

# BREA NEWS

[www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/)

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March/April 2014

## BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in one of the conference rooms in Bldg. 400 (except where noted).

All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

### Meeting Schedule

March 11, 2014

April 8, 2014

May 13, 2014

### BREA Officers 2014-2016

#### President

Ken Mohring  
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#### Vice President

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\* \* \*

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See how some BREA members spent this winter (page 3).

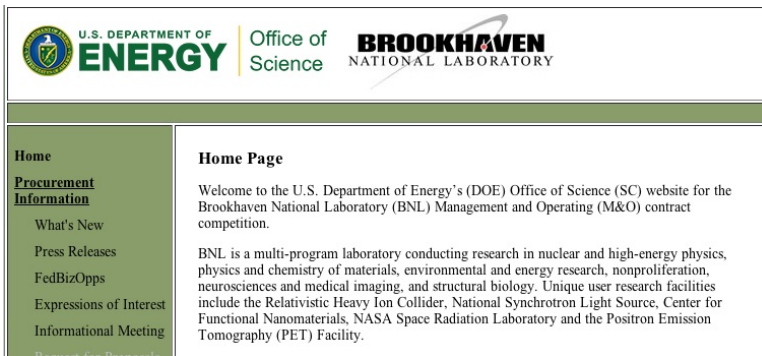
## From the President

by Ken Mohring

I would like to bring you up-to-date about several ongoing items. First, I am pleased to report that attendance at the past two monthly meetings has increased significantly. I believe this is mostly related to members' concerns about the future. The BREA officers hope that others will make this once-a-month commitment, as your thoughts and ideas only make BREA a more effective organization.

Secondly, on January 30, Steve Shapiro, Dave Cox and I attended the Department of Energy's informational meeting for those who have an interest in the solicitation for the BNL management and operations contract. BREA and at least 10 outside organizations were represented at the meeting. We received a positive response during the meeting to our question on retiree benefits (see page 2). The new contract will be for five  
*(continued on page 2)*

# DOE Contract Competition for Brookhaven Lab



*In April 2013, DOE announced its intent to begin competing the management and operating (M&O) contract for Brookhaven Lab. In a press release dated April 18, DOE stated that it “expects the competition for the new contract will result in improved contractor performance and cost efficiencies at BNL.” For updates on the process, check the website DOE created to serve as a repository of information related to the BNL contract competition. Go to: <http://bnlcompetition.science.energy.gov/>*

**BREA Question:** Members of the employee retirement organization consider employee medical benefits and their extension to retirees to be an important factor in the attraction and retention of an outstanding workforce, and also in maintaining good relations within both the laboratory and surrounding communities. They are also very concerned that there should be a provision for continuing such benefits for current retirees, and note that at least one recent M&O [management and operating] contract between DOE and a National Laboratory contractor has included wording that stipulates such a commitment to retirees - namely, “The Contractor . . . shall be responsible for management and administration of a retiree medical benefit plan that will provide medical insurance benefits substantially equivalent to those provided by the predecessor contractor to individuals who meet eligibility requirements . . .”. Will the RFP include a statement of this sort concerning the retention of benefits?

*DOE Answer: The Department has consistently included provisions in its RFPs for Management and Operating contracts since 2004 for successor contractors to become plan sponsors of existing pension and benefit plans, which include post-retirement benefit plans, to ensure that successor pension and benefit plans are in fact comparable to benefit plans sponsored by the predecessor contractor. These provisions also require DOE Contracting Office’s approval of the successor’s pension and benefit plans’ comparability to confirm contractor compliance with the terms of the provisions. We anticipate similar language will be included in the BNL solicitation. But it should be noted that the Government expects its Contractors to be mindful of the costs and industry practices of providing benefits. It should also be noted that at times contractors have found it necessary during the term of the contract to change plan features or adjust to cost drivers for more effective cost management. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the RFP will contain language that provides the Contractor a degree of flexibility similar to the current practice at BNL and other SC sites.*

## From the President (continued from page 1)

years with an option for up to 15 one-year renewals. DOE’s request for proposals is over 95 percent complete and is in the review phase. DOE plans to award the new contract within 13 months. Details about the solicitation and the meeting are posted at <http://bnlcompetition.science.energy.gov/>. BREA will continue to monitor the proposal process.

