

# BREA Minutes

**Meeting Date and Place:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 1p.m.; Bldg. 400, Room RSB 1

**Attendees:** Arnie Aronson, Elliot Auerbach, Louisa Barone, Bob Barone , Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Robert Brown, Dave Cox, , Maurice Du Bois, Eena-Mai Franz, Robert Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Al Mallen, Ken Mohring (by phone), George Oldham, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Richard Skelton, Jackie Timko and Joan Watson.

Liz Seubert opened the meeting at 1:05 pm.

The minutes of the December 10, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.

Steve Shapiro gave the Treasurer's Report. Since we have a nice sum in the treasury, we were to think of some useful endeavors on which to spend some of it. BREA already pays for the printing and mailing of two of our Newsletters. Because the BNL Bulletin has ceased publication, HR has asked BREA to include items in the Newsletter. If we do so, we may be able to negotiate for them to cover the costs of the extra issues (now six per year; the Lab finances four). Steve thought that to be questionable. Ken stated that until the Lab has a new contract we should hold on to the money we have.

## **Old Business:**

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz said that there has been a substantial increase in membership renewals. We now have about 360 members but we still have a problem with people with old e-mail addresses. In the Newsletter we should ask for updated e-mail addresses. Mailing addresses for Newsletter seem to be correct, none have come back.

Medical Benefits: BREA\_Committee for Health Benefits and Operations of the Lab met on December 5. Attendees: Dave Cox, Louise Hanson, Steve Shapiro, Elliot Auerbach, Ken Mohring. The committee agreed to do the following: 1) meet with Bob Lincoln in January to discuss plans for insurance coverage beginning January 2015. 2) Prepare a statement/question concerning benefits for retirees for inclusion in the solicitation process for the operation of the Lab. 3) Have a representative at the DOE January pre-proposal meeting of prospective contractors. 4) Broaden representation on this subcommittee to include a retired union member. George Oldham volunteered. 5) Perform a survey of alternative insurance plans. Elliot will follow up.

Discussion: Auerbach: Obama Care has nothing for those who are covered by Medicare, no supplemental part. Dave: In some other Labs some get a stipend as in Livermore. Oak Ridge has an exchange type program. Most supplemental plans are geared to networks. Compared to other Labs we

are quite well off. Liz: AARP has some good plans. Dave: HR will inform us by April-May if any drastic changes are implemented. Ken will call Bob Lincoln tomorrow.

Management and Operating Contract for BNL: Dave submitted the following to DOE: that in search for a new contractor explicit provision should be made for the continuation of existing medical benefits for current retirees.

Obituary Notices: Liz said that HR does not always find out immediately. Public Affairs used to put the information into the Bulletin. Now perhaps Joanne Delles could put the information onto our Web site. Mona is looking into it. Carmen will ask Joanne to also include on the Web site request for updated e-mail addresses from members. Steve suggested that we include the names and dates of death in our Newsletter.

Medical Screening: George Oldham said that the Lab is reluctant to give out medical info and conditions of his retirement. Louisa Barone informed that Records would give the info to the office requesting it but not the employee. Also, that the departments have to keep the records for only 5 years while Medical and others keep them forever.

### **New Business**

Luncheon: Lillian Kouchinsky volunteered to organize it. The registration form will be in the March and May Newsletters. One date that was suggested was June 12. Suggested places: Ken said that East Wind is not as nice and more expensive than Bellport Club or Lombardy`s on the Sound. Richard said that since he lives in the village we got a better rate last time at Lombardy`s. He will check that again. Blackwell`s and Hotel Indigo in Riverhead were also mentioned as possibilities.

Visit to the Long Island Horticultural & Research Extension Center in Riverhead: Ken said we should do it in June, early July or September. May is too early.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Minutes submitted by Eena-Mai Franz