOE M&O solicitation: No RFP (Request for Proposal) has been issued yet, although it was reportedly 95% complete by Jan. 30. BREA is concerned that the new contract contain wording that protects BNL retirees’ medical benefits and last December, submitted a statement to that effect. After the RFP is issued, DOE will host a session with all interested parties.

CAC meetings: Arnie Peskin, BREA’s CAC (Community Advisory Council) representative, said that the February CAC meeting, mentioned in the Feb. BREA minutes, was cancelled due to snow. He is unable to attend the March meeting, so Eena-Mai Franz said she would go in his place.

Annual luncheon: Lillian Kouchinsky is organizing the June BREA luncheon. It will take place on Wednesday, June 11, at the Bellport Country Club. They require a \$500 deposit - Steve Shapiro wrote a check. This meeting’s attendees chose the menu from a list of possibilities that Lillian passed around.

Obituary notices: Several meetings ago, BREA decided to run death notices in the Newsletter; the BNL Bulletin is gone and BNL hasn't updated its on-line obituaries – something that was promised when the Bulletin was shut down – since spring of 2013. Even though the Bulletin did run death notices, and deaths are in the public record, BNL has stonewalled at providing BREA with basic information, namely the names, dates of death, and BNL workplaces, of retirees who have died. BSA General Counsel Anne Troutman has adamantly said “no”. Therefore, BREA will ask members in the next Newsletter to let us know when someone has died. The point of contact will be Carmen Benkovitz. A question: does the benefit of BREA membership pass on to the surviving spouse?

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

April 2014 meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 8, 1pm, Brookhaven Center, South Room

May 2014 meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson