

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, July 14, 2015; Bldg.400, Rms RSB 1&2

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Nate Carter, Cheryl Conrad, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Sheryl Gerstman, Louise Hanson, Joseph Indusi, Georgia Irving, Robert Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Al Mallen, Ken Mohring, Lois Moller, Arnie Moodenbaugh, George Oldham, Arnie Peskin, Liz Seubert, Lloyd Schairer and Marie Schairer.

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Old Business:

Minutes: The minutes of the June 9, 2015 meeting, taken by Liz Seubert and edited by Ken Mohring in Louise Hanson's absence, had not been distributed, so they were not formally accepted at this meeting. Louise thanked Liz and Ken for their efforts. She also mentioned that she had not yet finalized the May 12, 2015 minutes. She had received a number of comments on the draft she had sent out and thanked people present for taking the time to read and respond to the draft.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Mohring gave the Treasurer's Report for Steve Shapiro, who was not present. There have been no significant changes to BREA's finances. The bills for the June luncheon have been paid (see below).

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz continues to receive new and renewal memberships.

Annual Luncheon: The June 10 luncheon was a great success! Lillian Kouchinsky said that the net cost to BREA was just \$221. This year there were 96 paying attendees and 3 guests. People were really pleased with the guest speaker, Peter Bond. They were also happy with the venue, the Bellport Country Club: the wait staff was friendly and the food was good. Lillian also said that she does not plan to do the luncheon again next year. Thank you Lillian for organizing the past two BREA luncheons!

Newsletter: The July/Aug 2015 "BREA News" Newsletter featured photos from the luncheon and a summary of Peter Bond's presentation.

For the Sept/Oct "BREA News" Newsletter, Ken Mohring hopes to be able to include up-to-date information on BNL retirees' 2016 medical benefits. He would also like to present enough information on peoples' experiences with their current medical and drug plans, to allow members to make informed decisions during the open enrollment period this fall.

Anyone with an "In Memoriam" listing should contact Anita Cohen at afcohen@optonline.net .

Medical Insurance Benefits: Ken Mohring wants to meet with HR's Bob Lincoln to ask whether any changes to retirees' medical benefits are planned for 2016. He is also concerned that HR has done nothing so far towards surveying retirees about their experiences with their 2015 medical and drug plans. As mentioned above, he would like to be able to present useful information to those members who are considering changing their

plans during this fall's open enrollment period. Open enrollment starts on October 15 and ends on December 7. Any changes would have to be made through SelectQuote.

Retiree Experiences: Drug Plans: Humana continues to be extremely unpopular with many people who chose it. Arnie Moodenbaugh said that the Social Security Administration regulates and rates the prescription drug plans – perhaps dissatisfied people should complain to them. George Oldham again reminded veterans that the VA is a great deal. People discussed various “discount” cards that they found on line or were mailed to them. For instance, Joe Indusi said if Humana doesn't cover a drug, especially if it's a generic, try this: www.NewYorkRxCard.com. George Oldham suggested the NPSN card (google NPSNcard.com).

Retiree Experiences: Medical Plans: Arnie Moodenbaugh suggested that retirees who live outside of New York may have better access to Medicare Advantage Plans. Such a plan works well for members of his family who live on the West Coast (through Kaiser Permanente).

Retiree Mailing List: Since the Lab has done nothing with its list of retirees' email addresses (to which BREA has contributed), Ken Mohring plans to propose to Bob Lincoln that BREA take over the list and maintain it. This could be done with something as simple as an EXCEL spreadsheet. Besides providing the existing list, the Lab would have to agree to forward us the email addresses of new retirees. A discussion ensued as to how to obtain updates of email addresses of those currently on the list.

Use of BREA funds for Lab-related activities: Ken Mohring reported that on Sunday, July 19, BREA is sponsoring part of that day's BNL “Summer Sundays” open house for the public. The cost will be \$840. He said that BREA can't reimburse a BNL expense, only something that is specifically a BSA expense. He asked for volunteers to be greeters and to man a BREA table at Berkner Hall between 10 am and 3 pm. Several people volunteered to be there for at least part of the time – Arnie Peskin, Arnie Moodenbaugh, Liz Seubert and Bob Kinsey. Others, who were thinking about it, were asked to contact Ken later. Ken will organize who does what when.

Arnie Peskin mentioned that in June he had offered to be a volunteer to the person who oversees the Summer Sundays, but that person never got back to him.

A proposal was made for BREA to sponsor and man a BNL-related booth at malls like Smith Haven. This created several negative responses. One person felt that the Lab would never give permission for BREA to represent them; others were worried about interactions with hecklers, citing experiences with hostile people while doing outreach for the Lab in the past.

Plum Island Tour: The Plum Island tour arranged by Steve Shapiro will take place on Thursday, Aug. 27.

New Business:

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Break-in: Beside health care issues and the retiree email list, Ken Mohring asked if there was anything else he should speak to Bob Lincoln about. Joe Indusi brought up the recent hacking of OMB's data base. This break-in could affect BNL's current and former employees with security clearances. To obtain the clearance, people had to fill out an extensive form, detailing a lot of private personal information. He has heard nothing from either DOE or OMB. He was wondering if the Lab had received any information.

Nominating Committee: The terms for BREAs current officers will end this December. Ken Mohring said he would appoint a nominating committee at the September meeting. He will also ask BREAs members to suggest nominees in the Sept/Oct Newsletter.

September Meeting Date: Since the second Tuesday of September, Sept. 8, falls on the day after Labor Day, Ken Mohring wondered if BREAs should change it. Dave Cox pointed out that the Sept. 8 date already appears in the Newsletter. No one present had a problem with the original date. It was therefore decided to leave it as is.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

September 2015 meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1 pm, Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

October 2015 meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 1 pm, Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson