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# ◆ BREANews ◆

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Volume 2, Issue 2

October 30, 2000

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## The Editor's Column

Some months ago, Graham Campbell resigned as Editor of this newsletter since he planned to take a prolonged cruise in his sailboat. Consequently, Stu Rideout asked me to take over as Editor. Unfortunately, delays ensued: I had trouble adapting to *Microsoft Publisher*, and did not have enough articles to fill a four-page newsletter.

Those who worked at BNL for a long time might remember me: I edited the *BNL Computing Newsletter* and its various predecessors for seventeen years out of the thirty-five I worked in the Computing department, under its various titles.

The prime purpose of the BREANewsletter  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Organizational Changes

Yes, it has been a long time since the last newsletter. There have been some changes and we expect more changes. In September 1999, Graham Campbell, charter president of BREANews, departed Long Island on his boat headed for the Bahamas for the winter. He felt that for this extended period, BREANews should have a regular president, not just a vice-president acting in his place. Therefore, following discussions with Stu Rideout, BREANews vice-president, Graham prepared the way for his step down from office. Among other things, he recruited Allen Goland to represent BREANews on the BNL Community Advisory Council (a job Graham had handled personally), and Paul Michael to handle the BREANews web site. Graham's final BREANews action was to hand the presidency over to Stu Rideout.

It had not been Graham's intention to leave the

BREANews presidency in this manner, but circumstances worked against other ways when an election of officers, begun seven months earlier, failed to materialize. The start of the hurricane season in September dictated that he leave immediately, or delay his departure for another year.

## Election News

We have succeeded in putting together the following slate of candidates. There will be a separate mailing with more information and a ballot.

### President

Barney McAlary

### Vice President

Lew Jacobson

### Treasurer

Alyce Daly

### Secretary

Sonja Santos

## Death of BREANews Secretary

**Stan Seltzer**, Secretary of BREANews, died in December 1999. Stan was an important part of BREANews's activities. He has the profound gratitude of the BREANews officers and Steering Committee. To his wife, Reggie, we offer our heartfelt condolences. We miss Stan very much!

## Phone Problems

There have been recent problems with the BREANews telephone. IT WAS DISCONNECTED! Since the office is not normally staffed, we did not realize this for some time. In fact, we do not know when it was disconnected. We believe that everything is now back to normal, including the voice mail.

## BREA and BNL Information on the INTERNET

If you are an INTERNET user, there are several ways to keep informed about BREA and BNL activities.

Firstly, for general information, check out the BNL home page:

<http://www.bnl.gov>; there you can find links to Press Releases

([http://www.pubaf.bnl.gov/pr/news\\_releases.html](http://www.pubaf.bnl.gov/pr/news_releases.html)) and to "WHAT'S HOT"

(<http://www.bnl.gov/bnl-web/whatshot.html>).

Copies of the Brookhaven Bulletin are also available on line at <http://www.pubaf.bnl.gov/bulletin.html>. The classified ads are not included; but the pictures are in color and you don't have to wait for US mail delivery!

BREA has its own WEB page located at <http://www.brea.bnl.gov>. That also has links to other sites of interest to our members. If there is a topic that you like to see dis-

played on the site, an effort will be made to include it, or at least provide a link to where such information might be found. Check out the site and send comments and suggestions to the web page "caretaker," Paul Michael, at [pmichael@bnl.gov](mailto:pmichael@bnl.gov).

Another channel is the BREA "LIST PROC" mailing list. Postings to "bnl-announce-1" list are sent to the BREA list; therefore, both BREA and general BNL information are distributed via this list. That means that you get several email messages a day including such detail as on site concerts and road closings. Included is a bi-weekly communication from the Lab Director. In addition, once in while, there will be direct communications from BREA. If enough members would rather have a separate mailing list of BREA information only that can

be arranged; send an email to Paul Michael.

To subscribe to the existing mailing list, send an e-mail message to:

[listproc@bnl.gov](mailto:listproc@bnl.gov);

leave the title blank, and the text should contain a single line:

subscribe brea-1 your name  
(Use your real name, the system will extract your email address from the mail header.)

More information about a "LIST PROC" mailing list can be found on the web (of course) at <http://www.ccd.bnl.gov/mail/listproc>.

