

# BREA Minutes

**Meeting Date and Place:** Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015; Bldg.400, Rms RSB 1&2

**Attendees:** Elliot Auerbach, Violet Bezler, Robert M. Brown, Susan Carlsen, Nate Carter, Anita Cohen (by phone), Cheryl Conrad, Ronnie Evans, Sheryl Gerstman, Louise Hanson, Georgia Irving, Robert Kinsey, Jim Lemley, Al Mallen, Ken Mohring, Lois Moller, Bette Morgan, George Oldham, Liz Seubert, Lloyd Schairer, Steve Shapiro, Joan Skelton and Richard Skelton.

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:05 pm.

## **Old Business:**

Minutes: The finalized May, June, and July minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Shapiro gave the Treasurer's Report. There have been no significant changes to BREA's finances.

## Use of BREA funds:

*Summer Sundays:* Ken Mohring reported that on Sunday, July 19, BREA sponsored part of that day's BNL "Summer Sundays" open house for the public. BREA paid for handouts (about \$850), for which we received written recognition. In addition, Ken, Liz Seubert and Bob Kinsey served as volunteers in Berkner Hall.

*Tesla Science Center and Museum at Wardencliffe:* Steve Shapiro suggested that BREA consider supporting the science center and museum that is being planned for the historic Nikola Tesla laboratory site in Shoreham (Shoreham used to be called "Wardencliffe"). Many former BNL people are actively involved in this endeavor. Their non-profit organization was able to raise enough money to buy the site, and restoration efforts are underway.

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz has resigned as BREA's Membership coordinator. Many thanks to Carmen for her service. Sheryl Gerstman, who has been assisting Carmen with the database for the last several years, will take over as the new Membership coordinator. Welcome aboard, Sheryl! To get in touch with Sheryl regarding BREA matters, please email her at [sigronkonkoma@gmail.com](mailto:sigronkonkoma@gmail.com).

Newsletter: Anita Cohen mentioned that the upcoming "BREA News" Newsletter (Nov/Dec 2015) will include photos from the Plum Island trip, an update on retirees' medical coverage for 2016, and the ballot for the BREA elections.

Plum Island Tour: The Plum Island tour arranged by Steve Shapiro took place on Thursday, Aug. 27. Steve said that they were very accommodating – in addition to describing what they currently do (it is an animal-borne infectious disease facility), the precautions they take to secure the facility, its history, and

the history of the island in general, the participants were given lunch (not expected), a bus trip all over the island, and the opportunity to meet two artists whose work was being exhibited in the administration building.

Two suggestions were made for future outings: the Cornell Cooperative Extension by Steve, and the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory by Sheryl Gerstman.

Human Resources Meeting: The BREA officers, Elliot Auerbach, and George Oldham will meet with HR after this BREA meeting. In addition to an update on any planned medical changes for 2016, Ken Mohring asked the members present what they would like discussed or clarified.

Medical Insurance Benefits: There was a long discussion of the changes in health care benefits that will take place for current BNL employees starting on Jan. 1, 2016.

*Retiree Experiences:* People continue to have awful problems with their drug plans and their seemingly fluid formularies. Is there any way to get a handle on this? Ken Mohring plans to discuss the matter with SelectQuote, although, unlike the supplemental medical coverage, BNL retirees do not have to go through SelectQuote for their drug coverage. United Health Care has announced a 4% increase in their premiums starting April 1, 2016.

#### **New Business:**

Nominating Committee: The terms for BREA's current officers will end this December. Ken Mohring said that according to the BREA constitution, the nominating committee is appointed in October. So he will announce the committee at the next meeting. He had also asked BREA members to suggest nominees in the Sept/Oct Newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

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

November 2015 meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1 pm, Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson