

BREA NEWS

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

Volume 15, Issue 6

November/December 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

November 10, 2015

December 8, 2015

January 12, 2016

BREA Officers

President

Ken Mohring
kenwadingriver@gmail.com

Vice President

Liz Seubert
liz.and.ev@gmail.com

Secretary

Louise Hanson
hanson.louise@gmail.com

Treasurer

Steve Shapiro
shapiro@bnl.gov

* * *

Newsletter Editors

Mona S. Rowe
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Scenes from Plum Island tour, story page 3



From the President

by Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

Below are highlights of what you need to know about 2016 health-care and prescription-drug programs. Thanks to Denise DiMeglio, BNL Benefits Manager, for much of this information.

For Medicare-eligible Participants

- Medicare-eligible BSA medical program participants should have received a package from BSA and SelectQuote with information about changes you can make to your health and prescription drug programs, plus forms to change to a new health reimbursement account (HRA) administrator for 2016. The HRA is where BSA deposits your monthly benefit credit.
- If you need assistance or have questions regarding medical and drug programs available to you and when you may change programs, contact SelectQuote at (866)479-8317, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST. Some changes may require evidence of insurability and approval by the insurance carrier.
- If you do not want to change your medical and prescription drug carriers, you can remain with them for 2016. You do not need to do anything to renew with the same carriers. BUT, if you have been notified by your insurance carrier(s) that they are not continuing the program in which you are enrolled, you must select a new carrier(s). IMPORTANT: You must complete the HRA information you received from BSA in order to participate in the HRA program in 2016.
- The Laboratory's benefit credit of \$170 per person per month will remain the same for 2016.

(continued on page 3)

New BREA Officers Nominated

Candidates for BREA officers for the January 2016-December 2017 term are listed below, along with their biographies. Write-in candidates are accepted, in accordance with BREA's bylaws. If a candidate receives a positive vote on a majority of the ballots returned, that candidate is elected. Note that returning a ballot but not voting for a candidate is the equivalent of a "NO" vote. If any candidate does not get a majority vote, the office will be left vacant until another election.

The ballot includes a slate of officers put forth by the BREA Nominating Committee as well as space for write-in candidates. **Please mail your ballot to BREA so it arrives by the morning of December 8, 2015.**

Liz Seubert for President

Liz Seubert retired from the Lab in January 2013, after 35 years. Liz was editor of *The Bulletin* from 1999 until the publication's final issue in November 2012. Her tenure as editor was marked by innovative design to draw readers into the science articles and fun people features. Liz was an *ex-officio* member of the Brookhaven Lecture Committee, through which she helped speakers explain their research to a general audience. She was treasurer of the BERA Art Society, arranging bus trips and coordinating art and craft shows for the BNL community. In the 1980s, Liz became the all-time female record holder for two laps of backstroke in the Lab pool, possibly, as she concedes, because she was the only female ever to have entered this competition! She trained in communications, art and advertising at the West Sussex College of Art, England, and she holds a graduate degree in French literature from the University of Reims, in France.

Bob Kinsey for Vice President

Bob Kinsey came to BNL as a high energy physicist in 1967. A couple of years later, he transferred to the National Nuclear Data Center, where he worked until he retired. Bob played BERA softball and was an active member of the BNL Theater group. "I joined BREA a few years ago and have enjoyed the annual luncheons," he says. "I'm now a regular attendee of the monthly BREA meetings. My wife and I are enjoying our retirement, travel, and family."

Arnold Moodenbaugh for Secretary

Arnie Moodenbaugh worked at BNL for 36 years, primarily doing materials science and solid state research, often as a user at the National Synchrotron Light Source and the High Flux Beam Reactor. He graduated from Portland State University (BS) in Oregon and then from the University of California, San Diego (PhD). Later in his BNL career, he served as Technical Equipment Coordinator for the Center for Functional Nanomaterials construction project and Materials Science Department Safety Coordinator. These assignments gave him the opportunity to interact with a wider range of employees, including many working in facilities & operations and in environment, safety and health. He retired in January of 2014. Says Arnie, "I believe BREA provides useful information to retirees, especially with respect to the changes in health benefits. The organization also plays a role in providing useful input to and support for BNL."

Steve Shapiro for Treasurer

Steve Shapiro has been serving as BREA treasurer since 2011. He worked at BNL for 37 years before retiring in 2008. A condensed-matter physicist studying phase transformations, he did most of his research at the High Flux Beam Reactor. During his career at BNL, he served as Associate Chair of the Physics Department, supervising the solid state program; Chair of the Brookhaven Council; and member of the Diversity Advisory Committee and several incident-investigation committees. He currently has a guest appointment and is a frequent visitor to the Laboratory. He resides in Wading River.

Ballot for BREA Officers

President

Liz Seubert

Vice President

Bob Kinsey

Secretary

Arnold Moodenbaugh

Treasurer

Steve Shapiro

Please vote and mail your ballot to:

BREA c/o BERA

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Bldg. 400

Upton, NY 11973



Touring Plum Island

It's not easy to impress retirees who have worked at BNL, a research facility renowned for scientific advances in its fields of expertise. But the 27 people who took the BREA-sponsored tour of Plum Island Animal Disease Center on August 27, were totally won over by everything about the day, from the gorgeous weather that BREA's Steve Shapiro somehow arranged along with the tour, to the short but

perfect ferry ride to Plum Island, and the friendly and accommodating manner of everyone who hosted our group. Public Affairs Officer Jason Golden led the day's program, starting with an overview of their research into animal-borne infectious diseases, the precautions they take to secure the facility, its history and what's in store for the future, and the general history of the island. We were then delighted with the tasty lunch generously provided by our hosts, followed by a



President's Message (cont'd)

- You should have received the *Medicare & You* 2016 handbook from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This includes information and comparisons about health and prescription plans for your geographical area. Can't find your handbook? Download it here: <https://www.medicare.gov/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf>

Participants NOT eligible for Medicare:

- Non-Medicare-eligible BSA medical program participants should have received a package from BSA that includes information on changes to the BSA medical program for 2016. The CIGNA and HIP Prime medical programs will not be available after December 31, 2015. New programs will be provided by Aetna. Participants must carefully review the information you received and make an election for 2016 regarding your BSA medical coverage.

Now for some non-healthcare BREA news and information.

BREA Election: Page 2 of this newsletter contains a ballot to elect new officers for 2016-17. The Nominating Committee – Louise Hanson, Georgia Irving and Arnie Moodenbaugh – has suggested a slate of candidates. Write-ins are allowed if you choose. Please vote. Your ballot must be received by the morning of December 8.

Support for Summer Sunday: At a BREA meeting this spring, members agreed to provide funds

and representatives to support a BNL public event. We decided to pay \$850 for souvenirs at the NSLS-II Summer Sunday. This day and the RHIC Summer Sunday bring the largest numbers of visitors to the Lab. Our participation has two goals: 1. provide support for expenses not allowed under the DOE contract, and 2. show the public and the Laboratory that retirees care about their former workplace.

– Anita Cohen, afcohen@optonline.net
 Photos: page 1 - harbor seal just off shore, Steve Shapiro and Georgia Irving; this page - tour group on the ferry, at a lookout. See all photos on BREA's website. – Photos by Marty Van Lith

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My term as president is ending. It has been a wonderful two years working closely with many dedicated, caring and helpful members. My role was made significantly easier because of people who provided expertise and counsel, or who stepped up to make improvements to the organization. Thank you to all who regularly attend monthly meetings, as many voices result in better ideas, discussions and decisions. Because of events over the past few years, I believe BREA now has a more defined plan for the future, and I anticipate that the new officers will continue to increase the effectiveness of the organization. Thank you all for your support!

– Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

Renew BREA Membership

If the year 2015 or earlier is on the mailing label of this newsletter (to the right of your name in the panel below), please renew your BREA membership. Membership expires on December 31 of every year no matter when you sent your dues (which are requested by January 31 of the following year). Complete the form below and send in your payment to continue receiving BREA newsletters by mail. Particularly important is an email address, by which you will receive many timely communications.

If you have questions, need information about payments not posted to your record, or if your contact information changes (we don't want to lose track of you!), call Sheryl Gerstman, BREA's new Membership Chair, at (631)588-3681 or email her at sigronkonkoma@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: _____ First name: _____ MI: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip+4: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership type:

annual (\$10) 5 years (\$40) Life (\$95)

Make check out to BREA

Date: _____ Check amount: _____

Dues cover year(s) _____

Mail completed form and check to:

BREA Membership Chair
46 Richmond Blvd. Unit 3B
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-3692

In Memoriam

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

David A. Comstock, 74, August 29, 2015

Julius Spiro, 93, August 25, 2015

William (Bill) A. Scott, 85, September 8, 2015

More information may be found at BREA's website: www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea

To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, send name, date of death, any published obituary or a web link, and (optional) a photo to Anita Cohen:

Email: afcohen@optonline.net

Snail mail: Use BREA's return address below.

In Memoriam notices will generally appear in this column before full obituaries can be posted on the BREA website.

Coming Up

- Young Researchers Symposium on November 17, 2015, sponsored by BNL's Association of Students and Post-Docs. For more info: <https://www.bnl.gov/bnlhrs2015/>
- BERA Holiday Party, Dec. 4, 2015, 7-11 p.m., East Wind in Wading River. BERA oversees the clubs at Brookhaven Lab and assists in administering the overall program and the use of recreational facilities on site. BREA is a BERA club. For details on the BERA Holiday Party and other upcoming events, go to www.bnl.gov/bera/recreation/trips.asp.

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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

