

◆ BREAA News ◆

Volume 1, Issue 2

BNL Retired Employees Association

October 16, 1997

<p>From the President</p> <p>Why is the struggle over restarting the HFBR so important? One is the problem of decisions about the Lab being made by political considerations instead of scientific ones. It is clear that when politicians go beyond the setting of general priorities for research (via budget decisions) and into making detailed decisions about the operation of the Lab, it is bad for both the Lab and for science in general.</p> <p>But there is a more serious problem that political interference is keeping from being addressed. There is general public apprehension about reactors and radiation. But radiation is probably the</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Continued on page 4)</i></p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">RFP Status</h2>										
	<p>The Old:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Existing retiree benefits, both medical and pension, will be preserved for the first year of operation. Future changes, if any, will take into consideration prior commitments made to retirees by AUI".</i></p> <p>The New:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Agree that existing retiree benefits will mirror the current benefit program specified in the existing Personnel Appendix of the current AUI contract with the DOE. Agree that prior to proposing any future changes to retiree medical benefits, serious consideration will be given to all prior commitments made to retirees by AUI and that the proposed changes will be subject to review and approval/disapproval by DOE. (Note: Current retiree pension benefits under TIAA/CREF are unaffected by this contract changeover).</i></p>										
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Constitution & By-Laws Adopted

Barney MacAlary of the Steering Committee volunteered to draw up a simple document with Constitution and By-Laws modeled on the available BERA format, which is used by the various groups supported by BERA.

His initial effort went through several drafts as various Committee members expressed their ideas

...membership will consist of retired members of BNL and those out on long term disability from BNL.

and perfected their vision of what the BNL Retired

Employee's Association should be, now and for the future.

At a meeting of the BREA

Steering

Committee on 13 August 1997, an initial Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The articles of the Constitution provide that membership will consist of retired mem-

bers of BNL and those out on long term disability from BNL. Associate members are all other members of the BNL community.

Dues were set at \$10 per year; the By-Laws define the Executive Committee as consisting of four officers; President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of the officers is set at two years.

Copies are available in the Association office.

Share your retirement

We would like to start a regular feature of sharing how some of us spend their time and where and how they live. For a start, this is from a recent letter from Claire Hull.

I live now in Tacoma, WA and have for the last 12 years. I find life on the west

coast to be delightful: weather is great, pace is less frenetic than in the east (to me, at least), there are lots of cultural activities to enjoy. I am deeply involved on a volunteer basis in both my church and community and do a bit of writing.

Claire signed her letter: Claire F. Hull formerly of the Medical Dept, ret'd in 1980, still going strong at 82.

How about some notes from others? Lets keep the ball rolling.

RFP Status - Cont d

(Continued from page 1)

fairness, the process of evaluation of the RFP responses is highly confidential. The bids were submitted before the end of September (note this was a change from the original date of Aug. 28). There were two bidders, Batelle/

Stony Brook and IITRI/GE. The original schedule called for the SEB to hear oral presentations from the bidders in Sept. and continue negotiations in Oct. The winner was to be selected by early November. However because of the delay in sub-

mitting the bids this might change. There has been no announcement of a new schedule. Then there will be a two month transition period before the new contractor takes full control after the first of the year.

**BNL Retired Employees Association
Balance Sheet
31 August 1997**

<u>Assets</u>		
Cash	\$4433.43	
Accounts Receivable*	1406.95	
Total Assets		<u>\$5339.48</u>
<u>Liabilities & Capital</u>		
General Fund		<u>\$5839.48</u>

**BNL Retired Employees Association
Statement of Income & Expense
31 August 1997**

<u>Income</u>		
Membership Dues & Contributions	\$5206.65	
Contribution from BERA*	<u>1500.00</u>	
Total Revenue		<u>\$6706.65</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Postage		\$651.17
Photocopying		127.30
Internet Access		43.30
Supplies		<u>45.40</u>
Total Expenses		<u>\$867.17</u>
Net Income for period		<u>\$5839.48</u>

Comments:

*The contribution from BERA of \$1500 will cover goods and services that BREA will expend at the Laboratory. This will normally cover charges for printing, mailing and other incidental expenditures. The unexpended balance will be carried forward until it is deleted

As of 3 September 1997 the total membership is 301, consisting primarily of retirees with a small number of associate members.

Barney McAlary, Treasurer

Source Evaluation Board Meeting - cont d

<p><i>(Continued from page 4)</i></p> <p>It was made clear that BREA would feel comfortable with maintaining current medical benefits.</p> <p>Seltzer then turned to what he felt the SEB needs to look for in a</p>	<p>new contractor. He expressed his belief that an academic type contractor would be best in helping to maintain an atmosphere where researchers had the freedom to study important and interesting problems in their field. It</p>	<p>is this atmosphere, together with the tenure system, which will continue to attract top scientists and technical personnel to keep BNL a superb research institution.</p>
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Meeting with the Source Evaluation Board

On 6 August 1997, BREA was invited to meet with the scientific members of the Source Evaluation Board (SEB), which is constituted to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify, and to recommend a contractor to manage BNL. The scientific members of the SEB at the meeting were Dr. Robert Eisenstein from the National Science Foundation and Dr. David Hendrie from DOE. Also present was Mr. Steven Silbergleid, SEB Chairman. BREA's President, Graham Campbell, was unavailable on that date, and Stanley Seltzer attended in his place.

Seltzer made clear to this group that the impetus for forming BREA was the statement in preliminary RFP which stated that, "Existing retiree benefits, both medical and pension, will be preserved for the

first year of operation. Future changes, if any, will take into consideration prior commitments made to retirees by AUI." Seltzer told the SEB members that the retirees felt that this was an invitation to the new contractor to change retiree benefits after the first year of the new contract. Fortunately, through the action of BREA, the corresponding statement in the final RFP has been changed to something more accommodating, but Seltzer said that he felt that the statement didn't go far enough in protecting retiree benefits.

At this point, Hendrie said that there was a statement in the employee's handbook that stated that the employer could change the benefit package. Seltzer then discussed very briefly the UNISYS

and General Motors cases where potential retirees were promised free medical benefits for life, only to be told later that this was to change. Parts of these cases have been litigated; other parts remain to be resolved. However, no definitive ruling exists at present. It was pointed out to the SEB that these employers were found remiss in their fiduciary responsibilities under ERISA for not clarifying their policies to potential retirees. Silbergleid replied that the DOE view of cutting retiree benefits as a cost-savings operation is of lowest priority --- it would be at the bottom of the list. Since DOE pays for medical benefits, DOE would have to approve of any changes.

(Continued on page 3)

From the President - cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

most important tool of modern science. A major failing of the scientific community is communicating to the non-technical public an adequate understanding of the benefits and dangers of radiation. The Lab community understands that radiation can be controlled, can be safe, and is neces-

sary for understanding the world around us. The dialogue with the wider community on these issues must be allowed to proceed.

The unspoken background behind this is that the anti-nuclear activists that figure so prominently in this controversy have as a goal the closure of the en-

tire laboratory. Unless the moderates of the surrounding communities can be convinced that the reactor can be operated safely, the activists will carry the day and move from shutting down the HFBR to shutting down RHIC and the rest of the lab.

BREA BALLOT

BNL Retired Employees Association

The BREA Steering Committee has nominated the following slate of officers for your consideration:

	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Write-in</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graham Campbell	President	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stuart Rideout	Vice President	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stanley Seltzer	Secretary	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barney McAlary	Treasurer	

Please fill in this ballot and return it **ASAP** to:

BREA

Building 475

Upton, NY 11973-5000

Looking for Speakers?

<p>Do you belong to an organization on LI that is looking for speakers? Or is interested in the situation at BNL? Contact BREA and we can arrange it. We can locate speakers from BNL that will be glad to come</p>	<p>talk to your organization about the issues around restarting the HFBR, about the various contaminant plumes at the lab, about the re-negotiation of the management contract, etc. Or</p>	<p>do you know a group that would like to tour the lab? Call the BREA office and leave a message - 516-344-2707 and we will get back to you.</p>
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Our Membership

<p>To date, 200 BNL retirees have sent in their membership forms. Of these, approximately 25% are located in the southeast. This includes 27 in Florida, nine in North Carolina, five in South Carolina, three in Georgia, two in Virginia, and one each in Tennessee</p>	<p>and Maryland. About 7% have followed the famous Horatio Alger adage "Go West, young man, go West." They can be found in California, Utah, Colorado, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Another 7% have moved north to</p>	<p>Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and upstate New York. A smaller number have hopped over the border to adjacent states. However, the vast majority remain on beautiful Long Island.</p>
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In This Issue... Some results on the contract renegotiation, plus organizational details.

Be an Active Member

The purpose of our Association is to represent retiree interests and benefits. Now it is your turn to get involved!

BNL Retired Employees' Association (BREA) is now a reality. Your Steering Committee has done the groundwork in establishing our association under the BERA umbrella; written a constitution and bylaws, and opened a checking account. An Association office has been obtained in Bldg. 475. A slate of officers has been nominated. In order to make a difference and influence future

policy decisions affecting our benefits, we need a strong and active membership. Any organization is strong when the members remain actively involved in its activities. The purpose of our Association is to represent retiree interests and benefits. Now it is your turn to get involved! Let us know how you think the Association can best serve the interests of all our members. Do you want an annual social event of some sort? Community involvement will require

active volunteer members to succeed. What is your vision of what this Association should be; and what you see it becoming? Write to us (Bldg. 475C) or call (ext. 2707). We really need your input! Providing for the needs of our membership will require volunteers from within the membership. Get involved, be active ***this is your association.*** If not now, when? If not you, who?