

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 12/08/2020

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, D. Cox, D. Dougherty, L. Fishbone, A. and V. Ghosh, L. Hanson, M. Israel, B. Kinsey, B. Linn, B. Leonhardt, L. Miller, K. Mohring, S. Perino, L. Seubert, S. Shapiro, B. Siskind, G. Williams, M. Wood

Officers 2020-2022: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Lillian Kouchinsky: Secretary: Pat Flood; Treasurer: Les Fishbone; Membership Secretary: Beth Lin; Newsletter Editor: Mona Rowe.

1. Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm

2. Review November Minutes. Laura Miller recorded and edited the minutes. Officers and appointees have reviewed the minutes. Vote of the officers to approve the minutes (change of procedure approved by vote of attendees at a previous meeting). Pat Flood has asked to step down and Laura Miller has volunteered to assume her duties. As specified in BREA bylaws, a vote of the officers to install Laura Miller will make the transition official. Thanks again to Pat Flood for her efforts on behalf of BREA.

No quorum today (missing 2 board members). It was suggested the minutes be sent for review and approval to board members, then posted on website. B. Kinsey made motion, M. Israel accepted, motion passed.

L. Miller installation – officers can approve this via email. Then it will go into the newsletter. Motion to approve by S. Shapiro, seconded by B. Kinsey, motion approved. Questions/ comments: no.

3. Treasurer Report. Les Fishbone. Discuss the documentation of BREA Treasury records.

Hasn't received November accounts statement, but October accounts plus recent deposits, as of 12/4/20 are: saving \$9,707.63, checking: \$7520.90 for a subtotal of \$17,228.53. CDs: three with various maturity dates this coming year. A subtotal for CDs of \$16,321.16 for a grand total of \$33,549.69. Checking balance includes memberships received through 11/15. Another set of \$215 remains to be deposited. CD amounts don't include any dividends that may have been paid at the end of November. Regarding discussion about including monetary detail in published minutes: it may be worthwhile or allowable to get an opinion from the lab attorney, Anne Troutman, regarding complete disclosure of the minutes vs. not including them. Israel: they should be in official minutes, question is whether they should be included in posting, which would mean keeping separate minutes. Arnie: not too much risk putting numbers out there, because account information isn't available. Agrees we could ask attorney. Motion to accept: Bob Kinsey, Mark seconded. Motion approved.

Action: Les will contact Anne Troutman regarding posting of financial amounts and report back.

4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.

Paid membership total after Nov meeting is 328. Number paid with email 291. Members who sent dues since last meeting was 13 and on 11/16 she sent 10 checks to Les. December 3rd she sent 7 checks

of \$215. She would like to record that she has been doing this for 4 years. The first year, 12/12/17 paid membership was 428, in 2018 the total was 376, on 12/10/19 paid membership was 342 and this year 12/8/20 the number is 328. Slow but consistent decline. Request for dues is in newsletters, but no individual emails. Occasionally C. Carter will remind people to pay dues. Arnie: it might be useful to see how many new members signed up each year. That may be going down. Mark: joined before retiring, has a lifetime membership. In the retirement package from BNL, BREA info stated the first year is available at no cost and there is an annual renewal after that. Shapiro: when leaving, they get a package with so much info it's easy to miss. Mark suggested sending a separate letter to new retirees. Carter puts out a list of recent departures, can we get mailing addresses for them. NO - Lab won't provide home addresses. Liz: with morale going down and down and down, people don't want to join a BNL retirement organization. The departure list includes people who separated from the lab, and if they haven't retired, they aren't able to join BREA. Arnie: could we scan the list of departures?

Les: create a letter and ask it to be included in the retirement package. Lab won't allow retirees to keep their email accounts. Deleting retiree email addresses is a security issue that comes from DOE, not a financial issue. Mark: maybe letter from BREA Board of Trustees could be on brightly colored paper. Bill Leonhardt: need to include message describing what we do. Dougherty: retired after 24 years, eventually went to Oklahoma, and shortly after getting there, he received two separate letters from BREA and signed up. How did they get his address? Gwyn: left BNL, went to Jefferson Lab and got a letter from BNL. Barry: give people a reason to want to join, such as Medicare, etc.

Action: Service anniversaries – Arnie will ask Chris Carter to send letter to people with a 20 year or greater service anniversary telling them about BREA.

Dave Dougherty: SelectQuote – he wanted to drop Part D and sign up for the silver script program mentioned by Israel at a previous meeting. He is now paying 1/8th the cost. Mark uses HealthCare, but said both are good. Arnie: states are all different and have different rules and restrictions. Need to be careful when making changes. Les: revise message in form to say we have discussions in our meetings to discuss aspects of Medicare and medical insurance and retirees' recent experience with Selectquote and Medicare. Arnie: When he emailed HR about his experience with SelectQuote – very iffy discussions with them – HR seemed to not be interested. He called, left message, they called back with the name of a company he hadn't heard of and which wasn't helpful. Dougherty also called SelectQuote and left message. They didn't call back for more than a week so he made his own changes.

