

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, April 8, 2014; Brookhaven Center, South Room

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Louisa Barone, Robert Barone, Nate Carter, Victor Cassella, Dave Cox, Kathy Einfeldt, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Lillian Kouchinsky, Al Mallen, Ken Mohring, Arnie Moodenbaugh, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Liz Seubert, Richard Skelton, and Jackie Timko

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:07 pm.

The minutes of the March 11, 2014 meeting were accepted pending a correction requested by Ken Mohring.

Steve Shapiro was away, so Ken Mohring gave the Treasurer's Report. Dues continue to come in. \$500 has been paid to the Bellport Country Club as a deposit for the June luncheon.

Old Business:

Membership: In addition to membership renewals, Carmen Benkovitz said she has received luncheon payments for three people. Ken will pass these on to Steve Shapiro (see below). Carmen also said that, to the best of her knowledge, her data bases are now up-to-date.

Benefits: Ken Mohring contacted Denise DiMeglio about the 3/13/14 Monday Memo article on credits to retirement accounts. Below is an abridged version of his questions and her responses (in italics).

At the last BREA meeting I was asked to look into the credit that people will receive because of decreased costs that BSA and TIAA-CREF generated. Is the credit available to all retirees? Those with accounts from which amounts are currently being paid, and those deferring income payments?

The credit is applied to all plan participants who have money in their BSA Retirement Plan or BSA 401k Plan account (that has not been annuitized). This includes employees, retirees, terminated employees, etc.

What is the percentage of the credit? Is the credit on the entire amount in accounts?

The refund is based on the total dollars available for the credit and the amount of assets in each person's own account(s). Thus the % refund differs from person to person based on the amount of money they have in their accounts (that is not annuitized).

Is there an expectation of future credits or will the reductions in costs be passed on via reduced regular charges.

This depends on if administration costs by TIAA-CREF do or do not exceed expectations. There is no guarantee of future credits.

DOE M&O (management and operations) solicitation for BNL: Dave Cox reported that DOE released the RFP (Request for Proposal) on March 20. It is available on-line at <http://bnlcompetition.science.energy.gov/>. The proposals are due on June 19. On Thursday, April 17, DOE is to hold an on-site informational meeting and tour for prospective bidders. BREA does not plan to attend. Ken Mohring read the executive summary and said it was much as had been described to us by Louis Sadler, Assistant Chief Council, Office of Science, Brookhaven Site Office, DOE, at the 2013 November BREA meeting. The compensation and benefits statements mentioned only current employees: for non-union employees, compensation and benefits are to stay the same for the first year; for union employees, they are to stay the same until the end of the current contracts.

CAC meeting: Louis Sadler will make a presentation at the next (April) CAC meeting similar to the one he gave to BREA last November. At that time he spoke on the history of the current BSA contract, gave a very brief overview of the new M&O contract, and described the M&O contract competition process.

Annual luncheon: The luncheon will take place on Wednesday, June 11, at the Bellport Country Club and will cost \$36 per person for members and their spouses. Lillian Kouchinsky mailed the \$500 deposit and the menu selections to the venue. The sign-up form for the luncheon will be included in the May/June Newsletter (Mona Rowe will forward the proposed text to Lillian). Forms and checks are to be mailed to BREA's Upton address. Steve Shapiro will deposit the checks and create a spreadsheet of the luncheon participants, as he has done in previous years. This year, as an outreach to members, BREA plans to facilitate transportation to the luncheon for people who need it. The sign-up form will ask attendees to indicate if they either need transportation or are willing to provide it. At the luncheon, copies of an up-to-date list of BREA members (name and town) will be provided. Barring any travel, BNL Director Doon Gibbs will attend and speak.

Obituary notices: Anita Cohen is replacing Carmen Benkovitz as the point of contact. Notices will appear in the May/June issue of the Newsletter. BREA will not print any unconfirmed notices. Joanne Delles has offered to post them on the BREA website.

Newsletter: Mona Rowe is working on the May/June Newsletter. In addition to information on the annual luncheon, obituary notices, and the President's message, she will include a round-up of BNL-related items.

DOE Worker Compensation and Screening Programs: Victor Cassella gave an update on the EEOIOCPA (Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act) and FWP (Former Worker Medical Screening Program). Former DOE-site workers are entitled to a free screening physical every three years. Hearing tests will only be given at the initial screening, not at any subsequent screenings. Dementia and Parkinson's disease will be added as conditions eligible for possible compensation. In addition, a series of videos (known as the Joint Outreach Task Group Video Series) has been created by DOE to provide on-line information about the EEOIOCPA and FWP programs. They can be viewed at www.energy.gov/ehss/joint-outreach-task-group-video-series. Victor asked Mona to include an announcement of this video series in the Newsletter. He also asked whether Jonathan Corbin, who runs the local FWP program out of Queen's College, could set up an information table at the June luncheon.

New Business:

Arnie Peskin mentioned that Marge Lynch is leaving BNL. She heads the division that oversees BNL's support of BREA.

Dave Cox asked if there was any interest in having a TIAA/CREF representative attend one of our monthly meetings. The answer was basically "yes". This request was initiated by the rep. Dave will ask him what topics he would be interested in covering.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 pm.

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

June 2014 meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson