

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, July 13, 2010; Bldg 488 (Berkner Hall), Rm D

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Dave Cox, Alyce Daly, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Martine O'Connor, Arnie Peskin, and Richard Skelton

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:06pm.

The minutes of the June 8th meeting were accepted as presented.

Ken Mohring presented a financial report for the months of March thru June 2010 with figures for BREA's checking and savings accounts and CD's.

The June 9th luncheon was a great success! There were 109 attendees, including 5 VIPs (non-paying guests). Three couples were unable to make it. Lab Director Sam Aronson did attend and address the gathering. We've had very nice feedback, even from people who weren't there but heard about it from friends. People liked the food and the hors d'oeuvres (which we apparently didn't order). The only complaints were about the poor quality of the sound system.

Concerning next year's luncheon, BREA plans to stay with the same venue. The management at the Bellport Country Club was accommodating and pleasant to deal with. It was suggested that the date be set later in June so as not to coincide with the RHIC/AGS User's Meeting and not to conflict with college graduation times.

Kudos to Martine O'Conner and all those who assisted her.

Old Business:

BREA brochure: Dave Cox spoke to Melissa Bittrolff (HR) about distribution possibilities. (1) BREA could have a one-time single-page insert in an issue of The Bulletin mailed offsite, as long as it conformed to the size of the Bulletin (because of the automated folding and envelope stuffing process). (2) HR sends out a package to all retirees in October and Melissa agreed to include the brochure in the Oct. mailing. Dave prefers this option and will provide HR with about 2000 copies of the Brochure in Sept. Joyce Tichler will revise the brochure to include pictures from the 2010 luncheon.

The new BREA website: People, including Arnie Peskin, Rich Skelton, and Paul Michael (who originated the old webpage) are happy with it. Ken Mohring will continue to work on filling in the blanks. A disk of the luncheon pictures will be sent to the webmaster, Joanne Rula. Updates to the webpage should be sent to Joanne through either Ken or Dave Cox.

Retirees' bnl.gov e-mail accounts: Thomas Schlagel (information Technology Div) will come to the Sept 14th BREA meeting. Potential points of discussion: If BNL were to allow retirees to continue with their bnl.gov accounts, for how long a time? One year? Is a master email list of retirees that BREA could have access to a possibility? In addition, an interactive benefits website would be very desirable.

SeniorNet: Dave Cox reported for Ronnie Evans. SeniorNet continues to need coaches. They also hold informational meetings once a month and sponsor informative lectures (such as on identity theft). Dave volunteered to forward SeniorNet announcements to BREA members with email “blasts”.

New Business:

Ideas for future programs: Alyce Daly had placed suggestion sheets requesting ideas for future BREA events on each table at the June luncheon. Unfortunately, the responses were sparse. One positive response was from Frank Marotta who suggested on-site tours with lunch. Ken Mohring will follow through with this and look into an on-site tour (the nanocenter, Bldg.400, NSLS II) with lunch (catered, or through the line with Room A reserved for us?) for Sept/Oct.

A wide ranging discussion followed. Louise Hanson suggested that since the luncheon was very popular, perhaps we should have more than one a year. Besides the effort involved, others present thought that more than one per year might dilute the interest. She also mentioned that on-site noontime events could be followed by lunch in a reserved room. Dave Cox or Ken will get benchmark quotes of the cost of a catered lunch on-site. Eric Forsyth’s travels and presentations on elder law have proven in the past to be popular. What about a presentation dealing with health insurance options and headaches? A lively discussion ensued of who might do the presentation and what that individual might or might not be willing to openly discuss. The feasibility of off-site tours was also raised again. Eena-Mai Franz thought that people will do their own thing – e.g. through the local libraries. Richard Skelton said that Chris Carter is OK with mid-week BREA trips with the Hampton Jintney. Dave Cox thought we should integrate better with BERA and he emails members about up-coming BERA trips.

Sept. meeting: Tues, Sept 14, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Oct. meeting: Tues, Oct 12, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson