

BREA Minutes (approved by voice vote at meeting April 9, 2019)

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BREA Recreation / Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday Mar. 12, 2019; 1:00 PM, BNL Bldg. 400 Rms. 1 and 2, Upton, NY. Minutes recorded by Arnold Moodenbaugh.

Attendees: Victor Cassella, Linda Commander, Cheryl Conrad, Dave Cox, Pat Flood, Louise Hanson, Mark Israel, Robert Kinsey, Jim Lemley, Bill Leonhardt, Lois Moller, Arnold Moodenbaugh, George Oldham, Arnie Peskin, Liz 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 about 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 January meeting were circulated. [Ed. Note: The Feb. meeting was canceled due to snow.] Approval of the minutes as deferred to later in the meeting, allowing members present to review the minutes.

3. Treasurer's Report. Steve Shapiro reported for the absent Treasurer Lillian Kouchinsky. He reported balances of the various BREA accounts. Expenditures of \$730 for newsletter were incurred. \$740 in dues was received since the January report. The Report approved by voice vote. The possibility of BREA obtaining higher interest rates was brought up again. Opinion of President and Treasurer is that moving BREA funds from TFCU to other institutions isn't a straightforward process.

4. Membership Report. Steve Shapiro reported for the absent Membership chair Beth Yu Lin. There are 495 names on the master list (current and some lapsed memberships). Paid membership rose by 24 to 318 as annual renewals arrived in the previous two months. The report was approved by voice vote.

5. Community Affairs Council CAC. Mark Israel reported on CAC activities. In the February meeting, the possible contamination of groundwater by firefighting chemicals once used at BNL was discussed further. The recently named moderator for the CAC is stepping down and is being replaced. The meeting scheduled for March has been canceled due to schedule conflicts for BNL participants.

6. Newsletter. Mona Rowe notified that the March/April newsletter is available on line. It was again asked whether BNL might provide death notices of past employees to BREA. That question has been previously posed to BNL Human Resources, and they will not do so. BREA will rely on notifications from their members and other contacts.

7. Annual Luncheon. Liz Seubert reported that the June lunch will take place at the Bellport Country Club. An informal discussion determined that the date of the luncheon will be Wed. June 12. The price will be a dollar or two higher than last year's event. A speaker will need to be chosen. A minimum of 80 guests is required by the facility. Liz Seubert will need volunteers for various tasks related to the luncheon.

8. BREA Logo Committee. Liz Seubert is working with BNL design professionals provided to BREA by BNL without charge (Jen Abramowitz) to help polish the Logo ideas suggested to the committee. Three are under consideration: 1) outline of Long Island with BNL Logo is being simplified, 2) a sunset is not adequately focused, and 3) a stylized atom. A decision on a final design should be available at the June luncheon.

9. New Federal income tax law implications. Mark Israel, who has a tax preparation business, discussed the changes in income tax law and effects on tax liability. Itemized deductions are less favorable, especially for New York homeowners. A partial compensation is that the standard deduction has been increased. Self-employed people in general receive noticeably lower rates, but there is little guidance on specific application of the new rules.

10. Medicare Part D changes. Proposed changes in Part D are defined in the following government press release: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/contract-year-cy-2020-medicare-advantage-and-part-d-drug-pricing-proposed-rule-cms-4180-p>. There are likely to be some shifts in costs among insurers, retailers, drug manufacturers and Medicare users. [Ed note: The Affordable Care Act ACA (Obamacare) also affects aspects of Medicare including part D. Full repeal of or revisions to the ACA would have implications for Medicare coverage and costs.]

11. Other matters. **a) US Dept. of Labor Worker Protection Program.** The program provides physical evaluations and possible compensation for DOE contractor employees who might have been exposed to workplace health hazards. A letter from BNL to all BNL retirees is in planning. A meeting about this program will take place at Middle Island Library May 2 from 10-12 and 1-4. A flyer prepared by program representatives (somewhat poorly written) is being distributed. A representative of the program will also attend the annual BREA luncheon. **b) Brookhaven Lecture.** Steve Shapiro and other BREA members have written to BNL scientific management pointing out the lapse of about two years in BNL Lectures. It was pointed out that these occasions are beneficial events for the general BNL community. There may be some plans to restart these lectures. **c) PubSci talks.** These are lecture/discussions sited at various restaurants and pubs in the vicinity of BNL. A recent talk on the Big Bang Theory was held at Snapper Inn in Oakdale. The event was well attended. Much of the exposition was in the form of lecture which was often at a level beyond the "plain language" suggested in the announcement. **d) Les Fishbone talk.** Les Fishbone will talk about some of his travels at the April BREA meeting. **e) Tesla Foundation.** A possible contribution to the Tesla Foundation from BREA is on hold, until the Foundations plans are firmed up.

2. Minutes. It was pointed out that the January minutes included an announcement for the subsequently canceled February meeting. It was agreed that the text would be changed to reflect the cancellation. With that change, the minutes of the January meeting were approved.

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

The April meeting is scheduled to 1:00, Tuesday April 9, 2019, in rooms 1 and 2 of Building 400 at BNL.