

BREA Minutes (draft)

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation / Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday Oct. 9, 2018; 1:00 PM, BNL Building 400 Conference room 1, Upton, NY.
Minutes recorded by Arnold Moodenbaugh.

Attendees: Arnie Aronson, Victor Cassella, Linda Commander, Cheryl Conrad, Dave Cox, Charles Dimino, Les Fishbone, Eena-mai Franz, Mark Israel, Robert Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Pat Flood Leonhardt, Bill Leonhardt, Beth Lin, Al Mallen, Arnold Moodenbaugh, Carol Ogeka, Arnie Peskin, Elizabeth Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Steve Sheys(??), Barry Siskind, John Skalyo.

Officers 2018-2020: President: Steve Shapiro shapiro@bnl.gov; Vice President: Bob Kinsey; Secretary: Arnold Moodenbaugh; Treasurer: Lillian Kouchinsky; Membership Secretary: Beth Lin; Newsletter Editor: Mona Rowe.

1. Call to order. President Steve Shapiro opened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Sign in sheets were circulated for attendees, with names collected shown above. Call-in phone was ready for use but no calls were received.

2. Minutes. Draft minutes of the September meeting were circulated. Approval of the minutes was deferred to later in the meeting, allowing members present to review the minutes.

3. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Lillian Kouchinsky reported on balances in the various BREA accounts. A check for \$800 was disbursed for support of a breakfast at the "Early Career Researcher Symposium" being held at BNL on Oct. 11, 2018 (item 9). A potential donation to the Nikola Tesla Foundation is (and has been for some time) under consideration, but is not ready for a formal proposal. Treasurer's report was accepted by voice vote.

4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin reported that the total count of current members (including some who are not current on dues) is 486. Dues paid membership is 370 (of which 77 are life members). Four annual dues checks were received since the last report. Membership report was accepted by voice vote.

5. Community Affairs Council CAC. Mark Israel reported that BSA held a dinner for CAC members the previous month. Arnie Peskin also attended. Peter Bond has written an article "The Fiftieth Anniversary of Brookhaven National Laboratory: A Turbulent Time published in Physics in Perspective, V. 20, pp. 180-207, 2018. The article covers the circumstances surrounding changeover from AUI management to BSA. The paper is copyrighted, so copies are not freely available at this time. It was proposed that Peter Bond be asked to give a talk to BREA and/or BNL on this topic.

6. Newsletter. No additional report on upcoming Newsletter topics was available. Refer to the September minutes for topics to be covered in the Nov/Dec. issue.

7 Trip to Cornell Extension. The trip to Cornell Extension, officially Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center (LIHREC), was delayed one week due to bad weather on the original date. About 25 attended the event on September 20 (this was about 15 fewer than had signed up for the original date). The event was considered a success. A \$200 check was provided by BREA to LIHREC scholarship fund in appreciation.

8. Alive B4-five. An event was scheduled for Wed. Oct. 10 from 11:00 to 1:00 by BERA (BNL activities umbrella organization) to promote participation in BERA activities, including BREA. The event was to take place outside

Berkner hall. BREA was allotted a table. [Ed. note: Steve Shapiro, Arnold Moodenbaugh, and Beth Yu Lin provided written information and discussed BREA with attendees.]

9. Early Career Researcher Symposium. A check for \$800 was disbursed for support of a breakfast at the "Early Career Researcher Symposium" being held at BNL on Oct. 11, 2018.

10. Open Enrollment for Medicare D and supplement coverage can be made Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. Steve Shapiro has discussed BSA contributions to retiree Medicare healthcare costs. The current subsidy of \$170 for retired employee and \$170 for spouse will remain unchanged for 2019. BSA retirees must make changes to their Medicare Supplement (or Medicare Advantage) plan through SelectQuote Senior in order to maintain the BSA subsidy. Changes to the Part D drug plan may be considered by retirees. The HumanaWalmart plan that many local retirees have now will have a \$15 monthly increase in premium to about \$35. There are 23 plans available in Suffolk County with premiums as low as \$15.50. Changes can be made through SelectQuote, but that is not a requirement for continued BSA subsidy (SelectQuote does not offer many of the plans available through Medicare). Evaluate your options using the Medicare site:

<https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx>

9. Retiree Health Insurance and BSA contribution to help cover costs. Steve Shapiro is discussing insurance cost increases and BREA future plans on reimbursement with BNL Human Resources. He has been told that 2019 reimbursements will remain at the current rate.

11. BREA Logo change. Eight entries for the new logo are being presented to the committee of past BREA presidents for judging in October. The Committee may ask the BNL graphics group to revise the chosen logo. The official full name of BREA includes "Brookhaven National Laboratory", so this may be included in some versions of the new logo which would be used off the BNL site (to avoid confusion with Brookhaven Town, for example).

12. BNL Policy for retirees. New phased retirement and Emeritus policies have been adopted by BNL that affect the interaction of retirees with BNL and current staff. Emeritus status is now a term appointment.

13. DOE budget for FY19. Office of Science budget will receive a 5% increase from 2018. The budget was approved before the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year for the first time since 2000.

14. Other Business. **a)** Travel. Les Fishbone went on a trip to Peru which included a visit to Machu Picchu. He will give a presentation on his Peru travel at a future meeting. **b)** Steve Shapiro will follow up on request to Peter Bond to give talk (ref. 5 above). **c)** Discovery Park. Ken White will be asked to make a presentation about Discovery Park. It was noted that Marty Fallier is new project manager. **d)** Medical Screening for former workers. This Dept. of Labor program WHPP is locally based at Queens College. It was suggested that BREA provide a cover letter for a WHPP mailing. This would serve as an assurance that the notification wasn't a bulk mail scam of some kind. **e)** The November 13 meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Brookhaven Center (Bldg. 30). **f)** The upcoming CAC meeting is scheduled for the south room of the Brookhaven Center.

2. Minutes. Minutes of September, 2018, meeting were approved by voice vote.

11. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned by voice vote at about 2:00

The November meeting (next meeting on Tuesday, November 13) will be held at an alternate location, likely to be Brookhaven Center Building 30 [meeting took place in Room B of Berkner Hall]. Future meeting dates are scheduled to take place at 1:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month, usually in rooms 1&2, RSB Bldg. 400 at BNL. The December meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.