

# BREA Minutes

**Meeting Date and Place:** Tuesday, June 8, 2010; Bldg 488 (Berkner Hall), Rm A

**Attendees:** Dave Cox, Alyce Daly, Ronnie Evans, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring (via phone), Martine O'Connor, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Frances Scheffel, Richard Skelton, and Myron Strongin

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:02pm.

The minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted. An updated distribution list for the minutes was discussed. Louise Hanson will continue to send a draft to all the attendees of the meeting in question for comments and corrections, and then later send out the corrected version to all on the list. The minutes will also be posted on the BREA website by Joanne Rula.

Ken Mohring will present a treasurer's report at the July meeting. Martine O'Conner was concerned that there be sufficient funds in the checking account to cover the June 9<sup>th</sup> BREA luncheon expenses. Dave Cox and Eena-Mai will check with the bank after the meeting.

Old Business:

Martine O'Connor gave a final update on the June 9<sup>th</sup> BREA luncheon at the Bellport Country Club. With respect to the invitees, Lab Director Sam Aronson will be able to attend and address the gathering. In addition, Ronnie Evans will introduce Slava Vero and Bill Baker of SeniorNet and ask one of them to speak briefly about their organization. Tony Bowman, Denise DiMeglio, and Melissa Bittrolff are not coming. Gloria Bennett will attend in place of Liz Seubert and the photographer will be Joe Rubino. The expected attendance is 116 people, an excellent turnout, compared with 88 last year. Essentially everything is set except for a couple of last minute preparations: the table decorations (balloons) will be set up in the morning, and Alyce Daly will create a suggestion sheet requesting ideas for future BREA events, to be placed on each table. A question arose about tips – were they included in the fee charged by the country club?

Newsletter: Mona Rowe attended the meeting and after asking Dave Cox numerous questions about the production of the newsletter, agreed to become the new editor! The next issue should appear at the end of the summer and will include coverage of the June 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon. Dave Cox will continue to provide addresses to Quick Copy.

Retirees' bnl.gov e-mail accounts: Eena-Mai Franz and Dave Cox will invite Thomas Schlagel (information Technology Div), Michael Dooling (Business Systems Div), and Tony Bowman (HR) to the July BREA meeting to discuss this issue. Although these individuals were suggested by Mona Rowe, she will be away that week. Arnie Peskin does plan to attend.

Update on the possibility of including a copy of the revised BREA brochure as a one-time insert in an issue of The Bulletin mailed offsite: The Bulletin is folded and tightly squeezed by a machine into a regular-sized large business envelope for mailing. The question is – would this work mechanically with an additional trifold inside? Dave Cox will meet with Chris Carter to discuss possible alternatives, such as a separate mailing of the BREA brochure using the Bulletin mailing list. Alyce Daly would like to see a mailing that included the BREA brochure and a copy of the newsletter. It was pointed out that at Christmas time the Bulletin often contains an extra sheet, so perhaps our brochure plus additional material could be printed onto a sheet sized to the Bulletin for inclusion.

The new BREA website is due to go on-line at 5pm on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Joanne Rula is the webmaster. Arnie Peskin voiced concern that the old (outdated) webpage was still on-line, as of that morning.

#### New Business:

Arnie Peskin is the BREA delegate and Eena-Mai Franz the deputy BREA delegate to BNL's Community Advisory Council (CAC) meetings. Arnie described an on-going controversy involving proposed radiation experiments on squirrel monkeys for NASA at the AGS. A non-binding vote (on an as-yet unknown resolution) by CAC delegates is to be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Arnie and Eena-Mai wanted guidance from the BREA board. Arnie was concerned about the precedent such a vote might set, especially if it was for a blanket ban on all animal experimentation. The Board agreed with his concerns, and recommended that he and Eena-Mai try to influence the wording of the CAC resolution so that it is specific to the NASA experiments; and if the resolution is very general, to vote against it.

Steve Shapiro had contacted Dave Cox, asking why retirees had to write checks for their BNL health coverage – why weren't on-line payments an option? It was suggested that Steve inquire further into this and report at our next meeting.

Louise Hanson then asked why retirees were not eligible for on-site vaccinations offered to employees (e.g. flu and shingles). BREA has visited this issue, unsuccessfully, in the past, but it was felt that the issue should be revisited, and if necessary, brought to the attention of Sam Aronson.

July meeting: Tues, July 13, 1pm, Berkner Rm D

Sept. meeting: Tues, June 8, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

(Note: there will be no August meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson