

# BREA Minutes (Approved at Nov . 12 meeting by voice vote)

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday Oct. 8, 2019; 1:00 PM, BNL Bldg. 400. Rms. 1 and 2, Upton, NY. Minutes recorded by Liz Seubert, edited by Liz Seubert and Arnie Moodenbaugh.

Attendees: Louisa Barone, Robert Barone, Victor Cassella, Cheryl Conrad, Dave Cox, Joanne Delks, Louise Hanson, Joseph Indusi, Mark Israel, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Yusef Makdisi, Ken Mohring, Arnold Moodenbaugh, Lois Moller, Arnie Peskin, Liz Seubert, John Skalyo, Peter Yamin. No call in attendees.

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

1. Call to order. In the absence of Steve Shapiro, Arnold Moodenbaugh called the meeting to order at about 1:00. Sign in sheets were circulated for attendees, with names collected shown above.
2. Minutes. Draft minutes of the September meeting were circulated. Comments on and approval of the minutes were deferred to late in the meeting, allowing members present to review the minutes.
3. Treasurer's Report. Current balances of Association funds were reported by Lillian Kouchinsky.
- 4.. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin was absent but transmitted statistics. Current paid membership is 338. There are 506 names (including expired) in the BREA database.
- 5.. Community Advisory Council CAC. Mark Israel attended the September meeting and said that the CAC schedule is under revision, perhaps to three months on, then three months off. Lab Director Doon Gibbs reported that the upcoming budget for BNL from Congress was still in negotiation. A presentation was given on possible plans for decontamination and removal of the HFBR reactor stack. Construction of Discovery Park continues, and funds have been allocated for a new science support building. A Site Environmental Report showed progress with on-site cleanup -- plumes are shrinking. Through a contractor, the Lab is testing for contaminants from past firefighting methods. At the next CAC meeting, October 10, a presentation on water is planned.
6. Newsletter. In the Nov./Dec. issue, Editor Mona Rowe will announce a slate of BREA officers to be voted on for next year. Also, there will be a reminder of open enrollment for Medicare Supplemental, Part D Rx, and Advantage plans, with the Select Quote phone number, will be included.
7. At the Alive B4 Five event outside Berkner on Wednesday, Sept. 18, crowds of BNLeers visited tables displaying information on BERA Clubs, Teachers' Federal Credit Union, etc., while enjoying hot dogs, hamburgers, and other food and drinks. Steve Shapiro, Arnold Moodenbaugh, Beth Yu Lin, and Liz Seubert held the BREA table, where 50 people signed up for the raffle of lifetime membership. The winner was Chris Bruno, Head of Energy & Utilities Division.
8. TIAA Lifetime Annuity Concern. Yusef Makdisi reported on his research into possible rates of interest given by TIAA for lifetime defined benefit annuities. The contract for the lifetime annuity describes the annuitants

expected payout. However, a close reading of the contract also describes guaranteed rates, which fall below the expected rate. It was suggested that a TIAA representative might be invited to a future BREA meeting to give information and answer questions about the circumstances surrounding setting of initial rates for annuities and potential changes during the contract.

9. Medicare Supplemental Part B, Part D Rx, and Advantage Part C plans. Open Enrollment starts Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7, 2019. Some previous choices are no longer available to new enrollees. For example, plan F, which one can replace with a similar plan, G. G has a slightly lower monthly cost and a single yearly deductible of about \$200. Help in choosing a suitable plan is available from SelectQuote. Enrollments in and changes to Part B and Part C must be handled through SelectQuote to maintain the BNL stipend. Medicare will also give a cost analysis for the available Part D Rx plans. Some members had problems on the web by not knowing the "Organization Code" -- the code is BSA. A reminder of open enrollment dates and a telephone number for Select Quote will be provided in the next newsletter. Contact information for SelectQuote is available on the BNL website.

10. Insurance Stipend. The BSA stipend to retirees eligible for Medicare is now \$170 per month per qualifying retiree and \$170 for spouse. An upgrade in the monthly stipend is likely. We should know more in about a month.

11. Nominating Committee NC. Arnie Peskin, NC chair, with members Ken Mohring and Liz Seubert, announced that the slate for new BREA officers for 2020-2022 will include Arnold Moodenbaugh for President and Lillian Kouchinsky for Vice President. The Treasurer and Secretary nominations had not yet been confirmed. The full slate will be announced for voting in the BREA Newsletter of Nov./Dec.

12. Minutes. The minutes of the September meeting were approved by voice vote.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at about 2:00.

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