

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday Mar. 8, 2016; 1:00 PM, BNL Bldg. 400, Rooms RSB 1 & 2, Upton, NY
Minutes recorded by Secretary Arnold Moodenbaugh (Moodenba@optonline.net) [approved by voice vote at May 10 meeting]

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Violet Bezler, Mulki R. Bhat, Paul Callegari[?], James Cardinal, Nate Carter, Victor Casella, Anita Cohen, David Cox, Cheryl Conrad, Les Fishbone, Eena-Mai Franz, Sheryl Gerstman, Louise Hanson, Joseph Indusi, Mark Israel, Bob Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Lois Moller, Arnold Moodenbaugh, George Oldham, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Mike Schaeffer, Liz Seubert, John Skalyo, Elaine Zukowski

Contact BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation / Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

Sign in sheets were circulated for attendees. Names collected are shown above. President Liz Seubert opened the meeting just after 1:00 PM.

1. Minutes. Minutes for the Feb. 9, 2016 were accepted by voice vote of those attending. It was noted that there was not a direct link listed in the newsletter to the minutes posted on the website. A more direct link should be described. Motion and second made to approve minutes; voice vote approved.

2. Treasurer's Report by Steve Shapiro (Treasurer): Shapiro was absent from the meeting. He communicated an update to the president that was read. Approximately \$38,500 in all accounts; this includes \$960 dues received since last report. Expenses arising are newsletter printing and mailing, as well as BREA net costs for Luncheon (those costs not covered by member price.) Sheryl Gerstman raised a concern about the lack of a BREA budget, Absernt a budget, the expenses might in the long run exceed income and deplete the treasury. It could be beneficial to develop an annual budget with anticipated income and expenses.

3. Membership Report by Membership Chair Sheryl Gerstman: Eight new members enrolled. \$380 in membership dues received. 386 current members; 105 members in arrears; 383 members with email; 109 without email (email totals include lapsed members). It was asked whether the January large mailing of the newsletter resulted in many new members. SG answered that there was a low response. SG noted that she will update the database, but intends to step down as Membership Chair after that task is completed.

4. Annual Lunch: Lillian Kouchinsky is leading the organization of the Luncheon, with the assistance of some additional BREA members. Luncheon will be at the Bellport Country Club on Wed. June 8 between 12:00 and 4:00. Member price is \$39.00. BREA officers will identify a list of invitees and a speaker (BREA will cover their lunch costs). Candidates for main speaker are Nick Samios and Lanny Bates. A representative from the DOE worker protection program will be invited to provide information (short talk and literature circulation). Menu is in process of being prepared. There will be about 3 options, as well as an additional vegetarian choice.

5. Newsletter report by Editors Mona Rowe and Anita Cohen. Next newsletter content will include: Page 1, President's message; Page 2, Luncheon announcement and sign up form; Page 3, features including a suggestion from Sue and Bob Duffin to encourage retirees who are veterans to join the Brookhaven Veterans Association (BVA, another BERA activity) and for BREA members to attend BNL Memorial day activities; Page 3 will have additional news of volunteer activities by BREA members, including Jackie Mooney; Page 4, memorials (death announcements) and information on BERA activities. Newsletter editors are looking for additional activities that BREA members would be interested in, to be announced in the newsletter,.

6. Constitution revision. The proposed revised constitution has been posted on the BERA/BREA website for members to review and comment on. Arnold Moodenbaugh noted that the draft constitution does not specify how to resolve an election in which there is no majority winner. A proposal was made to add language for the two top vote getters to be voted on at the next regular meeting, with the one receiving the votes of a majority of those present to be declared winner. Language reflecting this "friendly amendment" will be added to the draft constitution.

7. Health Insurance issues: There was no response from BNL HR to a request to evaluate the possibility of BNL offering catastrophic drug coverage similar to that provided by Savanna River to its retirees. Liz Seubert will follow up to HR with a reminder about her previous inquiry.

8. New Business:

a) A request was made by a member to obtain information on access to BNL's wireless network. It was determined that one must register any device to have access, and registration requires a BNL appointment (Employee, Guest or Vendor status). A retiree is not permitted to access the net using BNL WiFi. Member E. Zukowski will follow up to gather more information on this issue and provide to Ed. Mona Rowe for inclusion in a future newsletter.

b) Lillian Kouchinsky noted an article by Karl Grossman in the South Shore Press about a class action suit by residents against the Lab concerning the tritium leak. Comments on BNL activities, such as this article, are often discussed at the meetings of the BNL Community Advisory Council CAC. All individuals in the community are encouraged to attend meetings of the CAC, held on the second Thursday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Laboratory's Berkner Hall (more information about the CAC at <https://www.bnl.gov/stakeholder/CAC.php>)

c) Louise Hanson noted that a statement that Elliot Auerbach had founded BREA in 2003 is incorrect. BREA was founded in 1997, but Auerbach did help revitalize the organization in 2003. [Ed. note: it might be useful to develop a short history of BREA.]

d) One BREA member present at the meeting noted that he did not follow the standard (SBMS defined) separation process. As a result, he did not receive the information packet (containing, most importantly, a discussion of health care requirements and options). [Ed. note: This is an important issue for all employees facing departure from BNL. Although the process has SBMS requirements, it is up to managers and supervisors to implement them. The apparent flaws in the process should be pointed out to HR. Possibly the person involved in this instance and a BREA officer could follow up with HR.]

Motion and second made to adjourn; approved by voice vote.

Next meetings:

Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 1:00 pm, BNL Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 1:00 pm, BNL Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2