

BREA NEWS

www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

Volume 4 Issue 5

September/October 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

September 9, 2014

October 14, 2014

November 18, 2014

BREA Officers

President

Ken Mohring
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Vice President

Liz Seubert
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Secretary

Louise Hanson
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Treasurer

Steve Shapiro
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Newsletter Editors

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Brookhaven Retired Employees' Association (BREA)

The purpose of the Brookhaven Retired Employee's Association (BREA) is to further retiree interests and benefits; to build closer community ties between Brookhaven National Laboratory and its neighbors; to publish a newsletter providing communication with retired employees and to encourage activities for social interaction in the retirement community.

[For the Monthly Business Meeting schedule](#)

BREA	BERA	BNL
BREA Membership	Annual Luncheons	BERA Events & Trips
BREA Newsletter & BREA List Serve	Medical Benefits & Information	BERA Fitness Classes sign up now!!
Monthly Business Meetings	Items of Interest	Weight Room & Pool Hours
Constitution & By-Laws	Senior/Vet Partnership	Retirees welcome to use BERA Recreational Facilities
BREA Officers	In Memoriam	~ ~ ~

From the President

by Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

Above is a screen capture of BREA's internet "homepage." It lists links (addresses) to BREA, BERA, and BNL information. Specifically, the links get you to additional information about BREA as an organization; information about BERA activities, of which some are free to retirees; pictures from our luncheons and events; how to get BNL weekly ads; and details that just cannot be included in BREA News. For those without computers, consider using one at your local library, which also offers basic classes on accessing the internet. The BREA website is at www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea.

Our internet site doesn't happen on its own. BERA's Joanne Delles maintains our website, provides insights to improve it and implements the changes. BREA cannot thank Joanne enough for what she does to keep us on track and current. Likewise, we thank Christine Carter, Supervisor, Quality of Life/BERA/Recreation Office, who continually supports us monetarily, through services, and with advice. Christine has told me that Senior Aqua Aerobics and fitness classes start in September. For more information: www.bnl.gov/bera/recreation/fitness.asp

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Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

The federal Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA) offers compensation to former and current workers employed at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facilities for radiation-related cancers and other work-related illnesses resulting from “toxic exposures” while working at these facilities. EEOICPA was established in 2000 by Congress. Its original purpose was to compensate nuclear weapons workers. In 2001, the program was extended to current/former workers from all DOE facilities, and, years later, a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) was designated for employees, contractors and subcontractors who worked at BNL from January 1, 1947, through December 31, 1993. You can find detailed information here: www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/



EEOICPA is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (with assistance from DOE and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) and has two parts. Part B covers cancers caused by exposure to radiation while claimant was employed at a DOE facility. Part E covers illnesses resulting from “toxic exposures,” such as asbestosis or other illness from chemical exposures.

Part B

- Offers compensation to a current/former worker or his/her survivors for cancer if either of the following two conditions is met:
 1. An estimate of the worker’s cumulative workplace radiation dose determines that it was great enough to have caused the worker’s particular cancer.
 2. The worker is determined to be a member of BNL’s Special Exposure Cohort.
- Benefits also extended for workers with chronic beryllium disease (lungs) or beryllium sensitization.
- \$150,000 for living claimant (worker) or survivors of deceased worker for each cancer.
- Lifetime medical care for the condition for a living claimant.
- Worker with beryllium sensitization: Coverage of medical workup to determine if worker has actual chronic beryllium disease.

Part E

- Compensation only if illness resulted in disability (cash payment up to \$250,000) based upon number of years worker experienced wage loss due to the illness, or the extent to which the illness impaired the worker.
- Limited survivor benefit (spouse or minor children) if worker had been disabled by the illness during his/her working life.
- Covered illnesses include: cancers determined to have been caused by radiation and other illnesses caused by “toxic exposures.”
- Noise-induced hearing loss NOT covered (covered by New York State workers compensation).

Application Process

- Claimant completes application forms available from EEOICPA web site or by calling or writing EEOICPA “Resource Center” in Amherst, NY.
- Claim forms and required documentation mailed to U.S. Dept. of Labor (DOL) District Office in Cleveland.
- Must provide proof of diagnosis (medical records).
- Survivors must provide additional documentation, such as death certificate, proof of marriage, etc., documenting relation to worker.
- Interview by claims administrator on job history, etc.

- DOL requests from BNL employment verification, radiation records, industrial hygiene records, training records, departmental records (job descriptions, etc.).
- DOL considers evidence and makes determination, process takes several months.

