

BREA Minutes (final; approved by voice vote at May 9 meeting)

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday Apr. 11, 2017; 1:00 PM, BNL Berkner Hall Rm. B, Upton, NY

Minutes recorded by Louise Hanson.

Attendees: Harriet Castro, John Castro, Cheryl Conrad, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Georgia Irving, Robert Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Beth Lin, Corinne Messana, Ken Mohring, Lois Moller, George Oldham, Liz Seubert, and Steve Shapiro.

Guest Presenters: Jonathan Corbin, Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP), Queens College, Flushing, NY, and Wajdy L. Hailoo, MD, Director, Medical Services of America, Ronkonkoma, NY

Contact Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation / Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

President Liz Seubert opened the meeting at 1:05 PM. Sign in sheets were circulated for attendees, with names collected shown above.

1. Minutes. Louise Hanson stood in for Secretary Arnold Moodenbaugh, who could not attend. She read out to the attendees two proposed revisions to the draft posted March minutes. (Draft minutes had previously been posted on the BREA website.) These revised minutes were then approved by a voice vote.

2. Treasurer's Report. Steve Shapiro reported that he had deposited \$235 in dues since last month's meeting.

3. Membership Report. Beth Lin said that BREA has four new members, bringing the total to 463. 411 members are currently paid up. Two newsletters had been returned as undeliverable – unfortunately, because the addressees had died.

4. Newsletter. Liz Seubert reported on the upcoming May/June Newsletter for Mona Rowe. Among other items, the Newsletter will include information on the June luncheon along with a mail-in sign-up form.

5. BREA annual lunch. The BREA annual luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 7 at the Bellport Country Club. The cost is \$40 per person. Lillian Kouchinsky, who is organizing the event, asked about invited guests. It was decided that Liz Seubert, who sends out the invitations on behalf of BREA, will invite the same people as last year. In addition, she will invite the wife of the speaker, David Manning. (David Manning is the Director of BNL's Office of Stakeholders and Community Relations, formerly Public Affairs.)

6. Retiree Badging. As described in the March minutes, BNL's policy on badging for retiree family members has recently changed, becoming much more restrictive. Especially troubling for BREA members is that now, when a retiree dies, no IDs for family members (spouses or partners) will be issued or renewed. After the March meeting, Liz Seubert and Steve Shapiro met with the head of HR, Bob Lincoln, to express BREA's concerns with the new policy. Lincoln said that he would forward BREA's concerns and schedule a follow-up meeting with BREA representatives.

7. Invited Presentations on the WHPP (Worker Health Protection Program) and the EEOICPA (Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act) by Jonathan Corbin and Dr. Wajdy L. Hailoo.

WHPP was created to screen former DOE employees and contractors for occupational illnesses that may have resulted from their employment at DOE facilities at 14 sites, including BNL. Jonathan Corbin is an administrator at WHPP, a collaboration between Queens College, CUNY, and local medical providers. WHPP is funded by, but independent of, DOE. Dr. Hailoo is the local physician who performs the screenings for former BNL employees. The screenings are free and confidential, and available to anyone who has worked at BNL for more than 30 days. Dr. Hailoo looks for work-related illnesses such as chronic lung disease, certain cancers, hearing or vision loss, and beryllium-related lung disease. He will take your occupational and medical history and give you a complete physical exam and hearing and breathing tests. Chest X-rays and blood work, including a beryllium blood test, are also included. The screenings can be repeated at no charge every three years. So far, approximately 400 former BNL employees have been screened, a small number compared to the over 32,000 people nationwide. For more information, visit the website www.worker-health.org. Appointments may be scheduled by calling (toll free) 1-888-241-1199.

If an occupational illness is found (including 22 designated cancers), the former employee (or his/her qualified survivors) may apply for compensation and medical benefits through the EEOICPA program, administered by the U. S. Department of Labor. For more information, contact WHPP (website and phone # given above), the following website: <http://www.dol.gov/owp/energy> or call (toll free) 1-800-941-3943.

Thanks to George Oldham for organizing this presentation.

8. Follow-up to the Little Flower Presentation in March. (Information about the organization can be found at www.littleflower.org). Liz Seubert reported on developments since the March meeting: (1) Leslie Fishbone has given his Mt. Kilimanjaro presentation to the children. It went very well. The staff at Little Flower had prepared the children for Les's visit by teaching them about Tanzania. (2) Omar Gould is hoping to arrange programs/projects for Little Flower through BNL's Science Education Center. Liz urged BREA members who have done something or gone somewhere interesting, documented with photos, to consider a presentation to the children at Little Flower.

9. No New Business.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

Next BREA meetings are scheduled for:

May 9, 2017 - RSB Rooms 1&2 (Bldg 400)

June 13, 2017 - South Room Brookhaven Center

July 11, 2017 - RSB Rooms 1&2 (Bldg 400)

There will be no August meeting

(Locations are tentative; check the Agenda posted on the BREA website the week of the meeting)