

# BREA News



Volume 5, Issue 3

December 2, 2005

## BREA Business Meetings

There are BREA business meetings monthly in building 475, room 82. All BREA members are invited to attend. We would like your participation in our meetings.

### *BREA Business Meeting Schedule*

- November 8 (Tuesday)
- December 13 (Tuesday)

In general, on the second Tuesday of every month.

## NEW OFFICERS NOMINATED

(This is a repeat of the standard election comment) You probably noticed that this is an election, but there is only a single candidate for each position. We are not a “banana republic”, this simply reflects the difficulty of finding people willing to serve. The voting rule for this election will be that a candidate is elected if that candidate receives a positive vote on a majority of the ballots returned.

The office will be left open until another election if a candidate does not get this majority. Note that returning a ballot, but not voting for a candidate is the equivalent of a “NO” vote.

See next pages for information on the candidates.

Page 5 of this newsletter contains the ballot. Remove that page (or copy it), fill out the ballot and mail it to:

BREA  
Bldg. 475C  
Brookhaven  
National Laboratory  
Upton, NY  
11973

At the same time, check your membership card and see if you need to fill out the renewal form on the same page.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### BREA Officers

**PRESIDENT:**  
Joyce Tichler  
**Vice President:**  
Lew Jacobson  
**Treasurer:**  
Barney McAlary  
**Secretary:**  
Alyce Daly  
**Membership Chairman:**  
Dave Cox  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
Graham Campbell

This is my last message as BREA President. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know more BREA members and to spend more time with those I already knew. BREA has had a busy last couple of years! The BREA board has instituted a policy of monthly business meetings to which all BREA members have been in-

vited. It is at those meetings that we have made and carried out plans for the BREA activities of the year. I have been pleased to see more of you attend these monthly meetings. In addition, I have been pleased with the large attendance at our annual social event and our special interest meetings. You will find informa-

tion on your new slate of officers in this newsletter. We are fortunate to have these well-qualified people interested in devoting their time to BREA. Please return your ballot. If this newsletter is sent to two members in the same household you can return only one ballot but indicate that more than one of you is

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## MEDICARE—PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

In the information distributed by BSA in mid October 2005, retirees were notified "that their existing coverage is, on average at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep the BNL coverage and not enroll for the Medicare prescription drug coverage". This statement met the requirements of the new law and allows us to enroll in a Medicare plan at a later date and not pay any penalty. The Laboratory recommends that all retirees retain their BSA coverage and not enroll in a Medicare plan.

At BREA we formed an *ad hoc* committee to make a separate independent assessment of the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage as compared to the BSA plans. The members of the committee are Elliot Auerbach, Graham Campbell, and Barney McAlary. In summary, we agree with the Lab's recommendation. We are convinced that **most** (probably all) retirees are better off not making

any change but staying with the BSA coverage, at least for the first year. When the Medicare information becomes more reliable, we can do a better analysis.

For retirees with limited income and resources (within certain parameters) extra help is available to pay for a Medicare prescription plan. For additional information, you may check with SSA at 1-800-772-1213.

Everyone should try to evaluate his or her own situation. But at the moment this is easier said than done. There is major confusion among retirees about the plans. The Medicare Web site has recently activated a way to get the costs of plans available in your area. However the results seem to change on a daily basis and the confusion seems to extend to the Medicare bureaucracy. It is informative to go to <http://www.medicare.gov>, click on "Compare Medicare Prescription Drug Plans" and follow the instructions. You

will enter your medications and zip code and other information. Eventually you will be presented with a page listing the total costs of plans in your area. But beware! There are lots of problems with this listing. One is that using a mail order pharmacy can save a lot of money, if the plan allows it. But that option is ignored in deriving the pages. And things are in a state of flux, as the various plans seem to change their costs when they see what other plans are charging. Our conclusion is that this is an interesting exercise, but don't take it too seriously. Even if you are interested in enrolling in a Medicare plan we strongly recommend that you wait until the next open enrollment period (next Nov-Dec) and reevaluate then. By that time more reliable information on the Medicare plans should be available. And because of the Lab's analysis that the BSA plan meets Medicare standards, we believe that any savings would not be substantial.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)  
voting.

You will also find a request for dues for the New Year as part of this newsletter. BREA represents your interests to BNL and we all know that a group speaks with more weight than individuals. Again, I remind you that since BNL has been unable to subsidize the mailings of these newsletters,

we are using your dues to offset expenses such as additional costs for meetings and these newsletters. Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow officers, Dave Cox, our membership chair, Paul Michael, who is our "webmaster", Renee Flack and Sonja Santos who headed the committees that organized our luncheon and barbeque, Graham Campbell who edits our newsletters and

helps in other innumerable ways and all the other folks who have helped make BREA such an active group and made my job so easy. If you are able to, please try to attend our monthly business meetings and become more active in BREA; you will find it rewarding!

## President—Myron Strongin



Myron Strongin joined the Physics Department in November of 1963 and retired from the Physics Dept. in July of 2005. His career involved experiments in superconductivity, disordered materials, hydrogen in metals, and surface physics. At various times during this period he served as Associate Chairman of the Physics Department, the Affirmative Action Committee, and was involved in other laboratory programs and committees.

## Vice President—Arnie Peskin



Arnie Peskin retired from BNL in 2003 after a 36 year career in the Applied Mathematics Department, the Information Technology Division, and the Center for Scientific Computation. He continues to hold a Guest Appointment at the Laboratory, and is a member of the Envoys Committee and Alternate Representative for BREA on the Community Advisory Council. In addition, he serves on the faculty of Excelsior College in Albany and on the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. He resides in Miller Place.

## Secretary - Kathy Einfeldt



Kathy Einfeldt started at BNL in 1961 at the AEC Office (now DOE). After 5 years she switched over to the BNL and worked for Dr. George Wheeler who was in charge of the AGS Conversion Project. She also did some work for the High Energy Theory Group.

In 1967 she left to raise a family. They moved to Florida for 2 years and then returned to NY and started a plumbing business. She returned to BNL in 1983 and worked for the HENP office. In 1988 she transferred to the Physics Dept and was the training and safety coordinator and backup for the Building Manager. In 1997 she took over the position of Building Manager for the Physics Dept. She retired in Sept. 1999, but joined the Admin. Pool and still actually works at BNL. She celebrated 48 years of marriage in Jan. and has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. She still lives in Shirley.

## Treasurer - Ken Mohring



Ken Mohring worked at BNL for 34 years. His final position was as the Division Administrative Manager in the Staff Services Division. He was responsible for budgets, coordination of the environmental and safety program, and administration of the food service program. Prior to that, he spent 15 years in the Medical Department where he was responsible for budget and administrative activities, and for 6 years was an auditor for Associated Universities, Inc. Before coming to BNL, he worked for a public accounting firm in New York City. He has a master's degree and is a Certified Public Accountant. Since retirement he has become a Master Gardener and volunteers at the LI Horticultural Research & Extension farm and his local church. Ken lives in Wading River.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Membership Type: *(check one)*

\_\_\_ Regular: BNL retirees and long-term disability employees

\_\_\_ Associate: All other members of the BNL community

Annual dues = \$10 per member

Retirement date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: \_\_\_ New Application; \_\_\_ Renewal

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip(+4): \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues : *(Check one; please make out check to BREA)*

\_\_\_ Check for \$10 enclosed

\_\_\_ Check for \$20 enclosed *(two retirees at same address receiving the Newsletter)*

Return to BREA, Bldg 475C, Brookhaven National Lab., Upton NY 11973

## ELECTION BALLOT

☐

President - Myron Strongin

☐

Vice President - Arnie Peskin

☐

Secretary - Kathy Einfeldt

☐

Treasurer - Ken Mohring

## BREA

Bldg 475C  
Upton, NY 11973-5000  
Phone: 631-344-2707  
Email: [brea-l@lists.bnl.gov](mailto: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](http://www.brea.bnl.gov)*

## BREA Membership

It is gratifying to report that over the past year, there has been a steady increase in the paid-up membership to about 475, including many who were contacted by e-mail or phone. We have now written to almost 200 previous members whose membership has lapsed since joining BREA when it was founded in 1997, and who accordingly no longer receive the Newsletter. We hope that many of these will take this last opportunity to re-join and once more become part of the Association.

Now is the time to renew for 2006, and we encourage all

members to take a minute to complete the membership renewal form inside and return it to BREA as soon as possible to ensure that they remain on our mailing list. Please note, though, that because of a mistake in the labeling of the January 21<sup>st</sup> Newsletter when the 2005 membership renewal form was published, many people sent in their membership dues even though they were already paid up for 2005. These dues will be credited to 2006, and these people have already been sent their 2006 membership cards. In addition, membership for 2006 will be extended to anyone who

joined late this year, and they too should have received new cards. If you fall into either of these two groups, please ignore the membership renewal form below.

Finally, if you run into any of your old friends and colleagues, please let them know about BREA. Additional information and membership forms can be found on the BREA website ([www.brea.bnl.gov](http://www.brea.bnl.gov)), or by contacting the Membership Chair, Dave Cox (631-286-9725; [expat-dave@aol.com](mailto:expat-dave@aol.com)).