In the January/February newsletter, I noted that we expected an early 2014 meeting with Bob Lincoln, Chief Human Resources Officer, to discuss future medical benefits for retirees. That meeting has not yet taken place.

On January 9, Roy Lebel and Joyce Fortunato sent a request to retirees asking for pledges to the Laboratory’s United Way Campaign, which will go until March 30. I know you are pressed for donations from many organizations, but please consider helping your current or past Long Island neighbors. You may also specify a charity of your choice. Send donations to Liz Mogavero, Bldg. 510. Thank you. Donations large or small will be greatly appreciated.

– Ken Mohring, [kenwadingriver@gmail.com](mailto:kenwadingriver@gmail.com)

## Winter Tales!

How did you spend your winter? No winter blues for these BREA members, who tell their tales about fun with family, fun in the sun, and even fun with routine (which explains the routine!).



*Bill and I celebrated our daughter Alicia's fortieth birthday with her in Key West.*

*We escaped the polar vortex and savored delightful sunny days with weather in the 70s staying at the Duval House, which is a comfortable inn surrounded by a beautiful tropical garden. We enjoyed*

*many of the tourist attractions, including the Ernest Hemingway house and the Harry S. Truman southern White House, which has a suite available for President Obama if he chooses to visit.*

*Our favorite activity was the glass-bottom boat tour, which started at Key West harbor and took us to the ocean to view colorful tropical fish and the only coral reef in the continental U.S. It ended with a champagne sunset celebration.*

*Sunsets are a major attraction in Key West, especially at Mallory Square, where hundreds gather each evening to see the sun dip into the water. Alicia said it was a birthday she will always fondly remember.*

*– Diane Greenberg, greenbd@optonline.net*

*We stayed put in New York City, where Paul and I retired.*

*On page 1, you saw the reflecting pool at Lincoln Center. Below, left, is the opera house at Lincoln Center, where I go to both dress rehearsals and regular performances. I often meet BNL retiree Helen Connell, who lives nearby and has a subscription series at the opera. Paul and I also have a subscription to plays at Lincoln Center Theater.*



*I also belong to the Theater Development Fund, which provides discounted theater tickets.*

*– Joyce Tichler  
jtichler@nyc.rr.com*



*So the place we chose to escape January on Long Island is called Siesta Key. It is a barrier island off Sarasota. It has wonderful beaches, a surprising amount of culture and some world-class sunsets, as illustrated. It is truly a paradise if one doesn't mind paradise being so crowded with tourists.*

*– Arnie Peskin, arniepeskin@optonline.net*

### Are You Getting Classified Ads?

With the loss of *The Bulletin*, BREA started emailing classified ads to members with email addresses. If you are not getting the ads weekly, that means we have an incorrect email address for you or we have no email address for you.

To get the classified ads by email – or any other communications from BREA via email – please send me your current, valid email address either by email or by regular U.S. mail.

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 Carmen Benkovitz  
 Membership Secretary  
 12 Sandy Drive  
 Smithtown, NY 11787

Carmen Benkovitz, [sjbenk@optonline.net](mailto:sjbenk@optonline.net)

### Renew BREA Membership Now

The mailing label on your newsletter will show your membership status. If you see the year 2013, you need to renew your membership. Complete the form below to continue receiving the BREA newsletter. Consider five-year or lifetime memberships, which are discounted.

Membership type:  
 annual (\$10)  
 5 years (\$40)  
 life (\$95)

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check made out to BREA for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Carmen Benkovitz  
 Membership Secretary  
 12 Sandy Drive  
 Smithtown, NY 11787

### Walking Club at Smith Haven Mall

A tip from BERA supervisor Christine Carter: The Walking Club at Smith Haven Mall is free and open to the community. Walk seven days a week from 7 a.m. before the mall opens. The club meets monthly for blood-pressure screenings and health talks. Registration offers you a newsletter. For more information and to download a brochure, go to: [stonybrookmedicine.edu/patientcare/community/mall-walkers](http://stonybrookmedicine.edu/patientcare/community/mall-walkers)

**Save the Date**  
 The annual BREA luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2014. The cost will be \$36 per person and the location is the Bellport Country Club.

### Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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