

## **BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes Tuesday 12 January, 2021, 1:00 PM EST**

Minutes recorded by Liz Seubert. Edited and approved by officers.

### Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA

Upton, NY 11973

Attendees: Frances Bernstein, Dave Cox, David Diamond, David Dougherty, Ronnie Evans, Linda Fierabend, Les Fishbone, Arup Ghosh, Vinita Ghosh, Bob Hackenberg, Louise Hanson, J. C. Higgins, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Beth Lin, Bill Leonhardt, Arnie Moodenbaugh, Martine O'Conner, Sue Perino, Mihai Radelescu, Mona Rowe, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Don Sievers, Ed Sperry, S. Stein, Gwyn Williams, Toni (?).

1. President Arnie Moodenbaugh opened the meeting at 1 p.m. Liz Seubert is taking minutes for today's meeting since Laura Miller had a conflicting obligation.
2. Minutes Report. Minutes of previous meetings of Nov. and Dec. 2020 have been approved by the BREA officers and are posted on the BREA website.
3. Treasurer's Report. Les Fishbone gave details of the BREA savings and checking accounts. Checks for charitable donations of \$5000 have not yet cleared. Two certificates will be redeemable in February 2021 and Les advised renewing one for two years and the other for one year for more flexibility. Handling of the Treasurer's report was discussed, with an eye toward minimizing unnecessarily widespread distribution of the details. Les is obtaining advice from several sources. In November 2020, attendees at the meeting voted to send \$2500 to Long Island Cares, and in December 2020, attendees voted to send \$2500 to BNL's United Way fund. The checks for these were sent out on Jan. 4, 2021, and have not yet been cashed. Arnie reported that the BNL organizers of the United Way effort were very pleased at this donation, as the pandemic has hampered their efforts in collecting the usual amounts given by employees.
4. Membership Report. Beth Lin reported that there are 269 current paid members, of whom 240 have email. Twelve members submitted dues since December 8. After a short discussion, it was decided that if a member's check bounced (which happens very rarely), the bank charges may be billed to that member at the discretion of the membership chair. Since many members no longer receive the BREA Newsletter paper

version, which indicates on the address label when membership dues should be renewed, many members no longer send their dues on time. Arnie Moodenbaugh volunteered to help send out reminder messages to unpaid-up members. Ideas on how to resolve this problem are invited.

5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe, Newsletter Editor, reported that she had received enthusiastic compliments on recent issues from two valued members, Ken Mohring and Anita Cohen, who had particularly appreciated the articles on climate change reported by retirees in different areas of the U.S., and the layout of large photos. For the next issue, Mona plans articles on how the Lab is handling the pandemic with particular reference to employees who are involved with concerns of the retirees. Another major topic will be top science of the year at the Lab, but this will appear in another issue. Ideas suggested for the future included a photo essay on the dismantling of the HFBR stack, which has already started, and photos showing other new construction on site.

6. CAC Meeting. Mark Israel had reported to A. Moodenbaugh that there was no activity at the Community Advisory Council.

7. Special Lecture by John Hill, NSLSII Chair. John Hill will give a guest presentation at the next BREA Meeting on Feb. 9, 2021, at 1 p.m. EST. He will speak on NSLSII light source operations and science during the COVID pandemic. Hill's presentation will originate at BNL on ZOOM with a special invitation. Q&As will probably be held live. After the event, the regular BREA ZOOM Meeting will be held at about 2 p.m. EST. Attendees will need to log in separately to the BREA Zoom Meeting. The invitation/agenda for the February meeting will provide details.

8. BNL Operations are continuing in Phase 2 of pandemic response. Arnie Moodenbaugh reported that retirees are still not allowed on the BNL site, with some exceptions such as collecting mail from a PO Box. Retirees are now under escort on site since some retirees took the opportunity to make detours on site to visit friends.

9. (Donations: discussed previously in Treasurer's report)

10. Retiree Experiences with Medicare Open Enrollment and SelectQuote services. A lively discussion on this topic started among attendees even before the present meeting was called to order, and continued as Item 8 on the agenda. Warning was given of the absolute necessity to make any changes to Medicare Part B Supplements or Part C Advantage plans ONLY through SelectQuote. At least two retirees who inadvertently used other means to change plans were penalized by total loss for LIFE of their monthly medical contributions from BNL. As clarification and timely reminder, Mona

Rowe will publish an article in the September/October issue of the BREA Newsletter giving explanations, instructions, and caveats on the procedures to follow regarding SelectQuote and Medicare options to prepare for the November Open Enrollment period.

11. New Business. a) Retirees commented that, possibly due to illness among workers during the pandemic, much mail has been unusually delayed. b) The annual June Luncheon was also discussed. Attendees realized that it should be postponed until the fall or such time as the relaxation of the pandemic makes it feasible.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next ZOOM BREA meeting is scheduled for 1:00 EST Tuesday Feb. 9. There will be a presentation by John Hill, Chair of NSLSII, on the operation and science efforts during the Covid19 pandemic.