

## **BREA Minutes**

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 1:04 PM, Research Support Building (Building 400) Staff Services Division Conference Room

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, E. Nate Carter, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Ken Mohring, Arnie Peskin, Steve Shapiro, Richard Skelton, Myron Strongin

**Meeting Minutes** The minutes of the July 10, 2012 meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report** The Treasurer's report was submitted by Steve Shapiro and accepted.

**Membership** The Membership Chair, Carmen Benkovitz, reported that approximately 20 retirees have sign-up since the last newsletter was sent out.

**SeniorNet** Dave Cox reported for Ronnie Evans. Ronnie is now the co-coordinator at the Yaphank facility, she needs "coaches" for the fall term, that is, people with some experience to assist teachers in the classes. There is going to be an "Open House" in September to introduce prospective students to SeniorNet and to attract coaches and teachers. Arnie Peskin asked how SeniorNet in Yaphank is thriving. Dave noted that there are many times there is only one class for a particular subject, but overall the operation is doing reasonably well. SUNG the SeniorNet monthly lecture/demo class devoted to a single subject were only held in Huntington, these one hour sessions are now periodically held at the Sachem Publically Library which is much closer for east end residents.

**Medical Screening Compensation Program** There was a public meeting in July that was initiated by five of the organizations that sponsor the program. Included were representatives of the Department of Labor, the DOE Headquarters Ombudsman's program, and NIOSH.

**Medical Screening Program (Queens College Program)** There have been inquires about expanding the list of cancers that are covered under this program. There are concerns by some people who did not work in high exposure areas, but were in areas where there were Superfund activities. Former employees and/or their families should be in the program because of possible rewards that may be available. Currently, Human Resources is not involved with a program to reach out to former employees to encourage participation in this program. Arnie Peskin will see Marge Lynch at the next CAC meeting and will ask why the Laboratory does not take an active role in reaching out. Arnie will report back in October.

**Other Retiree Organizations** Dave Cox reported that the Savannah River retiree organization has 1,500 members. It is currently reaching out to other DOE family retiree organizations because the DOE contractor is changing the medical plan from a "medical plan" to a voucher system. Dave also reported that ORNL's retirees' medical premiums resulted in a rebate because

the insurance carrier did not meet requirements of the new government 80% (premiums to benefits paid) rule.

**Medical Insurance Payment Process** (P&A Co.) Richard Skelton brought up the issue of cancellation of coverage because of late or unpaid premiums. HR has taken control of the situation and P&A goes through BNL before any coverage is cancelled. Elliot Auerbach noted that when bills are sent out late by P&A, they waive the due date requirements noted in the bill.

**Newsletter** The next newsletter will be sent out in late November.

**New Business** None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Ken Mohring