

# BREA Minutes

**Meeting Date and Place:** Tuesday, September 10, 2013; Berkner Hall, Rm. D

**Attendees:** Elliot Auerbach, Violet Bezler, Dave Cox, Louise Hanson, Robert Kinsley, George Oldham, Arnie Peskin, Frances Scheffel, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Richard Skelton, and Jackie Timko

Dave Cox opened the meeting at 1:12 pm. Due to a last minute cancellation of our scheduled meeting room in Bldg. 400, we moved to Rm. D in Berkner Hall.

The minutes of the July 9, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.

Steve Shapiro presented the Treasurer's Report. A tiny amount of interest has accrued. BREA paid for the printing and mailing of our last Newsletter – about \$300. BNL pays for four issues per year; BREA has upped the number of issues to six per year since the demise of the Bulletin. Thus far we have been unsuccessful in procuring additional funding from the Lab for the additional issues.

## **Old Business:**

DOE former worker medical screening and compensation programs: George Oldham gave an update on the status of his claim.

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz was not present. Steve Shapiro said that checks for about 40 renewals have been forwarded to him.

BREA newsletter: Mona Rowe was not present. However, several issues relating to the Newsletter were discussed:

- Is it appropriate to put notices of fundraiser events for severely injured/ill people in the Newsletter? Recently, BREA informed members by email of a Benefit Lunch for an individual who has been badly injured.
- The membership expiration date that appears on one's Newsletter label may be incorrect. This issue is being addressed.
- Several people present did not receive their July/Aug. Newsletter. They were told to contact Carmen.
- Are spouses of members automatically considered members?

Classified ads: The weekly classified ads that used to be published in the BNL Bulletin still exist internally on-line, but they cannot be accessed by retirees who no longer have an official appointment with the Lab. Dave Cox and Carmen Benkovitz have been working together to distribute these ads to BREA members. Dave receives the lists from an associate at the Lab and Carmen then emails them out. Liz Seubert mentioned that this service is very popular. Dave also sends to people who are not

members. It was discussed whether he should preface his mailings with a script that encourages non-members to join. Also being planned is the set-up of an “unsubscribe” for disinterested BREA members.

Election of Officers: The terms of the present BREA officers expire at the end of 2013. Arnie Peskin will head the nominating committee. He will ask Eena-Mai Franz (not present) to serve with him. Steve Shapiro is willing to continue as Treasurer. Ballots will be included in the Nov/Dec Newsletter.

**New Business:**

Concerns about future medical coverage: Dave Cox mentioned recent news stories announcing that IBM and Time Warner will cease retirees’ medical benefits, to be replaced by annual cash payments that people can then use to buy coverage through an insurance exchange. This led to expressions of concern about what the future holds for BNL retirees, especially since Savannah River has already adopted such a scheme. Dave plans to set up a meeting in October between BREA’s officers and Bob Lincoln (scheduled for Oct. 8, as of this writing).

BNL contract renewal: BREA is a “party of interest” with regard to BNL’s contract. To insure that BREA can provide input on issues/policies that affect retirees, Dave Cox asked Steve Shapiro to invite John Carter (DOE local area office) to an upcoming BREA meeting to discuss the public comment phase of the contract renewal.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

October 2013 meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

November 2013 meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson