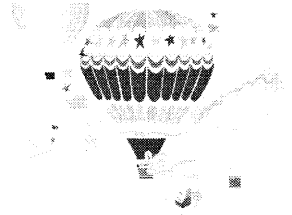


BREA News



Volume 8, Issue 1

March 20, 2008

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:

- May 13
- June 10
- July 8
- August No Meeting

BREA Officers

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

CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS CHANGES

A BREA committee has been working for several months to bring the BREA By-Laws up to date and make them more suitable for our organization. The most notable change may be expanding the office of BREA Secretary to include responsibility for all aspects of communication, including membership, corre-

spondence and recording secretarial functions. As per the current By-Laws, these changes must be before the members for at least a month and then voted upon. Hence, a draft of the new By-Laws is available for examination on the BREA web pages. Anyone who does not have web access or oth-

erwise needs a hard copy can request one from the Secretary, Dave Cox, at 50 Circuit Rd., Bellport, NY 11713. A ratification vote on the new By-Laws will take place at the July business meeting that will be held on Tuesday, July 8, at noon in Berkner Hall.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been President of BREA since January 2008, so this is the first opportunity I have had to use the Newsletter to greet all the members. I plan to write a column in all Newsletter editions during my term to highlight BREA's activities, accomplishments, challenges and plans. As you may well know, our activities fall into three broad areas: liaison to BNL management, information

of interest to the retirement community, and social activities for BREA members.

Our liaison to BNL management is represented in this Newsletter by information we are relaying on changes to the Lab-offered Long Term Care Insurance. But the liaison function is a two-way street; we are just as likely to be representing retiree concerns to management as we are

reporting back changes affecting our membership. We will continue having regular meetings with Lab management to keep these vital communications channels open.

Our provision of information of interest to the retirement community already resulted in two recent lunchtime seminars in 2008. Steven Stern spoke to us about

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CIGNA UN-COVERAGE

Comments from Elliott Auerbach

The New York Attorney General has been investigating the use and abuse of the limitation on reimbursements for out-of-network providers' charges to "reasonable and customary." The data used to establish what is R&C is in some cases suspect and the organizations providing the data are suspected by the Atty. General's Office as having conflicts of interest with the insurers. If you have had any problems in this area, you should contact the Atty. General's Office as you may be able to provide additional information useful to his investigation. (There is a branch office in Hauppauge.)

Comments from Graham Campbell

I was recently reminded that there is a class of medical bills for which there is NO coverage by CIGNA unless provided by a CIGNA approved (i.e. in network) doctor. Buried in the 64 page document describing the BSA Open Access Plus Medical Benefits, there is a paragraph in the coverage description:

charges made by a Participating Provider for Routine Preventive Care from age 19 including immunizations. Routine Preventive Care means health care assessments, wellness visits and any related services.

By including the phrase "by a Participating Provider" the coverage excludes all out-of-network providers. Note there is no definition of "wellness visits", nor any commonly accepted definition that I have been able to discover.

So be careful about who provides your flu shots or other vaccinations (see: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm5641-Immunization.pdf> for the CDC vaccination recommendations)

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

A new feature of the newsletter is news from members. These are short notes about their current interests and whereabouts. All submissions are welcomed.

Marilyn Galli

Wishing all my retiree friends cheer and blessings and best wishes for a happy healthy year.

I'm still reasonably active, playing golf (with cart), but no more tennis, doing a lot of volunteer work and still (10 yrs.) with the Criminal Justice Services (Brevard County). It's really very interesting as I work with the judges, assign probation officers, assign community service and instruct

"clients" on fees and fines. Some day when I'm a little less busy, I will write a note on my "retirement career"

Sheldon Martin

Thank you for my new Lifetime membership card.

I am enjoying my retirement in upstate NY... check out some pictures at my AOL Profile

George Taylor

Ed. Note: George wrote a nice and interesting letter, but I ran out of space. It will be in the next issue.

WARMING/ENERGY/OIL STUDY GROUP

BREA is trying to get an active study group that will deal with various environmental issues, global warming, the depletion of oil reserves, and what other sources of energy can replace oil reserves during the next decade. There are already people at the laboratory who are dealing with these issues and hopefully short

lectures from them can get us started. In addition, I think that we should also be dealing with some of the county legislators to understand what plans are being assembled to deal with hurricanes and other natural disasters. BREA has sponsored lectures by Eric Forsyth and he has already given his first lecture on oil sup-

plies, "Crude Awakening", and his next talk will be "Nobody's Fuel" which will deal with various energy alternatives. If you are interested in this project please send me a note at "myron@bnl.gov" and we can organize a meeting.

Myron Strongin

LONG TERM CARE PROVIDER CHANGES

Since Aetna is no longer enrolling new participants in the long term care plan that the Lab makes available, BNL is moving the program to Prudential during this year. This was the result of a study to determine the most appropriate insurance carrier for the Lab. Participants who are currently in the plan can remain in the plan or move to Pruden-

tial. New participants will have Prudential as the new option. Prudential is currently mailing information, in stages, to current Aetna participants to advise them of the new plan and benefits.

According to Denise DiMeglio of Human Resources, it will be a good program with better bene-

fits at a lower cost. The Lab has scheduled Prudential to come on site for a seminar (Berkner auditorium) on 7/16/08 (probably at 12:00 noon). When we get closer to that date, Human Resources will send out a flyer and Prudential will do a mailing. Prior to that, plan information will be sent out.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

resources that Suffolk County is providing to its senior citizens, and Eric Forsyth spoke of his post-retirement adventures, most recently a sailing trip to Antarctica. We will continue to sponsor such seminars as topics and speakers are identified.

The big social event coming up is our annual Luncheon which will be held on June 4 at the Three Village Inn in Stony

Brook. Our previous luncheons have proven popular and I hope to see many of you there this June.

BREA holds its business meetings on the second Tuesday of each month except August, at noon, usually in Berkner Hall (but sometimes displaced to the new Building 400). All are welcome to join us for these hour-long meetings at which we plan our programs and deal with or-

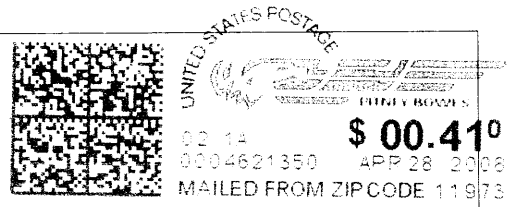
ganizational issues. You can also call-in and join us as a teleconferee! One current issue involves changes to the BREA Charter to make it more suited to our organization.

So as you can see, we are busy, but we are always looking for new ideas, new members, and new activities. And we do not forget to have fun. We are, after all, retired!

Arnie Peskin

BREA

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BNL Retired Employees Association

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

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BREA REUNION LUNCH

The BREA Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 from 12 - 4 pm, at the Three Village Inn in Historic Stony Brook. 1/2 hour of hor d'oeuves and wine, with background keyboard music. There will be ample time to schmooz with old friends.

Cost is \$35 per person. See the BREA Web site (<http://www.brea.bnl.gov>) for more information, including a reservation form.

Directions:

LIE to Exit 62 North: Nichols Road to Stony Brook. Nichols Road ends at Route 25A. Make a left turn onto 25A and proceed to West Main Street. Make a right turn and go approximately 1/4 mile to 150 Main Street at the Harbor.

Phone Number is 631-751-0555