Once you are a member of the list you can send messages to everyone else. However, be careful when you reply to a message. If you use a simple "REPLY," your message goes to the entire list, not just the person who posts a message.

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ter is to inform retirees of events which may affect their pensions, health benefits, and their relationship to the Lab Community. However, I hope the publication can be more than that. There is nostalgia to consider; many of us have fond memories of significant events, triumphs, failures, and might-have-beens. Let's have a column of such reminiscences; I'm sure others would like to read them.

The BREA newsletter will only provide information, fun, and nostalgia if readers submit articles. As Editor, I can only print what's been submitted, I have no talent as a novelist!

Kurt Fuchel ([kfuchel@AOL.com](mailto:kfuchel@AOL.com))

## Regina Seltzer Running for Congress

Regina (Reggie) Seltzer is the widow of the late Stanley Seltzer (see page 1). When BREA was first formed, she was the attorney, without pay of course, who researched the issue of whether the new contractor operating the Laboratory could drop the retirees' insurance. This was the result of a varied career, eventually having her enter Law School at age 50 and becoming a mainly pro bono attorney for various environmental issues.

She had an earlier interlude in politics, serving on the Brookhaven Town Council in the 1970s and then on the Town Planning Board. What caused her to re-enter politics was a deep conviction that the incumbent Congressman from the First Congressional District, Mike Forbes, was an abysmal choice for the Democratic party. She believed that Forbes was an unreconstructed conservative Republican who had only changed his label, not his convictions.

Reggie tried to convince several local politicians to run a primary campaign against Forbes. When no one was willing to incur the wrath of the bosses, she decided that she would have to live up to

her principles and to enter the race herself. Of course, she had very little time to campaign and almost no funds. Being the underdog did not discourage her. She relied on the volunteer help of friends to collect signatures to have her qualify for being on the primary ballot, for collecting enough money to pay for postage for some mailings, and to fold letters, stuff and seal envelopes, etc.

None of the "political experts" gave her the slightest chance of winning. On September 12, 2000, the day of the primary election, a handful of friends spent the evening at her house in Bellport, awaiting the election results. Surprise -- almost from the beginning, Reggie was ahead of her opponent. It was interesting to observe the behavior of the media. As it became more and more obvious that the little 71-year old grandmother was the winner, the media, starting with the strictly local ones and eventually the national ones appeared at her home either in person or by phone interviews. After midnight, the dean of the Long Island Congressional delegation appeared at her house to congratulate her on her

victory.

Of course, Reggie's battle is not finished. At this writing, three weeks before the general election, the final outcome of Reggie's stand for principle is not known. But whether she wins or loses on November 7th, Reggie has demonstrated that grassroots politics is still alive and kicking in our country and that determined people can make a difference, even if they do not have vast amounts of money to spend. Too often, the public feels that there is no way of fighting the system, that the political bosses run everything. Reggie has shown that it isn't so.

### Forsyth's Travels

Eric Forsyth is off again on a long distance sailing adventure. This time he headed north to the Arctic. Now he is returning to the Caribbean and the US. You can follow his trip on the Web site:

<http://www.yachtfiona.com>



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## Prescription Plans

We originally planned an article on Medicare prescription plans for this newsletter. But, since this has become such a hot topic of the Presidential campaign, we simply cannot present an article that is up-to-date. We recommend the AARP Web site for keeping track of this issue. The relationship of these plans to the Lab benefits is a major concern of BREA.

## Who Has Access to e-mail?

By design, BREA is a watchdog on changes to the medical benefits BNL provides to its retired employees. We are concerned with communicating potential changes to you as rapidly as possible so that you have time to think about them, inform BREA of your position, and communicate it to Laboratory representatives.

Transmitting information to you via US mail is a lot of work, costly, and time-

consuming. At best, communicating with a large number of people via US mail is very slow. We are looking for a method that is faster and less costly.

One method readily available to us is **e-mail**. However, its use depends on the number of BREA members who have access to e-mail. If you have e-mail, please join the BREA mailing list (see page 2).

Those who don't have

e-mail may be interested in looking into e-mail devices other than computer systems that attach to your television or are separate small, independent units. These are now on the market at comparatively low cost. You may want to look into them.