

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, June 10, 2014; Building 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Elliot Auerbach, Louisa Barone, Robert Barone, Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Robert M. Brown, Nate Carter, Victor Cassella, Anita Cohen, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Robert Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Alfredo Luccio, Al Mallen, Ken Mohring, Arnie Moodenbaugh, George Oldham, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Bonnie Sherwood, and Richard Skelton

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:05 pm.

The minutes of the May 13, 2014 meeting were accepted pending a correction requested by Steve Shapiro.

Steve Shapiro gave the Treasurer's Report. Current inputs and expenditures are due to tomorrow's luncheon. He will give a full report on the luncheon at the July meeting.

Old Business:

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz has created a list of current BREA members to hand out at tomorrow's luncheon. It contains 400 names. The list gives only a person's name and partial address. Anyone wanting further info in order to get in touch with someone on the list should contact Carmen at 631-265-3982 or sjbenk@optonline.net.

Medical Insurance Benefits: Ken Mohring met with Bob Lincoln to discuss the 2015 retiree insurance benefits. There will be changes, to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2015. These changes will remain in place, regardless of who wins the new M&O Contract to run BNL starting Jan. 5, 2015. Lincoln asked that the changes not be openly discussed. Ken does not know when the changes will be made public. Ken then met with the BREA Benefits Committee, appointed last fall by Dave Cox. The committee compiled a list of questions for Lincoln. At today's general meeting, Ken thanked Elliott Auerbach for his input and knowledge about insurance matters.

DOE M&O (management and operations) solicitation for BNL: Proposals are due on June 19. By mid-July, DOE should schedule oral presentations by the proposal submitters. Information as to when and where and whether the public will be invited is not currently available.

Annual luncheon: Lillian Kouchinsky said that the headcount for tomorrow's BREA luncheon is up to 110, including guests. BNL Director Doon Gibbs will not be attending. In his place he is sending Amy Nunziata, BNL's Deputy Assistant Director for Facilities and Operations. Additional guests are Monique Armann and Melissa Bittrolff (BNL Benefits Office), Joe Gettler (CEGPA), Bob Lincoln (HR Head), Joe Rubino (photographer) and Joanne Delles (BREA website manager). Bonnie Sherwood and Kathy Einfeldt will help Lillian with the setup. There will be two raffles this year: #1 will have four prizes – two \$10 gift cards, a bottle of wine, and a set of six appetizer plates, and #2 will be a 50/50. Materials to be distributed at the luncheon: the membership list mentioned above, and a one-page flyer on BREA and our website produced by Anita Cohen.

Newsletter: The July/Aug Newsletter will contain photos from the June luncheon, as well as the President's Message and two obituaries.

DOE Worker Compensation and Screening Programs: Victor Cassella said that former DOE-site workers are entitled to a free screening physical every three years. The screenings for BNL workers started about 3 and 1/2 years ago, so some people are now eligible for a second physical. About 400 former employees have taken advantage of the free physicals. So far, about 95% of those who underwent a first physical are going back for a second. Victor has relayed Steve Shapiro's concern about the examining physician's daughter serving as an advocate for EEO/IOCPA claims to Jonathan Corbin, Queens College, who oversees the BNL screening program. Corbin said she will take no new BNL-related cases, but will be allowed to continue with cases that are presently active.

Jonathan Corbin will attend the luncheon, to answer any questions people might have about the screening program.

New Business:

Dave Cox is to follow up with the TIAA/CREF representative who approached him about attending a BREA meeting.

Steve Shapiro mentioned that Brookhaven Town has a series of interesting lectures at the Longwood Estate. Check the Town website for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm.

July 2014 meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

September 2014 meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

NOTE: ***There will be no August meeting***

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson