

# BREA Minutes

(At Dec. 12 meeting, revisions of attendee list and wording of 7b were requested and accepted; minutes with revisions were then approved by voice vote.)

## Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA  
BNL Bldg. 400A  
BERA Recreation / Attention BREA  
Upton, NY 11973

**Meeting Date and Place:** Tuesday Nov. 14, 2017; 1:00 PM, BNL building 400 Conference rooms 1 and 2, Upton, NY. Minutes recorded by Secretary Arnold Moodenbaugh.

**Attendees:** Victor Cassella, Dave Cox, Les Fishbone, Mark Israel, Bob Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Beth Yu Lin, Alfred Luccio, Arnold Moodenbaugh, Arnie Peskin, Lloyd Schaier, Elizabeth Seubert, Barry Siskind, John Skalyo.

President Liz Seubert opened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Sign in sheets were circulated for attendees, with names collected shown above. Call-in phone was activated; no call-ins.

**1. Minutes.** Draft minutes from October were not posted, so no action was taken on the minutes at this meeting. A suggestion was made to improve wording of a sentence in the October minutes. [Ed. note: an interim change in the Oct. minutes was made and will be forwarded, along with a request to post those draft minutes and September approved minutes, to the BNL staff member who has accepted responsibility for posting the minutes.]

**2. Treasurer's Report.** In the absence of Steve Shapiro, Liz Seubert reported that \$30 was received in dues and that \$700 was expended to provide a breakfast for a graduate student event (BERA ASAP Early Career Symposium, Nov. 2). [ed. note: see 7a for related comment]. Treasurer's report was approved by voice vote.

**3. Membership Report.** Beth Yu Lin reported two additional members since the September meeting. There are 474 members on the books, with 427 of those with dues paid. \$710 was received in dues since previous report. There are 370 members who have provided BREA with email contact information. Membership report was approved by voice vote.

**4. Nominating Committee.** Arnie Peskin reported that the vote for officers is underway.

**5. Newsletter.** Bob Kinsey reported in the absence of Mona Rowe, with comments by Liz Seubert. Upcoming newsletter will include announcement of new officers for 2018-9. An article will feature Peter Tacaks. Mona Rowe requests reports from retirees on interesting vacation trips and other activities. An explanation of the BNL policy on badging for retiree spouses will be published when it is provided by BNL HR. An attendee requested the inclusion of an announcement on the Worker Health Program for DOE contractor ex-employees.

**6. Community Advisory Council news.** A. Peskin attended the recent CAC meeting. As is customary, there were two parts to the meeting. The first part concerns operational issues, including cleanup. This meeting featured Tim Green reviewing the BNL site report. He reviews one chapter per CAC meeting. The second part of the

meeting features a science topic. At this meeting, studies at NSLSII of biological proteins were described. The work advances our ability to describe the structure of proteins which do not crystallize.

**7. New Business.** **a)** A member noted that a sign simply credited "BREA" for participating is an event. He suggested that BREA participation in BNL activities be acknowledged more clearly, possibly mentioning Retired Brookhaven Employees **b)** BNL has a web function BNL List, where there is a BREA List. It was suggested that the feature is little known, and duplicates other methods of communication. It was approved by voice vote to ask BNL that the feature be shut down. It was suggested that a newsletter announcement be made listing various sources of relevant information. **c)** A member noted that several articles critical of TIAA have appeared recently in the news (including NY Times). Concern centered on the bonus system which may reward TIAA employees for moving clients to higher priced services. Also, some retirees were unaware of the restrictions on withdrawal from TIAA traditional in RAs [Ed. note: this applies to AUI retirement account and BSA 401a]. One attendee also noted that BSA/BNL had reduced choice by making TIAA the sole record-keeper for its retirement accounts. Mark Israel was on the BNL committee which reviewed some of these changes. He described some of the factors that went into the decisions, including ongoing operational issues and cost considerations. It was suggested that BREA might approach HR for comment. Mark Israel will discuss concerns directly with BNL HR. Dave Cox was designated to write a letter to BNL HR inquiring about some of these concerns. **d)** An attendee noted that NY DMV now offers 3 types of drivers license, and that a standard license will not be sufficient ID for domestic air travel beginning Jan. 22, 2018. [Ed. note: The DMV license types are described at <https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/renew-license>, along with requirements needed for each type. US Homeland Security DHS <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id/new-york> confirms that NYS residents must use Enhanced or Real ID licenses or passport for domestic flights beginning Jan. 22, 2018, unless an DHS extension for NY is approved. Standard licenses of IDs would no longer be sufficient identification. NYS DMV suggests that standard licenses will be accepted through 2019, but this conflicts with current DHS information referenced above.]

Meeting was adjourned at about 2:10. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017. Default meeting location is Bldg. 400 RSB rooms 1 and 2.