

## BREA Minutes

**From:** Dave Cox (Secretary)

**Date:** Wednesday, September 9, 2009

**In Attendance:** Arnie Peskin, Ken Mohring, Dave Cox, Myron Strongin, Eena-Mai Franz, Martine O'Connor, Ronnie Evans, Sonja Santos, J. Tichler (via conference phone).

The meeting was called to order by the President, Arnie Peskin, at 12.05 p.m.

Due to a senior moment on the part of the Secretary, the minutes of the July 1 meeting were not available. It was agreed that they should be circulated by e-mail.

A financial summary was provided by the Treasurer, Ken Mohring. As of August 31, the total balance for all accounts was \$22,546. Two certificates of deposit due to mature within the next two months would have to be reinvested at significantly lower rates.

The President reported that it had been necessary to cancel the Lighthouse Safaris trip planned for September 10<sup>th</sup> since only ten people had signed up, and the price would accordingly have been much higher. Individual checks had been returned, but the deposit had not yet been refunded. There was some discussion about what type of event (if any) might attract more interest, and it was agreed to include a question sheet to this effect with the election literature later in the year.

Ronnie Evans gave an update on the activities of the recently-opened SeniorNet center in Easy Yaphank, whose Volunteer Orientation event on July 10 had been attended by several BREA members. Two introductory courses were being offered in the fall – Introduction to Computing (Basic Processes and Basic Applications). It was agreed that these courses, and the wider variety offered at the Huntington center, might well be of interest to members, and it was agreed to provide some information on the BREA webpage and in an article in the next issue of the Newsletter. It was also agreed to discuss with HR personnel the possibility of some sort of BNL sponsorship.

Joyce Tichler reported on her discussions about an appropriate form of tribute in memory of Graham Campbell, singling out the Carmans River Maritime Center as a suitable choice. The Treasurer volunteered to contact this organization to discuss possible options for a donation of \$500.

The Treasurer announced some details of a recent program offered by LIPA to provide financial assistance with electricity bills to eligible seniors with incomes below a certain level. It was

agreed that this information might be useful to some BREA members and should be provided in the next Newsletter.

The President mentioned a rumor from a credible source that there had been some discussion at management levels about reducing medical insurance costs by eliminating coverage for spouses of deceased employees. Following a meeting with Lab Director Sam Aronson he was told by Benefits Manager Denise DiMeglio that no such changes were in fact contemplated. It was agreed that BREA should take a strong and proactive stance whenever there was a possibility of retiree benefits being threatened.

The Treasurer read e-mail from BERA Recreation Supervisor Chris Carter seeking authorization to change the BREA website platform to Windows rather than Unix, which would make it easier to find information and update. After some discussion it was agreed that such authorization should be given, and that the President would inform current Webmaster Paul Michael.

Joyce Tichler gave a preliminary report on behalf of the Nominating Committee, stating that efforts were continuing to find candidates for next year's BREA elections.

It was agreed that publication of the next issue of the Newsletter would be deferred until a full slate of candidates had been proposed.

The next monthly meeting will be held as scheduled on Wednesday, October 14. but it was agreed to change the date of the following meeting from Nov 11 (scheduled as a lab holiday for Veterans Day) to Thursday, Nov 12

The meeting was adjourned at 1.14 pm following a motion made by Ken Mohring and seconded by Dave Cox.