

BREA News

www.brea.bnl.gov



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January 14, 2009

BREA Meetings

There are monthly BREA meetings, usually at noon on the second Tuesday of the month in Berkner Hall. All BREA members are invited to attend. We would like your participation in our meetings.

BREA Meeting Schedule:

- January 14, 2009
- February 11, 2009
- March 11, 2009
- April 8, 2009

BREA Officers

PRESIDENT:
Arnold Peskin
Vice President:
Robert Marr
Treasurer:
Ken Mohring
Secretary:
Dave Cox
Newsletter Editor:
Graham Campbell

CHANGES AT HUMAN RESOURCES

William F. Hempfling

In a few short months, I'll be joining the ranks of BREA and I am really looking forward to my retirement. As I've heard many retirees express over my 29 years at the Lab, the countless friends and associates one makes over their career are truly what makes the Laboratory special.

On November 3, my replacement joined the

Lab and I'm spending my final days helping to acclimate him to life at Brookhaven. His name is Tony Bowman and he comes to BNL from private industry. His entire career has been spent working in HR for firms such as Mobil Oil, Lockheed Martin, General Electric, Verizon, and Brighthouse Networks. Please join me in wel-

coming Tony to BNL!

William F. Hempfling
Director of Human Resources
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Building 400
Upton, NY 11973

Ed. Note: See the Lab Bulletin Vol62, No.41 of Dec. 5, 2008 for more background on Mr. Bowman

CONTRACT TO OPERATE BNL

Graham Campbell

The BSA contract to operate the Laboratory is ending and DOE is "re-competing" the contract. This means that the contract for managing the Lab is again "up for grabs". DOE has established a Web site regarding this process, <http://rfpbnl.sc.energy.gov>. In contrast to the last competition in 1997, the process is now closed and not

transparent. On the Web site there is a list of organizations that have indicated an interest in bidding for the contract. However these organizations had the right to request that their interest not be included in the Web site list. This means that the fact that BSA does not appear does not indicate that they are not interested. It also means

that we do not know who might be bidding. BREA stands ready and willing to present retiree's interests to the competing organizations, however at this point we do not know if we will have the opportunity.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Doing the Right Thing

As I write this column it has been almost a year since the BREA membership entrusted me and the rest of the slate to lead the organization for the current term. As we took our positions, we were all enthusiastic to do 'the right thing,' whatever that may mean. I think it means to meet the needs and aspirations of the membership. So the first big challenge was to understand what those needs and aspirations are.

That is not a simple task because good two-way communication is

difficult to achieve in even the most modest of organizations. We try to reach out with the BREA web page, the Newsletter, regular open business meetings, and occasional larger convocations, either social or informational. The feedback that is returned to us is either from participation at events or occasional conversations with members. That is not much to go on. In other words, we spend a lot of time guessing what the membership would like us to do.

There is, of course, a better way, and I urge you to join with offi-

cers to use it. Get involved. Renew your membership. Drop us a line, call us, or send us an email with your ideas. Come to our weekly business meetings (held at noon on the second Wednesday of each month, usually in Berkner Hall). We have even sometimes made arrangements for phone participation for those of you who live far). We look forward to seeing you and working with you.

Let me close by wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season along with best wishes for 2009.

JOIN BREA MEETINGS FROM ANYWHERE

Ken Mohring

For several months BREA meetings have successfully included the use of conference telephone lines. It is now time to publicize this very easy option so all those interested may take part in BREA's monthly meetings. On meeting days a telephone call into a "bridge line" makes you part of the meeting by connecting you to a multi-amplifier and microphone system (a high-end speaker phone). This option gives all BREA members an opportunity to participate, ask questions, or initiate discussions.

We currently have two members who use the system.

BREA meetings are held at noon on the second Wednesday of each month. The call-in number is not always the same, so an email to Ken Mohring (kmohring@optonline.net) or Dave Cox (expatdave@aol.com), or a telephone call to the BREA general number 631 344 2873 will put you on the list to be contacted with the call-in number for the next meeting. It is best if you request the call-in number about a

week before the meeting so we can plan for the correct size "bridge line".

Monthly meeting agendas are not widely distributed. This is done to avoid members receiving unnecessary emails. Since the call-in option is now available more members may wish to receive the monthly agenda. To add your name to those receiving the agenda please contact Arnie Peskin (arniepeskin@optonline.net) or call 631 344 2873.

CAC REPORT

Graham Campbell

This is a report on recent CAC activities. The Community Advisory Council (CAC) was formed in 1998 to advise the Director of BNL about Community concerns. For more information about the Council please see “<http://www.bnl.gov/community/cac>”. BREA played a major role in the formation of the Council and has been represented by Graham Campbell since then. Our alternate representative is Arnie Peskin. The Council has achieved significant notice in Washington and provides an important point of view to the Lab management.

The CAC was formed as a response to the turbulent times following discovery of tritium leaking into the groundwater. As a result, a major continuing concern has been ground water and Peconic River contamination. The Lab has addressed these issues

very effectively, but the CAC still asks for and gets updates on the monitoring process of these remediations. Another continuing concern is the decommissioning of the BGRR and the HFBR. These are major projects that require much planning and training. The latest report shows both to be proceeding on schedule. Removal of the intensely radioactive control rod blades and beam plug from the HFBR will be done this spring. They will be transported to NTS disposal site. For a variety of reasons, the BGRR decommissioning is a more difficult process and requires special equipment to be designed and constructed. It is expected that the equipment will be installed this spring.

A recent event that attracted a lot of attention was the drinking water pump house explosion. Very fortunately it resulted only in property

damage and provided a real life test of emergency procedures. The pump house was completely demolished, but these days when such a thing happens a priority is to determine if it is the result of a terrorist or criminal attack. It was quickly determined that it was an accidental propane explosion. The pump house was equipped with a propane-powered engine as a backup power source. Preventative maintenance had recently been performed on the engine. The lab made a very thorough investigation of how the event had occurred and what steps should be taken to prevent similar accidents. It is of great concern because the ignition of the explosion was caused by a motor control relay while no one was in the area, but if it had been triggered by someone turning on a light switch the next day it would have had very serious consequences.

JOB OPENINGS

My local librarian has brought to my attention an opportunity that may interest many retirees. The Census Bureau is gearing up for the 2010 census and has many openings that may be appealing to retirees. Go to: <http://www.census.gov> and click on “Become a Census Taker” right up on the top of the page. It offers a chance to counteract some of the damage to your finances by the economic downturn while performing a useful service to your community. .

BREA

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Email: brea-l@lists.bnl.gov

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



BNL Retired Employees Association

*On the Web at
www.brea.bnl.gov*

BREA OFFICE MOVE

The new BREA office is located in room 105 of Building 421, which is across the street from the Biology Building (Building 463). The new mailing address is:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (BREA)
Building 463
P.O. Box 5000
Upton, NY 11973-5000

(The actual mail drop is in the Biology Building) Building 421 is located on Bell Avenue between Center Street and Rochester Street.

BREA's new telephone number is 631 344 2873. That number will

be answered by a member of the Brookhaven Employees Recreation Association (BERA) staff and messages will be forwarded to appropriate BREA personnel. This change provides an increase in service as the former procedure included a direct BREA line that was not regularly monitored.

The office move was necessary because the previous office was located in Building 475, which is scheduled to be demolished. To occupy the new space the work of personnel in several Divisions was required including Plant Engineering, Procurement & Property Management and Staff Services. The

help of personnel in all these divisions is greatly appreciated.