

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, April 13, 2010; Bldg 400, RSB Conf Rm 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Dave Cox, Alyce Daly, Ronnie Evans, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Frank Marotta, Ken Mohring, Arnie Peskin, Martine O'Connor, Richard Skelton, Myron Strongin, and Joyce Tichler (via phone)

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:10pm.

The March 2010 minutes were circulated and accepted, with the following addition by Ronnie Evans: she will represent BREA on the Senior Advisory Committee of the Town of Brookhaven.

Ken Mohring presented the Treasurer's Report.

Total Assets: \$24,052; Checking Acct: \$636; Savings Acct: \$4152; CD's \$19,264

Dave Cox moved to accept the report, Arnie Peskin seconded.

Ken also asked that the signature authority for financial documents be extended to include BREA's Vice President (currently just the President and Treasurer may sign). The motion was approved.

Martine O'Connor reported on the arrangements for the June 9th luncheon at the Bellport Country Club. An article with a picture appeared in the 4/8 Bulletin. Invitations to BREA members have been printed and mailed out as trifolds. [Reminder by Ken Mohring: as a courtesy (since she covers the cost), a copy of all mailings should be sent to Christine Carter beforehand.] VIP invitees to the luncheon were discussed and agreed upon. These include Sam Aronson, Liz Seubert, Tony Bowman (from HR), Roger Stoutenberg, Denise DiMeglio, Melissa Bittrolff (she handles retirees' concerns in the Benefits office), Christine Carter, Joanne Rula, and Slava Vero from SeniorNet. The Director and Slava Vero will be asked to speak. A lively discussion ensued as to whether the speakers should be asked to confine their remarks to 3 minutes. Martine also raised the question of the music. The venue provides background music. It was decided to use the house musicians rather than hire a DJ. To break even on the expenses, a minimum of 80 people are needed. The response deadline for the luncheon is June 2. Eena-Mai expressed her thanks to the Luncheon Committee.

The next item was the Newsletter. Arnie Peskin suggested two articles

(1) A write-up that describes the effects of the new health bill on retirees. Joyce Tichler said she would contact Denise DiMeglio for one.

(2) A description of the DOE Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. It s concern is 22 types of cancers. Dave Cox will ask Joseph Falco for a summary.

In addition, Elliott Auerbach offered to write something on the NYS Health Care Decisions Act.

The Newsletter needs an Editor and more contributors. With regard to the editorship, Eena-Mai Franz said she would ask Mona Rowe if she would be interested. To encourage more contributions, Alyce Daly suggested a sign-up sheet at the luncheon and Ronnie Evans suggested putting an announcement in the next Newsletter (this announcement would also mention the need for an Editor, if Mona declines the position).

The Board agreed that Louise Hanson should serve as the Interim Secretary. Dave Cox will include a short paragraph in the next Newsletter saying that Louise has taken over for Sonja Santos, who resigned earlier this year as Secretary.

Joyce Tichler asked for final changes to the updated BREA Brochure. Ronnie Evans asked that her name be removed as Membership Chair, because this is not an "official" BREA office. Louise Hanson will be listed as Secretary. Joyce will email the corrected copy to the meeting attendees. After approval by Christine Carter, the Brochure will be printed on-site as a trifold. Denise DiMeglio has agreed that it will be part of BNL's retirement package. It is also intended for distribution as a Bulletin insert. Now that Mona Rowe has retired from Public Affairs, Liz Seubert needs to be contacted for its reapproval as an insert.

Ronnie Evans reported on SeniorNet. On Mar 25, Ronnie, Eena-Mai Franz and Ken Mohring went to the grand opening of the Yaphank Annex. Many elected officials attended. BREA and SeniorNet were introduced as partners. The facility has a computer classroom and sponsors classes for the homebound. The BREA attendees wondered whether BNL could make computer donations to SeniorNet. Louise Hanson mentioned that BNL has a history of donations to educational institutions, and suggested that they speak to Ken White, the director of the Office of Educational Programs.

Ken Mohring and Dave Cox planned to meet with Joanne Rula about the BREA website on Apr 13, after our meeting.

Eena-Mai Franz raised the (longstanding) issue of bnl.gov email accounts for retirees, for them to keep as long as they want. Arnie Peskin said that he has been "promised the moon", then nothing happens. Apparently the lab has expressed "security concerns". Those present questioned why retirees were considered riskier than active employees. It was decided that Eena-Mai should discuss this issue with Sam Aronson.

Christine Carter sent an email saying that although retirees are allowed to use the Pool and Weight Room free of charge, the hours are restricted. Louise Hanson's experience with the Pool has been that although retirees' use is officially restricted to 10-11am, the lifeguards only ask that you not swim during the very busy lunchtime hour.

Eena-Mai Franz will obtain an updated BNL organizational chart from HR.

May meeting: Tues, May 11, 1pm, RSB Conf Rm 1

June meeting: Tues, June 8, 1pm, Berkner Rm A

Meeting adjourned 2:15pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson