

# BREA News



## BREA Executive Board Meetings

The BREA executive board meets monthly. All BREA members are invited to attend. We would like your participation in our meetings.

### Executive Board Meeting Schedule:

- Dec 12 Bldg. 475 Conf. Rm.
- Jan 9 Berkner Rm. D
- Feb 13 Berkner Rm. D
- Mar 13 Berkner Rm. D
- Apr 10 Berkner Rm. D
- May 8 Berkner Rm. D

## THE PARTY'S OVER

Were you there? If not you missed a good luncheon, good company and a nice location. The 2006 reunion luncheon was held at the Bellport Country Club on June 6. There were over 125 retirees that attended. Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle were among the activities. Happy winners in-

cluded Gordon Danby who won both the 50/50 raffle and a door

- Martin Kramer
- Mary Kinsley



- Carl Klamut
- Patricia Langdon
- Howard Olesen
- Arnie Peskin
- Catherine Tierney
- Grace Searles

prize. Other door prize winners were:

- Jack Brennan
- Gordon Danby

Check out the great photos at <http://www.brea.bnl.gov>.

## From the President

It has been an interesting year and basically things have gone well. I would like to thank the Board Members for their dedication to the Brookhaven retiree community, and it's been a pleasure to be

part of BREA. I like to joke that anyone who wants to be Director of Brookhaven should be the speaker at the BREA summer luncheon and I am happy that we started this tradition. Sam you're do-

ing a great job. We have had a reasonable lecture series and there is more coming. I hope that we can get the attendance up in future lectures.

During this year DOE

*(Continued on page 3)*

### BREA Officers

- PRESIDENT:  
Myron Strongin
- Vice President:  
Arnie Peskin
- Treasurer:  
Ken Mohring
- Secretary:  
Harriet Martin
- Membership Chairman:  
Dave Cox
- Newsletter Editor:  
Graham Campbell

## More on Location Decisions

Jim Hurst

*Ed. In the last issue we had to leave out some of Jim Hurst's article because of space limitations. Here is the part that was left out. In it he is explaining his motivation to leave LI. Please excuse the somewhat awkward format and remember it was extracted from the middle of the original.*

Without knowing it at the time, I was developing some lessons learned based on my involvement in a civic (Brookhaven Village Association – 14 years on the Board), Town government (Brookhaven Town Solid Waste Advisory Committee – about 13 years), the LI Chapter of the American Society for Metals, now ASM Int'l. (most of my 37 years), several technical & curriculum related committees in the Pat-Med School District (~ 5 years), and at the Lab, Friends of Brookhaven. The last got me involved with the BNL Community Advisory Council. The period 1970s through the early 1990s saw many social & political changes; and, it was increasingly clear to me that the country was beginning to change in a way that would have long lasting effects. Technology was viewed as a bad thing. And, it was clear that more often than not - LI was on the cutting edge. Extremism, much of it on environmental issues, reared its ugly head. Proposed sensible precautions yielded to extreme and unjustified/unworkable solutions.

NIMBYism found an early home on the Island. The Hempstead Resource Recovery Plant was closed because of “dangerous levels” of dioxin emissions (read, it smelled sometimes). The Shoreham Nuclear Power Station was rebuilt three times at a final cost of \$6.4 billion. It was closed before it could be useful (read, no greenhouse gases) by the same politically powerful nuts that eventually closed the BMRR and the HFBR.

In the 1980s Grumman was having difficulty attracting professionals to Bethpage. BNL was seeing the same thing, and we didn't pay as well.

Brookhaven Town politicians agreed to host the ash from the new Hempstead Resource Recovery Plant and the Town became the garbage capital of LI. At BNL, the 1990s brought Adm. Watkins' Tiger Teams. They created quite a stir; but in the long run did little to improve things.

Local school costs were beginning to escalate, although the increases that you are seeing today, I never would have predicted.

My local favorite environmental problem came late in the timeline. That was the solution to the BNL spent fuel pool tritium leak where DOE, EPA, & some of our better connected citizens sent millions of gallons (costing millions of dollars) of LI ground water to Oak Ridge TN where it

was injected into the local environment by using it to quench ash from a low level rad waste incinerator.

About 1985, we told our children that if they were going to college, we strongly recommended that they look out of state. And if they were planning to visit us in later life, they should not to look for us in NY. My wife & I had no idea where we were going – we just knew we were leaving. We were enjoying the Great South Bay and I certainly enjoyed BNL. Although I realized that I'd never get rich, I certainly wasn't ready to “get out of Dodge.” My plan was to retire at about age 67. You all remember what happened next. AUI was replaced by BSA. Then came all those things like SBMS with its experimental reviews, endless meetings, and even monetary incentives. Business models were being applied to a most fundamentally chaotic human endeavor – basic research. Naturally, the lab “re-orged” more than a few times. Personally, I was happy to see that recently Solid State (Condensed Matter) Physics and Materials Science merged.

