

BREA Minutes (approved by voice vote at October 8 meeting)

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation / Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday Sept. 10, 2019; 1:00 PM, BNL Bldg. 400 Rms. 1 and 2, Upton, NY. Minutes recorded by Arnold Moodenbaugh.

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Louisa Barone, Robert Barone, Victor Cassella, Dave Cox, Louise Hanson, Joseph Indusi, Mark Israel, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Beth Yu Lin, Ken Mohring, Arnold Moodenbaugh, Carol Ogeka, George Oldham, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Don Sievers, Barry Siskind, John Skalyo, Ed Sperry., Michael Villoran. No call in attendees.

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. Steve Shapiro called the meeting to order at about 1:00. Coffee and cookies were provided. Sign in sheets were circulated for attendees, with names collected shown above.

2. Previous meeting substitute chair. Steve Shapiro thanked Arnold Moodenbaugh for chairing the July meeting in Steve's absence.

3. Minutes. Draft minutes of the July meeting were circulated. Comments on and approval of the minutes were deferred to later in the meeting, allowing members present to review the minutes.

4 Treasurer's Report. Lillian Kouchinsky reported current balances of Association funds. Steve Shapiro again noted that a contribution from BREA to the Tesla Science Foundation is being considered. It was also mentioned that Tennis Professional Novak Djokovic (Serbian, as was Tesla) visited the Foundation recently.

5. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin reported dues income of \$110 from five members. Current paid membership is 332, 294 of whom have provided email contact information. There are 506 names (including expired) in the BREA database.

6. Community Advisory Council CAC. Mark Israel said that the CAC schedule is reduced to once every two months. No CAC meetings were held over the summer months; the next meeting is scheduled for this Thursday evening.

7. Newsletter. Steve Shapiro reported for Mona Rowe that the current newsletter is available on line (BERA webpage on BNL site).

8. Annual Luncheon. Liz Seubert and Lillian Kouchinsky reported payment of \$2960 + 392 ("admin. fee") to Bellport Country Club, representing a minimum attendance of 80. It is estimated that actual attendance fell a few lunches short (about 77 attended, including member who paid and guests whose lunches were provided by BREA). An effort will be made to more accurately reconcile the information, with input from Ken Mohring and Arnold Moodenbaugh, who checked people in at the door. Suggestions for improving attendance next year included moving the Luncheon to May and providing a buffet rather than the more formal sit-down lunch. It

was suggested that photos from the luncheon have names attached. However, it might not be feasible to identify everyone, and partial identification is not a good option.

9. Worker Health Protection WHPP. Steve Shapiro reviewed some aspects of the WHPP mailing to BNL retirees that included a letter from him on behalf of BREA. About 1500 letters were distributed; to known addresses (it is estimated that there are about 2200 total retirees). Dr Hailu [SPELLING??] said that there was a notable response to the mailings, and complimented Steve (and BREA) for encouraging participation.

10. Alive B4 Five. An event to promote BERA activities (including BREA). will be held outside Berkner Hall on Sept. 18 between 11:00 and 1:00. Liz Seubert, Arnold Moodenbaugh, and Steve Shapiro volunteering to represent BREA at a table there. At the event BREA will raffle off a lifetime paid membership to BREA.

11. Lawsuits against BNL in the news. NY Times and Newsday covered a lawsuit filed against BNL and related entities on behalf of individuals who had worked at BNL, claiming that illness is due to chemical exposure at BNL. Apparently these are individual suits, and not class action. In the coverage, it was mentioned that some of the parties to the suits were members of an unnamed retiree group. It is the opinion of Steve Shapiro that the group is not BREA.

12. BNL support for retiree insurance. The BSA stipend to retirees eligible for Medicare is now \$170 per month per qualifying retiree and \$170 for spouse. Steve Shapiro noted that a modest increase in the stipend is being considered by BNL Human Resources, and has a chance of being approved. In any case, the conduit from BSA to retirees will likely transition from Taben, so anticipate some paperwork in order to continue the payments next year.

13. Nominating committee for BREA elections. The nominating committee is to be composed of three members. Ken Mohring and Liz Seubert will serve. Steve Shapiro will also ask Arnie Peskin to be on the committee.

14. Change in Berkner Cafeteria operation. The previous vendor did not bid to continue to serve, so a NY State - approved vendor was chosen. As a consequence previous employees were terminated; they were not picked up by the new vendor. The ex-employees have been demonstrating near the BNL entrance at William Floyd Pkwy.

15. Minutes. The minutes of the July meeting were approved by voice vote.

9. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned by voice vote at about 2:05.

Regular meetings are scheduled for 1:00 on the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 Tuesday, October 8, 2019, in rooms 1 and 2 of Building 400 at BNL. The following meetings in 2019 are scheduled for November 12, December 10. In 2020, meetings are scheduled for Jan. 14 and Feb. 11.