

# BREA Minutes

**From:** Nancy Siemon

**Date:** Wednesday, May 13, 2009

**In Attendance:**

Graham Campbell, Alyce Daly, Ken Mohring, Florence O'Brien, Arnie Peskin, Sonja Santos, Nancy Siemon, Myron Strongin

Arnie Peskin chaired the meeting, opening at 12:05 p.m. The March minutes were accepted as distributed. In the absence of a recording secretary, today's meeting was recorded by Nancy Siemon.

The financial report was given by Treasurer, Ken Mohring. A new CD was opened on February 11<sup>th</sup>, with a 3% interest rate. The CD we currently hold, at a higher rate of interest, will renew on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The total amount of money in the bank is \$21,000. This does not include luncheon money: either incoming or outgoing.

Social Committee Chair, Flo O'Brien, reported on the June 4<sup>th</sup>, Annual Luncheon at the Bellport Country Club. We currently have 60 signed-on attendees, and will need an additional 15 or more. Arnie requested that a reminder be sent to be included in the Bulletin. Flo said that "Do not need to be a member" will be included in the Bulletin article. Flo has sufficient badge supplies, but must purchase the raffle tickets. Board members are asked to bring their favorite music CD's to be played at the luncheon. Prizes will be a gift basket and table centerpieces.

At the luncheon, Arnie will introduce Tony Bowman, Human Resource Dept., and Doon Gibbs, standing in for Sam Aronson, Lab Director. Each will speak for approx. 15 – 20 min. Proceedings to: Flo or Harriet Martin. Arnie will ask Alyce Daly to announce the Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, North Fork Lighthouse Safaris trip. We will have a sign up sheet, distribute brochures, and will include an announcement in the Bulletin. Alyce Daly will arrange for bus at Lab/Park & Ride, and general instructions. She will get forms, itinerary, etc. from Gail Haines, and will present these at the luncheon, if Gail does not attend. Flo will set up a membership table.

Regarding the Medical Plan issue, Arnie indicated that retirees from "2002" and beyond, who are were not on Medicare, will pay an additional \$25 to Medicare and the Lab combined when they turn 65. With approval, Arnie will send a note to Tony Bowman pointing out this problem, indicating that the Lab reduction should be equal to the Medicare payment.

Regarding Occupational Illness Compensation program: A letter from a subcontractor was read, asking BREa for help in identifying subjects. It was decided that this was neither possible or appropriate for BREa, and that Arnie would send a letter to the subcontractor suggesting that this request would properly be channeled to the Lab.

Graham Campbell reported that the response to his inquiry to Michael Hill the Requests for Proposals (RFP)) for a new Management and Operations contractor has been put "on-hold". No one has given a reason why. Reason could be: staff is behind in work; appointments are not made; the employees are overloaded with work. Arnie said that we sent and the Community Advisory Council (CAC) sent "good" letters. CAC received a reply, but we did not. BREa will try to keep abreast of future developments.

The April meeting took place in the lobby of the Hamilton Room, in the Chemistry building, following the noon presentation by Thomas J. Kelly of TIAA-CREF. Thoughts regarding this presentation were: the information supplied by Mr. Kelly was similar to 2 – 3 years ago; nothing new was mentioned; there was no particular information for retirees. We will look to invite another speaker.

We will have our June meeting as planned on June 10.

Motion to adjourn at 1:05 p.m. was made by Sonja Santos and seconded by Myron Strongin.