

BREA Minutes

Tuesday, February 14, 2012, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Dave Cox, President., Steve Shapiro, Treasurer., Arnie Peskin, Les Lawrence, Frances Scheffel, Eliot Auerbach, Myron Strongin, Rich Skelton, Carmen Benkovitz, Eena-Mai Franz. No phone attendees.

Minutes of the January 10 meeting were approved as amended. Shapiro gave a treasurer's report, with little change from the last report; membership dues for 2012 are coming in.

Old Business

SeniorNet: Cox reported for Ronnie Evans. A SeniorNet meeting will be held next week featuring a discussion on Smartphone apps.

BREA Newsletter: The latest issue has been distributed. The next volume is expected to feature information on the annual Luncheon.

Membership: Benkovitz is sending out email blasts and other reminders for those who have not yet paid dues for 2012. The new Member Database is almost complete.

Plum Island trip: Shapiro has been in touch with their staff about a BREA visit on May 23 or 24. Some unresolved questions on how many individuals can be accommodated, particularly on the boat.

Annual Luncheon: Ken Mohring is chairing the arrangements committee which will be appointed shortly. The tentative date is June 6. Bellport Country Club is considered a probable site but other possible venues will be explored.

Medical Screening Program: Victor Cassella will be the informal BREA liaison to the program.

Retiree Medical Benefit Changes: So far all individual petitions to set aside the new costs have been denied by the Lab on the basis of a disclaimer in the prior years' HR Booklets. Frank Marotta has given Cox the names of a few attorneys as the search for legal representation continues. Cox raised with Denise DeMiglio the problem that the benefit change announcement came directly from the new subcontractor P&A, rather than the Lab itself, and many of those affected may have ignored the information, not recognizing the firm. DeMiglio promised to follow up with January payment delinquents to ascertain that they now know the new policy, and re-instate their coverage as necessary. Communication of this issue to the retiree community was identified as a serious general issue that will be addressed with Bob Lincoln at an early opportunity. Cox and Shapiro also approached Peter Bond on this issue in Bond's role as Laboratory ombudsman.

New Business

Peskin suggested that a request for regular reports on the activities of the Community Advisory Council be added to the list of recurring Old Business topics, and those present concurred.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Cox at 1:55pm.

Minutes submitted by Arnie Peskin in behalf of Sec'y Louise Hanson