Are we sorry that we left? On the whole, the answer is no. We miss those who we left behind – some of our family and our friends, many from the Lab. Joan & I get back about once a year, and I usually get to BNL.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## CAC Happenings

The CAC (Community Advisory Council) just celebrated its eighth anniversary and BREA has been there since the beginning (and before). We played a substantial role in its formation. It has become a very effective communication path, not only from the community to the Lab, but in the reverse directions also. It also has brought different segments of the community into touch with each other. BREA is represented by Graham Campbell with Arnold Peskin being

the Alternate Delegate. The major item currently being considered by the CAC is The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the “g-2 Tritium Source Area and Groundwater Plume, Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer Soils, and Former Underground Storage Tanks”. This is part of a very formal process triggered by the inclusion of BNL on the so-called SuperFund List and CERCLA (which I won’t attempt to expand). It will lead to a Record of

Decision (ROD) that formally documents the actions to be taken to remediate the problem. If you are interested in following the CAC meetings, the meeting notes are available on the BNL Web site at: <http://www.bnl.gov/community/minutes.asp> and a general page is available at: <http://www.bnl.gov/community/CAC.asp>.

## Financial Report

The Treasurer reports the balances of accounts at the monthly Board meetings. And the amounts in the accounts are periodically evaluated by the Board. At the last review it was agreed that the balances available are appropriate to support unforeseen expenses and for deposits and other expenditures related to ongoing activities. There is currently just over \$13,000 in BREA accounts. Almost all of these funds are in certificates of deposit and other interest bearing accounts. Ken Mohring

## From the President (cont’d)

*(Continued from page 1)*

put out a document (DOE N 351.1) in April, which dealt with “CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE PENSION and MEDICAL BENEFITS POLICY” which could have implications for us as well as everyone in the DOE laboratories. My

understanding at the present time is that this is being looked at in Congress and, although there are no immediate implications, I think that it is wise for us to keep tabs on this. We have started to contact retirement organizations in other laboratories and I think that to-

gether we can possibly have some voice in future issues.

Once again, feel free to come to the BREA meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, and please send in ideas for future speakers.

Regards Myron

## Hurst (cont’d)

*(Continued from page 2)*

We subscribe to the LI Advance, and periodically look at NEWS-DAY on line. Unfortunately, our reasons for leaving continue

to resonate in the stories published in these papers. Good luck re-powering the Port Jefferson & Northport LIPA plants. The proposed Caithness plant

(and 10 to 12 just like it) should do the trick. But, where do you site them??

**BREA**

Bldg 475C  
Upton, NY | 1973-5000  
Phone: 631-344-2707

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*

**Late Breaking News**

Just as this newsletter was in the last stages of preparation, the news that the BNL management contract would be re-competed was announced. See the press release on

<http://www.doe.gov/news/4479.htm>

What this means for retirees is yet to be determined. However this process allows DOE to break commitments that a managing organization has made to its employees and retirees. Needless to say BREA will take part in the process and keep you informed of progress.

**Hints & Tips**

Here are some odds and ends that may be of interest.

From the presentation on Identity Theft:

When you have the choice, use a credit card instead of a debit card. It gives you an additional layer of protection.

Medicare D:

Very few, if any, BNL retirees have signed up for the prescription drug coverage. But if you are thinking about it, be very careful of the “donut hole”. Last we looked at the Medicare web site (admittedly a long time ago)

the price comparisons did not correctly include it.

Prescription drugs:

Double check your medicines when you receive them. We had a report of a member that received the wrong drug - even though it was in a manufacturer’s bottle unopened by the pharmacist.

Still live in Suffolk Co.?

There is a senior newsletter about the County sponsored activities. Go to:

<http://www.capitolhillnewsonline.com/mailings/suffolk/webform.html>

It is membership renewal time again. We have been generous this last year about continuing sending the newsletter to those who did not renew. But now is the time to look at your address label. If there is an asterisk after your name, you did not renew for last year and this is your last chance to continue receiving the newsletter.

In order to make the renewal process as easy as possible we are including this renewal form as a separate page. Simply fill out, attach a check and return to:

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

---

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

To renew your BREA membership for 2007, please complete this form, enclose a check for \$10 annual dues per person, and mail it to BREA, Building 475C, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY 11973.

**PLEASE NOTE!! If you did not renew your membership for 2006 you will see an asterisk after your name on the address label. If you do not renew for 2007, you will not be sent any more issues of the Newsletter.**

-----detach here-----

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)*