“Qualifying Cancers” Covered Under the Special Exposure Cohort

- Bone cancer (osteosarcoma)
- Renal (kidney) cancers
- Leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia) provided the onset of the disease was at least two years after first exposure
- Lung cancer (other than in-situ lung cancer that is discovered during or after a post-mortem exam)

The following cancers are covered provided onset was at least five years after first exposure:

- Multiple myeloma
- Lymphomas (other than Hodgkin's disease)
- Primary cancer of the:

Bile ducts	Gall Bladder	Salivary gland
Brain	Liver	Small intestine
Breast (female and male)	Ovary	Stomach
Colon	Pancreas	Thyroid
Esophagus	Pharynx (mouth/throat)	Urinary Bladder

Note: Most common cancer types are covered by the SEC (exceptions: skin, cervix, prostate)

- Joseph Falco, Manager, Occupational Medicine Clinic, falco@bnl.gov

Free Medical Screening for Former BNL Workers

The Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP) of Queens College, City University of New York, offers no-cost medical screening to former BNL workers who may be at an increased risk for illness due to working with or around radiation and toxic substances. The main goal of the screening is to detect illness at an early stage, when treatment is more likely to be effective. The program is voluntary, and all personal medical information is kept confidential. WHPP operates independently with funds from DOE.

The screening may identify a new health condition, confirm an existing one, or help relieve concerns about previous exposures. Participants receive examinations by an expert independent occupational medicine physician located in Suffolk County. Medical evaluations are based on potential work exposures to ionizing radiation, asbestos, lead, cadmium, silica, lasers, noise, beryllium and other hazards. Exposures such as these may lead to greater risk for developing certain conditions such as chronic lung disease, certain cancers, beryllium-related lung disease and hearing or vision loss.

After examination, participants receive a results letter with advice on any abnormalities and recommended follow-up care. If a potentially work-related illness is identified, the letter is often used to support claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (see article above). Once you are enrolled in the program, you are eligible for a rescreening every three years. Rescreen examinations are recommended because many occupational illnesses can take many years after exposure stops before symptoms occur.

To date, over 350 exams have been performed for BNL former workers and over 30,000 workers have participated in the program at thirteen DOE sites nationwide. For more information and to schedule appointments, call toll-free 1-888-241-1199 or visit www.worker-health.org. You can also now follow the Worker Health Protection Program on Facebook, where you will find posts on medical screening as well as general information on DOE happenings and health and safety in general.

- Jonathan Corbin, WHPP Outreach and Clinical Coordinator, Jonathan.Corbin@qc.cuny.edu

President's Message (cont'd from p. 1)

The *In Memoriam* section of our newsletter has greatly matured under the leadership of Anita Cohen. You can find on the BREA homepage links to published obituaries, as well as space for family, friends and colleagues to add their memories of retirees or current employees who have passed.

This is an interesting edition of *BREA News* as pages 2 and 3 are “all business.” Please read both articles carefully for their information about national programs that may be very important for you or your family, now or in the future. One article details free medical screening for early detection and treatment. The other describes the occupational illness compensation program for prior employees and their survivors. I have pushed these programs before (see the July/August newsletter), but the fact is that a significant number of retirees have not taken advantage of these opportunities.

- Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

Renew BREA Membership

If 2013 is on the mailing label of your newsletter, you need to renew your BREA membership. Choose your membership type (annual - \$10, 5 years - \$40, life - \$95) and mail a check made out to BREA to Carmen Benkovitz, Membership Secretary, 12 Sandy Drive, Smithtown, NY 11787. Include your name, mailing address and email address.

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the recent passings of the following:

Townsend “Towny” Anschutz, 69, June 28, 2014
Jerome I. Barancik, 77, June 23, 2014
Donald C. Borg, 87, April 15, 2014
Michael Clancy, 74, July 20, 2014
John Dioguardo, 91, August 16, 2013
James R. “Jim” Fenton, 90, May 3, 2014
Robert Geib, 60, May 28, 2014
Gabriel Genoio Jr., 63, July 9, 2014
Joseph “Howard” Jones, 77, June 23, 2014
Mary Anne Kelley, 80, July 21, 2014
Samuel Krinsky, 69, April 26, 2014
Ronald Wagner, 85, June 19, 2013

Please go to the BREA website – www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/ – for more information about these passings and others that were previously reported to BREA or included in the listing formerly maintained by *The Bulletin*.

BREA accepts notices from family members as well as published death notices. Please send the name, date of death, the published obituary or a web link, and (optional) a photo for the website posting to Anita Cohen:

Email: afcohen@optonline.net

Snail mail: use BREA’s return address in panel below.