

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, July 8, 2014; Building 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Elliot Auerbach, Louisa Barone, Robert Barone, Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Robert M. Brown, Susan Carlsen, Nate Carter, Anita Cohen, Cheryl Conrad, Dave Cox, Conrad Foerster, Eena-Mai Franz, Sheryl Gerstman, Catherine Green-Sussino, Louise Hanson, Lillian Kouchinsky, Al Mallen, Ken Mohring, George Oldham, Mona Rowe, Liz Seubert (by phone), Bonnie Sherwood, Richard Skelton, and Vincent Susinno

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:07 pm.

The minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting were accepted pending one correction.

Ken Mohring gave the Treasurer's Report for Steve Shapiro. 108 people attended the June luncheon. The raffles brought in \$312. BREA's net subsidy for the luncheon came to \$214.

Old Business:

Newsletter: Mona Rowe reported that the Sept/Oct Newsletter will contain an article by Joe Falco about the DOE Worker Compensation (EEOIOCPA) and Screening Programs as well as the President's Message and three obituaries.

Ken Mohring noted that a list of BREA members created as a handout at the June luncheon disappeared rapidly. He wanted the Newsletter to mention that such a list exists and that members can request it. Thus ensued a lively discussion: should such a list be provided to those who request it, considering potential privacy concerns? How much information should it include – e.g. email addresses? full mailing addresses? Currently, the list gives only a member's name and partial address. Anita Cohen reminded those present that Public Affairs used to distribute a list of all BNL retirees and their full addresses every December. This meeting's attendees had no objections to BREA distributing a member's list. Ken said he will ask what information people are willing to have included about themselves in his President's message.

Ken asked Anita how the obituary notices were going. As mentioned above, three will appear in the next Newsletter. She said people have been sending her names of and information about the deceased. Besides appearing in the Newsletter, the obituaries will be posted on the BREA website. Before they can be made public, the Lab ruled that she needs to fulfill certain conditions. These can be time-consuming. BREA will not limit notices to BREA members – as well as covering all retirees, they will also include active employees.

Anita also mentioned that Mona Rowe was officially retiring on July 11. Up until this time, she has been creating the BREA Newsletter while still an employee! For that service she was roundly applauded by those present.

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz has a new email address: sjbenk@gmail.com. Carmen that there are always a few "bad" email addresses. In addition some members do not want the weekly list of classified ads. She asked Sheryl Gerstman to help her with these ongoing housekeeping issues. Sheryl was of great assistance to Carmen in setting up the present data base. Sheryl retired very recently and attended today's meeting. Ken Mohring thanked her on behalf of BREA.

Medical Insurance Benefits: Ken Mohring had nothing new to report.

DOE M&O (management and operations) solicitation for BNL: Proposals were due on June 19. DOE has not made public how many proposals were submitted. Ken Mohring also does not know anything about the oral presentations; when and where they will be presented and whether the public will be invited.

Annual luncheon: Lillian Kouchinsky gave the final report on the luncheon. She said everything went well from her perspective and appreciated the help of Kathy Einfelt and Bonnie Sherwood. She really liked doing it and volunteered again for next year. Those present gave her a hearty round of applause.

New Business:

Dave Cox is still trying to follow up with the TIAA/CREF representative who approached him about attending a BREA meeting. He has not responded to email; Dave will try calling him.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 pm.

*** Note: There is no BREA meeting in August ***

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

October 2014 meeting: Tuesday, Oct 14, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson