

# BREA NEWS

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

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January/February 2016

## 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 12, 2016

February 9, 2016

March 8, 2016

### BREA Officers

#### President

Liz Seubert

[liz.and.ev@gmail.com](mailto:liz.and.ev@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Bob Kinsey

[bobkin@optonline.net](mailto:bobkin@optonline.net)

#### Secretary

Arnold Moodenbaugh

[moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

#### Treasurer

Steve Shapiro

[shapiro@bnl.gov](mailto:shapiro@bnl.gov)

\* \* \*

#### Newsletter Editors

Mona S. Rowe

[msrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com)

Anita Cohen

[afcohen@optonline.net](mailto:afcohen@optonline.net)



See "Notes from Retirees" page 3

## From the President

by Liz Seubert, [liz.and.ev@gmail.com](mailto:liz.and.ev@gmail.com)

As BREA's new president, I wish everyone a happy 2016.

"Everyone" includes *all* BNL retirees. We have mailed this issue of BREA News to all retirees in hopes of gaining new members. Fill out the form on page 4. We especially would like to have your email address. Send news, too!

First, thanks to past-President Ken Mohring for his outstanding leadership. During the medical benefits upheaval, Ken continually spearheaded efforts with other BREA members to assist retirees through the changes. Bob Lincoln and Denise DiMeglio of Human Resources were most helpful in resolving difficult issues.

Welcome to new BREA officers Bob Kinsey, Vice President, and Arnold Moodenbaugh, Secretary. Warm thanks to Louise Hanson for her years as Secretary – minutes and much more. Steve Shapiro remains as Treasurer – many thanks.

Also, longtime Membership Secretary Carmen Benkovitz passed her baton last fall to Sheryl Gerstman. Thanks to them and to BREA's Lab support – Staff Services' Christine Carter and Joanne Delles of BERA, and Ruth Comas – and too many others to list.

(continued on page 3)

## Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

The federal Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program offers compensation to former and current workers employed at Department of Energy (DOE) facilities for radiation-related cancers and other work-related illnesses resulting from “toxic exposures” at these facilities. Congress established the program in 2000. Its original purpose was to compensate nuclear weapons workers, but the program has been expanded, including the establishment of a special exposure cohort (SEC) of employees, contractors and subcontractors who worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory from January 1, 1947, through December 31, 1993.

The Department of Labor (with assistance from DOE and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) administers the program, which has two parts: Part B covers cancers caused by exposure to radiation while claimant employed at a DOE facility. Under part B, benefits also extend to workers with chronic beryllium disease or beryllium sensitization. Part E covers illnesses resulting from “toxic exposures,” such as asbestosis or other illness from chemical exposures.

For information online about filing a claim, go here: [http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/Filing\\_Claim.htm](http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/Filing_Claim.htm). You can also contact the resource center in Amherst, NY: 6000 North Bailey Avenue Suite 2A, Box #2, Amherst, New York 14226; telephone: (716) 832-6200, Fax: (716) 832-6638, toll free: (800) 941-3943, e-mail: [newyork@dolrc.com](mailto:newyork@dolrc.com).

### “Qualifying Cancers” Covered Under 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 diseases provided onset was at least five years after first exposure:

- Multiple myeloma

- Lymphomas (other than Hodgkin's disease)

- Primary cancer of the:

*Bile ducts*

*Brain*

*Breast (female and male)*

*Colon*

*Esophagus*

*Gall Bladder*

*Liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated)*

*Ovary*

*Pancreas*

*Pharynx (mouth/throat)*

*Salivary gland*

*Small intestine*

*Stomach*

*Thyroid*

*Urinary bladder*

Note: See the [September/October 2014 issue of BREA News](#) for a detailed article by Joseph Falco, Manager, Occupational Medicine Clinic, [falco@bnl.gov](mailto:falco@bnl.gov).

– Mona S. Rowe, [mrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:mrowe.hi@gmail.com)

## Free Medical Screening for Former BNL Workers

The Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP) of Queens College offers free medical screening to former BNL workers who may be at an increased risk for illness. The main goal of the medical screening is to detect illness at an early stage, when treatment is more likely to be effective.

Independent occupational medicine physicians conduct screening in Suffolk county. Evaluations are based on potential work exposures to radiation, asbestos, lead, cadmium, noise, beryllium and other hazards, which may lead to a greater risk for developing certain conditions such as chronic lung disease, some cancers, beryllium-related lung disease and hearing loss. Exam results letters are often helpful in Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act claims. The program is voluntary and medical information is kept confidential.

Once enrolled, participants are eligible for “rescreen” examination every three years.

**Long Island area residents should call 1-888-241-1199 to schedule. Out-of-state residents can call 1-866-812-6703 for screening through the National Supplemental Screening Program.**

– Jonathan Corbin, Outreach and Clinical Coordinator, Queens College, [Jonathan.Corbin@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:Jonathan.Corbin@qc.cuny.edu)

## Notes From Retirees

### *Fun in Florida*

For the past three years, I've been going to Florida to stay for at least a month. It is very relaxing and enjoyable to wake up to sun and float in the pool and wear shorts while back home it's cold and snowy! – Susan Carlsen, [susiec@centermoricheslibrary.org](mailto:susiec@centermoricheslibrary.org)



### *Cruising the Caribbean*

There's always plenty to do on a cruise. Here, my husband Sven Roosild and I are dressed up for a formal night out.

– Eena-Mai Franz, [sroosild@aol.com](mailto:sroosild@aol.com)

### *Staying Home in New Hampshire*

We have enjoyed New Hampshire very much having moved here after I retired. We are surrounded by mountains, rivers and lakes, which provide endless opportunities for outdoor activities.

Our friends who have retired to warmer climates occasionally question us about the NH winters (locals call 'em wintah!). Actually, harsh winters are atypical.

New London is a small rural college town (Colby Sawyer) with a population of around 4,000. A local organization works hard to obtain conservation easements on local land parcels. They wish to preserve as much of the rural character of the area as possible.

The town has a modern modest-sized hospital, while the world-class Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center is only 30 minutes away. Comforting as we age!

NH has no sales or income tax — a plus. Presidential election campaign seasons are always fun, and we get to see and often meet many candidates. It sometimes seems like they're overrunning the place! We also enjoy convenient, comfortable scheduled non-stop bus service to Boston, which offers an abundance of history and culture.

Happy and healthy New Year to everyone! – Lee Rogers, [analog@leecrogers.com](mailto:analog@leecrogers.com)



## President's Message (cont'd)

What's unique about BREA? For one, it's our interest in BNL science. Take the Lab's involvement with the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics, won by neutrino physicists Takaaki Kajita of Japan's Super-K experiment and Arthur B. McDonald of Canada's SNO experiment. Since early neutrino discoveries at BNL garnered two Nobel Prizes, BNLers have played significant roles in many neutrino explorations, including SNO and Super-K.

"These experiments are among five, including ongoing Daya Bay in China, that just won the 2016 'Breakthrough Prize' in fundamental physics," said BREA member Dick Hahn, who with other BNLers contributed to SNO. "The Breakthrough Prize was created by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs such as Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg with the intention of treating fundamental researchers as 'rock stars.' In fact, the award ceremony, formatted on the Academy Awards, was televised on November 29, 2015, and involved show business celebrities. The various prizes amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars to be shared among contributors."

Do look this up on the Lab website. It's *fascinating!*

– Liz Seubert, [liz.and.ev@gmail.com](mailto:liz.and.ev@gmail.com)



## Join BREA / Renew Membership

If you are not a member of the Brookhaven Retired Employees Association, consider joining. If you already belong to BREA, check that your membership is current. For BREA members, the year your membership expires is printed on the mailing label of this newsletter, to the right of your name in the panel below. 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.

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 Membership Chair, at (631)588-3681 or email her at [sigronkonkoma@gmail.com](mailto: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:

William Bornstein, 90, November 30, 2015

Ralph L. Brown, 67, September 29, 2015

James A. Pontieri, 85, November 11, 2015

Milford (Mel) H. Schuster, 81, October 14, 2015

More information may be found at BREA's website: [www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea](http://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](mailto: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.

## Do You Use Email?

Be sure that BREA has your current email address. Send an email to Membership Chair Sheryl Gerstman at [sigronkonkoma@gmail.com](mailto:sigronkonkoma@gmail.com) so she can update BREA's database. You will occasionally receive special notices from BREA officers. And with internet access, you can also get the latest issue of BREA News online – and in color! – at <https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/Newsletter.asp>.

You may also receive BNL classified ads and BERA news by sending a *separate* email to BERA Supervisor Christine Carter at [ccarter@bnl.gov](mailto:ccarter@bnl.gov) with the words “subscribe to classified ads” in the subject line.

### **Brookhaven Retired Employees Association**

BREA c/o BERA

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Bldg. 400

Phone: (631) 344-2873

E-mail: [brea@bnl.gov](mailto:brea@bnl.gov)

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

