

BREA Minutes (approved at December meeting)

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation / Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday Nov. 13, 2018; 1:00 PM, BNL Berkner Hall, Room B, Upton, NY. Minutes recorded by Arnold Moodenbaugh.

Attendees: Victor Cassella, Dave Cox, Les Fishbone, Pat Flood, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Beth Lin, Ken Mohring, Arnold Moodenbaugh, Elizabeth Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Barry Siskind, John Skalyo, Ed Sperry.

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 1:03 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 October 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 \$17.45 was issued from BREA funds. 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 489. Dues paid membership is 373, an increase of 3 since the last report. Eight annual dues checks were received since the last report. Membership report was accepted by voice vote. Two previous members were reported to be deceased. A comment was made that news of deaths should be forwarded to Mona Rowe for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

5. Community Affairs Council CAC. A CAC meeting was held on Thursday Nov. 8. Mark Israel attended that meeting and reported on the CAC meeting to Steve Shapiro. An BNL environmental report was described by Jason Remien. Potential contamination of ground water by certain chemicals that may not have been previously evaluated has arisen as an issue. A draft letter was circulated to be transmitted from the CAC to Director Doon Gibbs. The letter suggested that additional groundwater testing be performed to evaluate possible contamination.

6. Newsletter. Steve Shapiro reported on Editor Mona Rowe's plans for future issues. A feature is being developed describing retiree Frank Marotta's efforts to go "paperless". Mona Rowe also described scams asking BREA officials to send emergency payments to the scammers. In response to that, it was suggested that email contact information in the minutes be limited. [This newsletter includes only the contact info for the President Steve Shapiro.]

7. Alive B4 Five. Steve Shapiro reported that he, Arnie Moodenbaugh, and Beth Yu Lin represented BREA at this outdoor mid-day BERA event promoting activities offered to employees and retirees. The event took place on Oct. 10 outdoors in front of Berkner Hall around noontime (in good weather), and snacks were provided by BERA. Attendance was good. Several BREA application forms were distributed.

8. Early Career Researcher Symposium. The donation supporting breakfast by BREA was appreciated by attendees at the Oct. 11 event.

9. BREA Logo. Liz Seubert reported that the evaluation of BREA logo possibilities is underway. There may need to be some alteration in any chosen design before adoption.

10. Open Enrollment for Medicare D and supplement coverage can be made Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. There are 23 available Medicare Part D plans available in Suffolk County. According to the Medicare website, the lowest cost plans for a "typical" retiree are Well Care Value Script, Express Scripts Medicare -Saver, Envision RxPlus, and Aetna Medicare Rx Select. You can evaluate plans in more detail using the Medicare website:

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

Note that SelectQuote Senior does not offer all Part D plans, but you need not purchase Part D through SelectQuote in order to maintain the BSA/BNL subsidy. Among the four lower priced plans, only Aetna Medicare Rx Select is available. It was also noted that Medicare Supplement plans C and F are being phased out (no new enrollees in 2019).

11. "Road to Recovery". This volunteer service program was described by Steve Shapiro, who has participated. This is a service to cancer patients undergoing treatment, who need transportation to and from treatment sites. Steve encourages retirees to consider offering their services to this organization. The website is www.cancer.org/roadtorecovery.

12. Health Screenings. J Corbin of Queens College of the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP) will coordinate with Steve Shapiro to prepare a mailing to BNL employees that includes a cover letter from him. The mailing from WHPP will inform retirees of the free medical screening and followup treatment for job related diseases.

13. Plans for upcoming BREA meetings. Coffee and cookies will be provided to December meeting attendees. Peter Bond is scheduled to speak at the December meeting on the politics surrounding AUI management of BNL in the '90s. In January, Marty Fallier will discuss the plans for Discovery Park.

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) Donation to Cornell Extension: Ken Mohring received a thank you letter from Cornell Extension thanking BREA for a contribution in connection with the field trip there on September 20.

2. Minutes. A correction to the date of the field trip to Cornell extension was made (September 20). Minutes of September, 2018, meeting were then approved by voice vote.

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

Future meeting dates are scheduled to take place at 1:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month (except August), usually in rooms 1&2, RSB Bldg. 400 at BNL. The December meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018, the January meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.