

# BREA Minutes

**Meeting Date and Place:** Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014; Building 400, Rm RSB 2

**Attendees:** Arnold Aronson, Elliot Auerbach (by phone), Louisa Barone, Robert Barone, Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Nate Carter, Cheryl Conrad, Katherine Einfeldt, Ronnie Evans, Sheryl Gerstman, Louise Hanson, Lillian Kouchinsky, Ken Mohring, Lois Moller, Arnie Moodenbaugh, Mona Rowe (by phone), Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Lloyd Schairer, Bonnie Sherwood, J. Skalyo, and Richard Skelton  
**Invitee:** Christopher B. Trombetta, TIAA-CREF Financial Services Representative

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:04 pm.

The minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were accepted as presented.

Steve Shapiro gave the Treasurer's Report. This year, to date, BREA has taken in about \$2400 in dues. Expenditures have been about \$400, spent on the luncheon and postage. Currently, the Lab subsidizes the postage for four of the six Newsletters sent out each year. BREA has money saved from previous years in checking and savings accounts and CDs. A discussion about what, if anything, should be done with this money was put off until a future meeting.

## **Old Business:**

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz said that memberships continue to be up. There are ongoing housekeeping issues with regard to the data base. She and Sheryl Gerstman would like to acquire and implement a newer version of the software, and were given the go-ahead to do so.

[Reminder: Carmen Benkovitz has a new email address: [sjbenk@gmail.com](mailto:sjbenk@gmail.com).]

SeniorNet: SeniorNet is a non-profit organization that teaches all aspects of computers (e.g. the basics; using email, the Internet, programs such as Word and Excel, devices such as ipods and smart phones) to people 50 and older via classes and lectures. BNL retirees have served as teachers and coaches for the organization. Ronnie Evans is the BREA representative to SeniorNet. Ronnie said that they currently hold classes at Leisure Glen, the Boys and Girls Club of Bellport, and their main facility in Huntington. More info is available on their website: [www.seniornetli.org](http://www.seniornetli.org).

DOE M&O (management and operations) contract solicitation for BNL: Ken Mohring has no news.

Medical Insurance Benefits: Ken Mohring said that a lot is going on and that BSA plans to make significant changes to retiree benefits starting Jan. 1, 2015. BREA's subcommittee on medical insurance has held multiple meetings with Human Resources and among themselves. BREA is producing a special September issue of the Newsletter, to inform our members and to provide Q and A assistance with

these changes. BSA will send notification of the changes by mail to retirees in mid-September, and hold on-site information sessions in early October.

**Newsletter:** As mentioned above, a special September issue, with information about the proposed insurance changes, is to be mailed to BREA members. Steve Shapiro mentioned that a major reason for BREA's increased membership may be because the Newsletter has become more valuable as an information source for retirees since the demise of the BNL Bulletin.

**New Business:**

Ken Mohring mentioned several new items. (1) The "2014 BERA Expo: Trips, Programs, Clubs, and Fitness Info" will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Berkner lobby. BERA activities are generally open to retirees and some swimming classes are specifically for retirees. Ken will forward the announcement email to members after today's meeting. (2) The tour program at BNL needs new volunteer escorts. (3) The date for the 2014 Healthfest needs to be determined - BREA mans a table at Healthfest.

**Guest Speaker:** Christopher B. Trombetta, a TIAA-CREF financial services representative, gave a presentation about current BSA-related retiree investment options and the rationale for the changes that were made in Nov. 2013, when on the advice of Morningstar, a mutual fund rating agency, certain funds were dropped and the assets therein were transferred to comparable replacement funds. For those who would like more information, he comes on-site every Thursday. To make an appointment, call his secretary, Kendes Reilly, at 516-454-4006. Additional contact information is given below:

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In addition, TIAA-CREF has a dedicated website, outside the firewall, specifically for BNL:  
[www.tiaa-cref/tcm/bnl](http://www.tiaa-cref/tcm/bnl)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

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

November 2014 meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson