

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 11/10/2020

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

**Present:** A. Moodenbaugh, J. Baum, V. Bezler, C. Conrad, D. Cox, D. Dougherty, R. Evans, L. Fishbone, A. and V. Ghosh, B. Gunther, P. Gunther, R. Hackenberg, L. Hanson, J. Higgins, M. Israel, , B. Kinsey, L. Kouchinsky, J. Lemley, B. Leonhardt, B. Linn, C. Messana, L. Miller, M. Rowe, L. Seubert, S. Perino, E. Schwaner, D. Sievers, E. Sperry, B. Suskind, R. Weider, G. Williams

Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm

Thanks to Laura Miller for stepping in for Pat Flood.

Vote to approve Laura as Pat Flood's replacement. Thanks to Pat Flood, we hope her health improves.

**Treasurer's Report (L. Fishbone):** As of end of October 2020 the savings account had \$9707 and change; the checking account: \$7206 and change for a Total of \$16914 and change. We have three certificates of deposit with nonzero balances for a total of \$16321 and change, for an overall grand total of \$33,235.42. There are still membership checks to deposit and one check in the mail to reimburse the president for expenses. Motion to approve by Dave Dougherty, seconded by Mark Israel, no opposers.

Suggestion: because of the reduced security in Zoom meetings, in the future we will omit financial information and only mention expenses and income, keeping a record in official minutes. Need mechanism to keep members informed, while also keeping information safe. After discussion, it was decided to put actual amounts in official minutes, but not in on-line minutes. The secretary will include a statement in the on-line minutes that anyone wanting BREA financial information should contact BREA's president or treasurer.

Suggestion: L. Fishbone would like to solicit ideas from membership for next meeting discussion.

Arnie is going through the minutes of previous meetings and will post them once they are updated.

Today's agenda was sent from C. Carter as a link, not as an attachment, and not all members have email. After discussion, it was decided to continue with the present method for now.

**Membership Report (B. Lin):** After Beth receives a membership application and has received dues, email is much better for her. As of 11/10/2002 there are 327 current paid members. The number of current members who have email is 290. Since the last meeting, she has received payment from eight people. The paid members list is on website:

<https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/PDF/rptPaidUpMemberListForWebPage.pdf>

It includes the name and expiration date of each member so people know when they need to pay. If someone's name isn't on the list, they need to send in their dues. Membership report approved.

**Newsletter (M. Rowe):** Everyone should have received the latest issue by now. She held back two pieces on climate change (from Gwyn in Virginia and David in Oklahoma). Jan-Feb issue: She is trying to get S. Schwartz to provide the name of someone not from DOE to talk about climate change. She is hoping to have Schwartz do it since he is a retiree and has experience talking about this (global warming). Liz Seubert noted that Erik Forsythe has photographs of places he visited 20 years ago that are now gone. Les Fishbone said atmospheric carbon dioxide observations come from Hawaii and Mona should check observatories. The Mar-Apr issue will provide science highlights and possibly a Discovery Park story line. Suggestion: Ask Chris Carter the status of if/when retirees can come back on site. G. Williams said he needs a police escort whenever he goes into JLab.

BREA meetings: Zoom vs. on-site? This will be addressed when the time comes that we can hold meetings on-site. It would be good to have both if possible.

**Review of Sept minutes:** No approval of October 2020 minutes at this meeting. A discussion took place as to how to proceed going forward. BNL only wants minutes posted on-line one time (no draft first and final later) and attachments can be a problem. In the past, P. Flood provided preliminary minutes for officers to review and approve. After much discussion, a motion was made by L. Fishbone and seconded by M. Israel approving the plan that the secretary will send draft minutes of each meeting to the president. The president will forward them to Board members and to anyone from the meeting who requests to see them, along with others the president thinks should see them. The deadline for returning edits and responses to the president will be 11/19.2020. The secretary will then update the minutes and return them to the President for final approval by elected officers prior to the next meeting. Motion carried.

**Status of BNL Operations:** no updates and no comments.

**Donations by BREA:** Arnie Moodenbaugh received two comments by email and neither was enthusiastic about sending another donation to. Some people prefer using a locally focused organization rather than United Way. Giving a donation to United Way would be consistent with BNL's corporate interests because they have an annual drive, which we've contributed to, and we can designate the specific organization we want our donation sent to. However we have no way of knowing that UW increases the amount they give to an organization by the amount we specify they give that organization. Other possibilities are: a) Harry Chapin's charity, Long Island Cares; (c) Tesla Museum (it was decided we should focus on feeding the hungry at this time); d) United Way; e) Island Harvest; f) The Island Inn, "TheInn".

Motion by Cheryl Conrad: we will donate \$2500 to Long Island Cares now and will donate another \$2500 to a charity to be determined after the December BREA meeting conditional on the membership giving positive feedback. Seconded by Mark, all in favor.

**Action:** Don Sievers will do some research into "GoFundMe" for other donation possibilities before the next meeting.

**New Business:** Mark Israel suggested we invite John Hill, Deputy ALD for Energy and Photon Sciences and Director of NSLS-II, to give to us the same presentation on COVID-19 research being done at the lab that he gave at a recent CAC meeting. The research is a combination between the research facility (NSLS-II) and the Computational Science Initiative (CSI) and very exciting.

**Action:** Arnie said he would contact John.

**Peace Poles Project:** John Baum would like to get the lab to be involved in his project for “Peace Poles” - website “<http://peacepoles.info/index.htm>”. His goal is to create an international laboratory for peace.  
**Action:** Arnie will include an item in the next meeting.

Tomorrow, Nov 11, is Veteran’s Day. Thank a veteran for his service. Without their efforts, we wouldn’t have the freedoms we have today.

**Retirement/medical benefits from BNL:** Arnie tried to access the SelectQuotesSenior site from the BNL tab and wasn’t able to log in. David Dougherty received a letter dated 9/23/20 from Taben/Navia saying you don’t have to use SelectQuoteSenior SQS for your prescription drug programs. You ARE required to go through them to make changes to any of your medical insurance. The rates and the availability of plans changes from region to region. There is also some variation in the terms for changing plans. The Medicare book "Medicare and You" has the plans, and the website [medicare.gov/plan-compare](http://medicare.gov/plan-compare) has additional pricing information. However, we MUST contact SQS to make any changes in Medigap and Part C Advantage Plans. Changing plans anywhere but SQS will cause BNL retiree benefits to be permanently Mark Israel has had good experience with SQS. He has someone who contacts him at least once a year – George Watson.

Bob Hackenberg’s wife still works at the Lab, and does he need to register for Medicare? He needs to register by age 65 for Medicare A; he needs to consult BNL Benefits for advice on the timing of transition to full Medicare. . He will need to provide proof that he had insurance all along when he applies.

Don Sievers moved to adjourn, Bob H seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Meetings of BREA are regularly scheduled for 1:00pm Eastern Time on the second Tuesday of each month. The remaining second Tuesday for 2020 is Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> and the meeting will take place as a Zoom meeting. The link to the Zoom meeting will be provided prior to the meeting. Until further notice, meetings will take place on ZOOM. 2021 meeting dates are Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar.9, Apr. 13, May 10, June 8, July 13, (no Aug. meeting), Sep. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14.