

# BREA NEWS

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

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January/February 2015

## 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

January 13, 2015

February 10, 2015

March 10, 2015

### BREA Officers

#### President

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#### Vice President

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It must be lunchtime! See page 3.

## From the President

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

This newsletter marks a transition to fewer insurance articles. But the change does not mean the end of BREA's emphasis on and involvement in that subject.

First, Brookhaven Lab is reducing areas where it can assist retirees. Specifically, it will not have staff knowledgeable in the various insurance programs offered. Help with insurance programs will now be entirely with SelectQuote. To monitor retiree options, BREA will begin to obtain retiree input about the various insurance and drug programs, benefits for veterans (drugs, glasses, hearing aids), income-based drug-company assistance, as well as the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) program.

Second, we see an immediate need to assist retirees with insurance systems, forms, etc. BREA needs to make sure there are resources available to all of us, and this may include getting help from fellow retirees. See additional HRA information below.

(continued on page 4)

## DOE Selects BSA to Continue Managing BNL

Brookhaven Science Associates (BSA), the partnership between Battelle Memorial Institute and Stony Brook University that was established in 1998 to manage and operate Brookhaven Lab, will continue this stewardship for at least five years under a new contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced November 12, 2014.

“This is an excellent day for Stony Brook University, Battelle, and for every one of the 2,850 employees at Brookhaven Lab, and we should all take a moment to celebrate this outstanding accomplishment,” said BSA Board Chair and Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.

Over the past 16 years, BSA has overseen significant scientific achievements at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC); construction of major research facilities including the Center for Functional Nanomaterials and National Synchrotron Light Source II; remarkable advances in areas including superconductivity, catalysis, and biofuels; and development of a strong partnership with New York State on science and technology initiatives.

“We are excited to have the opportunity to build on our past successes – from discovering the ‘perfect’ liquid [at RHIC] to building the world’s most advanced synchrotron light source,” said Ronald Townsend, BSA Board Co-Chair and Executive Vice President of Global Laboratory Operations for Battelle. “We are committed to [BNL’s] future . . . as both a world-leading scientific organization and as a source of technology innovation. . . .”

In its almost 68 years, BNL has forged a rich history of scientific breakthroughs that includes seven Nobel Prizes. Today, the Lab’s annual budget of about \$650 million supports 2,850 full-time employees and the operation of world-leading research facilities used by more than 4,000 visiting researchers each year.

“We’re delighted to have been chosen to lead Brookhaven Lab into its next phase of scientific achievement, and deeply appreciate [DOE’s] confidence in BSA going forward,” said Doon Gibbs, BSA President and BNL Director. “We’ve come a long way as a Laboratory during the past 16 years and believe BSA has an exciting, compelling vision for the next 20.”

In his Director’s message in the BNL Monday Memo of Dec. 8, Gibbs noted that since the new contract was awarded to BSA, “a team of Battelle and Stony Brook University personnel has been working alongside key Lab managers and staff from DOE’s Site Office to complete the transition . . . to the ‘new’ five-year contract that takes effect on January 5, 2015. . . . You might wonder why a transition is even necessary, given that BSA, the existing contractor, won the contract. . . . [But] this is a brand-new contract based on BSA’s winning proposal, not an extension to the existing contract. As such, the transition team has a long list of activities to complete . . . and I want to thank everyone on the team and in the site office for working . . . together so successfully.”

– Anita Cohen, [afcohen@optonline.net](mailto:afcohen@optonline.net)



*Shown at the National Synchrotron Light Source II are (from left) Doon Gibbs, BSA President and BNL Director; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., BSA Board Chair and President of Stony Brook University; and Ronald Townsend, BSA Board Co-Chair and Executive Vice President of Global Laboratory Operations for Battelle.*



## Friendships Don't Retire

There are many who, after retirement from BNL, retain friendships with their former colleagues and see each other socially. BREA's very successful annual luncheons come to mind, but there are smaller groups who get together more frequently.

Over twenty years ago, the late John Denes established a weekly brunch meeting for a group of former Applied Math/CCD/ITD retirees. This group met on Thursdays for many years at the Royal Oak Diner in Bellport. Today, it is still going strong, now meeting at the Coram Pond in Coram. There are about three dozen people on its email list, but on any given Thursday, a half-dozen to a dozen people partake.

The discussion is a free-for-all of the usual retiree topics; grandchildren, doctors, politics, sports, vacations, and even the latest news and rumors from the Lab. In recent weeks, there has obviously been quite a bit about the new retiree health benefit. Although the discussions are varied, the meals remain remarkably similar. Many of the regulars just tell the server 'The Usual' and twenty minutes later, there it is.

So careers may end, the world changes, but the friendships don't retire. Above are photos taken at some of this year's brunches. Incidentally, the "membership" is not restricted to those of one department – anyone is welcome and there are a number of folks from other parts of the Lab. YOU are invited next Thursday at 10 a.m.   
 - Arnie Peskin, [arniepeskin@optonline.net](mailto:arniepeskin@optonline.net)

George Oldham keeps a list of about 60 retirees, many of whom get together every three months for lunch at Medford Pastaria. Here's the schedule: Noon on the first Wednesday of March, June, September, and December. Call George for more information: (613) 779-3099.



## ***President's Message*** (cont'd from page 1)

Third, BREA plans to reach out to all retirees as we become a focal point of user experiences with retiree insurance options. We are exploring ways that we can accomplish this goal.

### **Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)**

You recently received an HRA help document from Denise DiMeglio of the Benefits Office. It provides detailed information about how to set up your various options *beginning January 1, 2015*. Please read it carefully and seek help if needed from the assistance numbers provided. The information below summarizes how an HRA works:

#### *Retiree*

- Pays insurance premium or other health-related cost
- Submits cost information to the Reimbursement Center

#### *Reimbursement Center*

- Pays each retiree up to \$170 per month for submitted healthcare costs
- Provides options to automatically reimburse retirees for monthly insurance premiums paid by the retiree

The BREA officers, insurance committee, and attendees at monthly BREA meetings will continue working so that in the near future everyone will be comfortable with the new insurance systems.

**If you have not yet enrolled in a medical plan through SelectQuote, call them immediately at (866) 479-8317.**

The BREA officers wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year. And remember to renew your BREA membership. Contact Membership Secretary Carmen Benkovitz: [cmbenk@gmail.com](mailto:cmbenk@gmail.com).

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

## **In Memoriam**

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees:

Jean Bunselmeyer, 73, June 23, 2014

Vincent J. Castillo, 73, November 3, 2014

\*Harold Euler, 89, March 15, 2010

\*Jacob L. Haufman, 78, July 27, 2010

\*Henry J. Kapfer, 87, June 1, 2012

Henry George Latham, 89, November 25, 2014

Milton R. Saunders, 81, October 19, 2014

Robert E. Sneed, 79, October 24, 2014

\*William A. Tuttle, 91, November 6, 2010

*\*Sadly, BNL and BREA's effort to assure that all retirees were contacted regarding the recent healthcare changes also revealed these deaths.*

More information about these passings will be posted on the BREA website – [www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/) — along with others previously reported to BREA or on 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](mailto:afcohen@optonline.net)

Snail mail: Use BREA's return address below.

Check BERA's website for upcoming trips:  
<http://www.bnl.gov/bera/recreation/trips.asp>

## ***Brookhaven Retired Employees Association***

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