

# BREA NEWS

www.brea.bnl.gov

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## BREA Meetings

### Important message!

BREA meetings will now be held each month (with the exception of August), on the second Tuesday at 1 pm. Meetings are usually held in one of the conference rooms in Building 400. All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

### Meeting Schedule

- June 8, 2010\*
- July 13, 2010\*
- September 14, 2010

\* Will be held in Berkner Hall

## BREA Officers

President:  
Eena-Mai Franz

Vice President:  
Dave Cox

Treasurer:  
Ken Mohring

Secretary:  
Louise Hanson

Interim Newsletter  
Editors:

Dave Cox  
Joyce Tichler

## Last Call for Lunch!

Time is running out to make your reservations for the BREA annual luncheon at the Bellport Country Club on Wednesday, June 9, 12 noon to 4 pm. This event will feature a four-course meal with unlimited soda, wine or beer, all for the unbeatable price of \$35 per person! Take this opportunity to re-unite and chat with old friends and colleagues, perhaps make some new acquaintances, and just have a good time in the lovely setting of the Country Club.



We are expecting a big turnout, so don't delay in returning the reservation form at the bottom right of the inside page. For more information, contact Martine O'Connor at (631) 286-9725 or Alyce Daly at (631) 447-5377.

as Secretary. However, we are delighted to announce that Louise Hanson has agreed to take over in this capacity. We would like to express our appreciation to Sonja for her past efforts.

## From the President By Eena-Mai Franz

Now that the snow has finally melted and trees are blooming, our thoughts can be directed towards the annual luncheon at the beautiful Bellport Country Club in June. Our calendar for this year is quite open for suggestions from you for BREA activities. If there are programs or field trips that you would like to see organized, send me an e-mail at [sroosild@aol.com](mailto:sroosild@aol.com), (but mention BREA in the header to make sure that I open it in case I don't recognize the sender's name)! Alternatively you may send a note to the address on the back page.

To help us all get in shape for the summer, BNL retirees are invited to use the swimming pool and the weight room located in the gym without charge from Monday-Friday. But please come at off-peak hours: 10-11 am for the pool, and 7-9 am or 1:30-4 pm for the weight room. You can get a membership card from Chris Carter in Building 400 (phone 344-5090).

## New Secretary

For personal reasons, Sonja Santos has asked to relinquish her position

## Change in Federal Energy Workers Compensation Program

This is a reminder to all Brookhaven Retirees that they should recently have received a letter from the Lab notifying them of an important change in the above compensation program which applies to employees and contractors who worked at the Lab for 250 days or more between 1945 and 1979. This group is now eligible for compensation for 22 specific types of radiation-related cancers. A survivor's benefit is also available to certain relatives of deceased workers.

The above-mentioned class was established for cancer victims employed at BNL before 1980 in order to make up for gaps in certain pre-1980 radiation exposure records. Further details of the program and how to apply for compensation can be found in the February 12 issue of the Brookhaven Bulletin (No. 5), or by calling the DOE Employees Occupational Illness Compensation at (800) 941-3943.

## New Health Care Legislation What it Means for BNL

BREA has been following closely the new health care legislation and its possible impact on retiree benefits. Below we reproduce an excerpt from a recent article in the BNL Monday Memo by Denise DiMeglio, Benefits Manager.

“On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) -- the health care legislation that has been a primary focus of his administration. Then, on March 30, 2010, the President signed the Senate Reconciliation Bill, which includes changes to PPACA. Provisions of PPACA and the Reconciliation Bill will impact both employers and employees.

While some changes do not take effect until 2014, others are effective for plan years that begin on or after six months after the enactment date. So, for BNL's health plans, the new provisions are effective no earlier than January 1, 2011.

Although we'll require much more information to

fully understand the impact of these two new pieces of legislation, below are some of the highlights based on current interpretation of the laws. Some of our existing plans may be exempt from certain provisions. If we were able to identify an effective date provided in the legislation, we have indicated it below in parentheses. Please note that some of these items and effective dates may change as we receive further guidance.

- U.S. citizens and legal residents will be required to purchase health insurance coverage or pay a penalty. Enrollment in a group employer plan, such as those available through BNL, satisfies this requirement (2014).

- Employers with 50 or more full-time employees must pay a penalty if the employer does not offer “affordable” health coverage (2014).

- Employers with more than 200 employees must automatically enroll new full-time employees in health care coverage (but it may be subject to an acceptable waiting period). Employees may opt out of the coverage (2014).

- Up until their 26th birthday, dependent children will be eligible for employer health care coverage regardless of student and marital status, unless the person has access to other employer coverage. BNL currently provides coverage to age 23 for full-time students under our self-insured plans (CIGNA and Vytra) and to age 29 under our insure plans (HIP and Aetna). We await further clarification and will revise the programs accordingly (2011).