Action: If people have comments about their experience with SelectQuote or with changing Medicare Part B supplement plans or using Advantage Plans, email Arnie so he can include them in an article in the newsletter at some point.

5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe will report on items to be reported in the Jan/Feb BREA News.

Mona isn't available for this meeting, but she sent Arnie her plans for the newsletter: Climate Change Part II with Steve Shapiro, Gwyn Williams and with Dave Dougherty. President's message, 2 deaths membership. Discussions among contributors.

6. Community Advisory Council. Mark Israel.

The meeting held on 11/12/20 was the most recent meeting. Next meeting is sometime in March-April-May (new 3 month cycle). Bill Dorsch presented the CAC with the 2019 Site Environmental Report, a continuation from the previous month's meeting at which the first part of the Report was presented. Groundwater contamination has improved substantially. There is constant testing of the plumes, which are shrinking. Additional discussion: a combination of lab people and Suffolk County Dept. of Environmental Protection offered to test 79 properties south of lab that had private wells. 39 had public water; 2 were vacant lots; 8 were unoccupied; 13 gave no response; 7 declined the offer to test; and 3 requested sampling. Tim Green presented, and led a discussion regarding culling of deer, and talked about many of the other wildlife species on site. With respect to the deer, it is projected that next year the population will increase to 450-500. The Laboratory will try to get it down to 250. Deer meat in last culling was given to local food banks (on Long Island), as opposed to upstate communities in prior years. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that were used by firemen while fighting fires have gotten into the groundwater and are affecting local houses in Calverton/Manorville, etc. BNL has reached out and asked to monitor their groundwater, with varying responses. If anyone is interested in obtaining the full detailed Annual Environmental Report, they can contact Bill Dorsch at BNL.

7. Presentation on BNL NSLS-II operation and science during COVID pandemic by John Hill, NSLS-II director. John Hill has agreed to give a ZOOM talk about NSLS-II to BREA. We have not finalized any details at this time. Look for information in the January/February BREA News.

Availability of NSLS-II operation and science during COVID-19 pandemic. Lab is now using Zoom, so logistics will be easier.

Action: Arnie will look into doing 'screen share' on Zoom.

8. BNL operations continue in Phase 2. Retirees are not allowed on the BNL site, with only minor exceptions.

Phase 2: limited operation on site, try to work at home as much as possible. Retirees are not allowed on site unless they have a P.O. box and if they do, they must be accompanied to it by a security officer. Information about Phase 2 is also available on-line.

Action: Include in next newsletter: BNLgov/COVID-19 information website. 65% of employees are telecommuting.

Action: Liz will forward BNL memo to Beth Lin.

9. Donation of \$2500 to LICares was approved at the November meeting. Disbursement has not yet been made. Consider additional charitable donations by BREA.

No change since last meeting. Any additional suggestions? Shapiro: Recent Monday Memo had an article about United Way. Disheartening because this year there doesn't seem to be a 'matching funds' donation from the lab. Article states says 100% of funds go directly to LI charities. Mark: Newsday charities are good. Give another donation to United Way or Newsday Charities? This is in addition to the November \$2500. Gwyn: United Way of LI charges 6% for administrative expenses.

Action: Arnie will ask Chris Carter if there's a United Way match from BNL this year. Mark motioned to approve donation to BSA's United Way of LI through BSA for \$2500. Beth Lin seconded. Motion approved.

Action: Les will send checks for both November and December donations (\$2500 each). United Way form will indicate it should go to local food banks.

Action: Steve will email Les and Arnie the United Way donation form.

10. Discussion by BNL Retirees of their experiences with Medicare Open Enrollment and SelectQuoteSenior during the open enrollment period (ending Dec. 7). See discussion under Membership.

11. New Business.

Davie Cox: Sad announcement that Jim Riley, from Applied Science died a couple of days ago.

Action: Dave Cox will forward the information about Jim Riley to Mona, after he checks with Claire.

Steve Shapiro: they are starting to demolish the smokestack from the reactor, effective today.

Dave Dougherty: To V and A Ghosh – climate change part 1 article about wildfires was very good and timely. Bloomberg, MIT Review, and Wired all had recent articles about California’s fires and how California’s method of controlling wildfires failed. Arup – agree and this is the driest season in some time. The traditional rainfalls are starting a month late.

12. Adjournment. B. Kinsey called for adjournment. Barry Siskind seconded, meeting adjourned at 2:26.