
◆ BREAA News ◆

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February 23, 1998

From the President

The first eight months of BREAA have taught me a valuable lesson. I now know what the current in-word “proactive” means. When change is in the air, get in early, explain your interests, and work with others to make the changes in the best manner for all concerned. You know you have really succeeded if, when it is all over, it seems almost as if you did not need to do anything in the first place.

The transition from AUI to BSA has almost been a non-event for the retirees. But this is only because of the interest that all the retirees have shown from the first. By making our concerns known early in the process, they were incorporated in the search for a solution. When things finally fell into place, the concerns of the retirees seemed a natural part of the result.

Thank you for your participation and support — and now we start Phase II.

Ballot Results

Thanks to all our members who sent in ballots! There were 114 ballots returned. The results were:

113 votes for the slate
1 write-in vote for Joe Rose for Vice President

(There is a member named Max J. Rose – but we don't know if he is known as Joe)

BNL Retirees Association Members Meet With BSA Administrators

At a meeting of BREAA members in Berkner Hall on February 10, 1998, three persons addressed BREAA members to discuss various aspects of the management handover from AUI to BSA on March 1, 1998: Dr. John Marburger, president of Brookhaven Science Associates (BSA), incoming Laboratory Director; Robert Gordon of the Brookhaven Department of Energy (DOE) Office and Denise DiMeglio, manager of BNL Employee Benefits.

Marburger assured BREAA attendees that benefits under BSA will be the same as with AUI. Any changes will be minor in nature. Gordon stated that DOE had made it a contract requirement that the new BNL management contractor agree that, prior to proposing any future changes to retiree benefits, serious consideration would be given to all prior commitments made to retirees by AUI. Any proposed changes will be subject to review and approval by DOE.

DiMeglio provided details about what is happening now regarding benefits. In preparation for the March 1, 1998 transition to BSA, her group is currently engaged in transitioning all of the BNL's benefit contracts from AUI to BSA. Benefit programs which retirees and long term disability persons have will be the same as those they had prior to March 1.. Long term disability persons will continue to receive their periodic checks without interruption. Some time after March 1, new ID cards and new claim forms will be mailed. However, the old ID cards and claim forms will be usable for an extended period to make the transition as seamless as possible for everyone. Those with questions are invited to contact the HR Hotline; 516-344-8200 or her office (516-344-2882) if they have questions on benefits.

Dr. Marburger said that he is very optimistic as a result of his

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Catching up with Dennis Puliston

I was Head of the Technical Information at BNL until I reached the (then) mandatory retirement age of 65 at the end of 1970. I had always had a very intense interest in natural history, and applied for a post with the

N a t i o n a l

Audubon Society to lead small groups to such ecologically inter-

esting areas as the Galapagos, Alaska, Patagonia and Antarctica.

Eco-tourism was then just taking off, and I soon found I had adopted an entire new career as naturalist and lecturer. After Audubon it was Lindblad Travel, Quark Expedi-

tions and eventually Special Expeditions: companies operating small cruise vessels to the more remote and unspoiled parts of the world. I have made nearly 200 cruises since I began.

We take between 70

“first cruise vessel to negotiate the Northwest Passage”

and 80 passengers on these voyages, lasting anywhere from two to five weeks. We were the first cruise vessel to negotiate the Northwest Passage, from Newfoundland to Japan, 1984. I have made at least 35 cruises to Antarctica, and some 40

up the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers and about the same number to Baja California. It is a splendid job, and I often feel guilty at being paid, while our passengers are paying thousands of dollars to participate. Sometimes Quark charters Russian icebreakers for cruises in the Arctic and Antarctica, and the nuclear-powered vessels can generate over 70,000 Hp, cruising through two-meter pack ice at 7 knots. Fuel replacement is required about every four years.

I have now reached my 92nd birthday and have had to retire temporarily while recuperating from open-heart surgery four months ago, but hope to be back on board ship by mid-1998.

General Meeting - cont'd

(Continued from page

many recent meetings with politicians, elected officials, community groups, activists, non-activists, and others. Everywhere he has gone in Washington he has heard pride expressed in the Laboratory and the hope that its future will be as good as its past. On Long Island, he has received a consistent picture that in most cases people do appreciate what the Laboratory has accomplished and would like to see it continue to be a great force. He did sense disappointment that BNL hadn't really reached out enough or done enough to be part of Long Island or the community; or participate in their development or problems. Marburger said strongly that retired employees are very important to the Laboratory and can play an important role if they wish to do so.

Rapid changes have been and are continuing to take place in how science is funded and done. Congress is struggling to develop a rationale for continuing support for basic research. As the Laboratory struggles with new issues in adjusting to the new realities of funding and satisfying our customer (the government), it needs input. About half of the new management team are new to the Laboratory and they need to learn, too. The community of retired employees is an important mechanism for acquiring knowledge of the past. Their knowledge can be of real benefit to the Laboratory.

Marburger said he hopes that through this relatively new organization (BREA) the Lab can have better communications with the community of retirees. Improving lines of communications with retirees and finding ways for them to participate in the continued improvement of the laboratory will help assure its future success.

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In This Issue...

**AM I A MEMBER OF
BREA?**

Since we are new to the business of forming an organization, we stumble sometimes. We have had several inquiries about receiving membership checks. This brought to our attention the fact that we had no way of acknowledging your checks.

Next year we will issue membership cards to let you know we got your check. For now, if you get this newsletter, we regard you as a member.

FOB Membership Drive

The Friends of Brookhaven (FOB) is looking for members. Brea has worked closely with FOB in the past and endorse them.

As a nonprofit, independent of BNL, they can act where BNL or BREA cannot. For example, they are sponsoring advertising on local radio stations. If you are interested in more information, contact FOB, at: 1078 Rte. 112, Ste.282, Pt. Jefferson, NY 11776-3043