- Health care plans cannot put an annual or lifetime dollar limit on "essential health benefits" coverage. BNL does not have any lifetime caps on its health care coverage (2011).

- Pre-existing condition restrictions for children under age 19 will no longer be allowed in health care plans (2011). Pre-existing condition restrictions will be eliminated for all participants (2014). BNL does not have such restrictions in its plans.”

BREA will provide additional information as it becomes available.

*Editors' note: The above article appeared in the Brookhaven Monday Memo of April 5, 2010. The Monday Memo contains news and information about a variety of topics and is distributed to BNL employees on alternate Mondays. Retirees may also subscribe by visiting the following link: <https://lists.bnl.gov/mailman/listinfo/mondaymemo-l>*

## Robert Marr 1932-2010

By Arnie Peskin

It is with great sadness that BREA notes the passing of Bob Marr, who died on April 26. Bob was a longtime employee of Brookhaven Lab. He joined the Lab in 1959, and during his career he achieved the rank of Senior Scientist, serving as Chairman of the Applied Mathematics Department from 1975-78. He is probably best known for his contributions to the field of digital visualization, having done notable work in physics bubble chamber analysis and computer tomography; his findings are used in CAT scan and MRI software to this day. After retiring in 1995, Bob continued to play an active role in BREA, including a term as Vice-President from 2008-2009. BREA extends its condolences to his wife Nancy and his children. A memorial is planned for this summer.

## New York's New "Family Health Care Decisions Act" of 2010

By Elliot Auerbach

Until recently, while those persons who had Living Wills or clearly stated Health Care Proxies could have health care decisions made for them by their designees, others (nearly 80% of the State's population) were treated or over-treated without regard to their wishes even when close relatives, etc. were acquainted with those wishes. This year, after 17 years in the legislative making, New York finally has a law that allows family members (or a close friend) to make decisions for them when they are incapacitated. The law, signed by the Governor in March, provides for a priority ordering: an individual designated orally by the patient, spouse/domestic partner, children, etc., who is empowered to act in these cases.

Details of the new FHCDA include sections on appointing a surrogate, potential surrogates, medical decisions by a surrogate, decisions to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment, medical decisions for individuals without a surrogate, and individuals with mental retar-

ation/developmental disability. Further information can be found by visiting the following link:

<http://www.nysenate.gov/press-release/senate-passes-family-health-care-decisions-act-0>

## Some Miscellaneous Matters

SeniorNet, a national organization which offers hands-on computer courses for seniors 50 and over, will be holding an Open House and Student Registration at their East Yaphank Learning Center, 1490 William Floyd Pkwy. on June 15, 10 am — 2 pm. More details can be found at:

<http://www.seniornethuntington.org>

Retirees who would like to keep informed about various current topics and issues at the Lab can subscribe to the Monday Memo, which is e-mailed to subscribers on alternate Mondays. To sign up, visit the following link and follow the instructions:

<https://lists.bnl.gov/mailman/listinfo/mondaymemo-l>

As always, we would like to hear from any BREA member about their retirement experiences, perhaps an unusual hobby or travel adventure. If you have lost touch with an old friend or colleague, we might be able to help, so please don't hesitate to contact us. And be sure to let us know of any change of address so that we can keep our files up to date.

In case you haven't yet signed up for the annual get-together luncheon on June 9 at the Bellport Country Club, please complete the form below and mail it with your check for \$35 per person to BREA, Building 421, BNL, Upton, NY 11973, as soon as possible but **no later than June 2, 2010** to be sure of a place

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount (please make out checks to BREA): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BREA  
Brookhaven National Lab  
Building 421  
Upton, NY 11973

Phone: 631-344-2783  
Email: BREABNL@aol.com



*BNL Retired Employees Association*



## Membership Renewal

Please don't forget to renew your annual membership for 2010 if you haven't already done so. The expiration date is displayed on the top right-hand side of the address label above. If this date is 2009, then please take a minute to complete the membership renewal form on the right and mail to the return address shown above together with your check. This would also be a good time to consider the option of joining for a five-year period or for life, and avoid these annual reminders.

Also, if you have recently moved or changed your e-mail address, please note any changes on the renewal form and mail as above.

Finally, we would appreciate it if you would consider contributing a short article about a noteworthy hobby, trip or adventure, or sending us a letter or comment. We can be contacted at the e-mail or mailing address above.

### BREA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

(Please print)

Membership type: *(check one)*

Annual (\$10)  5-years (\$40)  Life (\$95)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip(+4):- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: *(Please make out check to BREA)*

Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed