

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 06/08/21

Minutes recorded by L. Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

Present: A. Moodenbaugh, J. Baum, C. Conrad, L. Fierabend, L Fishbone, A. and V. Gupta, M. Israel, L. Kouchinsky, J. Lemley, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, B. Siskind **Absent:** B. Lin

Officers 2020-2022: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Lillian Kouchinsky, Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Les Fishbone, Membership Secretary: Beth Lin, Newsletter Editor: Mona Rowe

1. Call to order. Arnie Moodenbaugh. Called to order at 1:05 pm.

2. Minutes. The minutes of the May meeting were recorded by Laura Miller. Minutes are being revised and approved by BREA officers and sent for publication on the BREA website.

Laura sent the revised minutes to the BREA officers before the meeting for a final review before approval. Move to approve: Lil, seconded by Laura, none opposed, approved by a show of hands.

3. Treasurer Report. Les Fishbone

Received May monthly statement, no activity in May. Account balances are the same as at the end of April. \$155 dues deposit made in June. Move to accept report made by: S. Shapiro, seconded by Cheryl. None opposed. Carried by show of hands.

4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin. Beth provided current membership list to A. Moodenbaugh. Arnie will translate the file to Open Office format and use that as basis for prod.

Beth isn't at meeting but gave a report to Arnie: we have 283 currently paid members, 253 with email addresses. Two checks since 5/11/21, total \$50, new member, Lynda Fitz.

Action: Arnie was to look at the membership file Beth sent him. He will translate it into open office format. He hopes to have it done by next month so that we will have an email file that we can use for unofficial communications without going through C. Carter.

Question: what happens when a member dies? Gene Premuzic had a lifetime membership and he died recently. Mona will carry it in the next issue of BREA news.

There are no continuing family members. Maybe send 1-2 months of newsletter in case a family member picks it up. Send condolence? We've not done that in the past. Decision is not to change. One reason we carry these names for a few months is that people get in touch with Mona or Beth and they can pass info on. Decision: For lifetime membership we will continue sending the newsletter while a spouse still lives. A spouse is entitled to

retiree benefits, which includes our newsletter. If both husband and wife have passed, stop after 1-2 newsletters. Note: These are paper copies. [*Beth heard from Gene Premuzic's daughter, who said she would be glad to continue receiving the newsletter at her home. Beth will update Gene's name/address with the daughter's information.*]
Spouse and retirees can read minutes through BREA website. When M. McKeown died, one of her daughters contacted Mona several times. The daughter was looking forward to seeing her mother's name on our website and in the newsletter. Beth said she lets the membership go for a couple of months.

Action: Arnie will talk to Christine about spousal benefits and other health care at the lab.

Action: Beth will get caught up on what we discussed today when she gets the minutes.

Action: Arnie will ask Christine that spousal info about BREA be given to them for next month's meeting. There are approximately 2500 lab retirees and we have about 300 members.

Action: Laura will send April and May minutes to Renee for posting

Motion to approve membership report by Mark, seconded by Les, approved by show of hands. None opposed.

5. Newsletter. M. Rowe will report on items to be covered in the July/August BREA Newsletter

Next issue: July-August. There will be a center spread on pages 2-3 of photos showing changes at Lab during pandemic. Most noticeable is the main gate sign as seen at dusk. The new logo isn't on it, it's just the name. Also, the entrance to the lab, which is a traffic circle now; the destruction of one of the apartment units; a new flagpole in front of bldg. 400; the people who print our newsletter who have moved into bldg. 555 (Chemistry Bldg.). She has asked NSLS-II if any beamlines came online during the pandemic and will include images if she gets them. She will query Roger Stoutenburgh about wildlife photos. She will carry a sidebar from R. Backofen about their digital archive (weaving Helga's name into it). It will have the President's message, etc. and a letter to the editor from Beth about the May-June issue. Shapiro suggested including an aerial photo, one with and one without the stack. Mona will ask if a photo of the campus without the stack exists. She suggested that Arnie carry a link to the HFBR stack demolition time-lapse video as this will not be effective in the printed newsletter. She will include a website reference for a time lapse video (this will only work with on-line newsletter, not the paper copies).

Question: Is there a place to 'opt out' of receiving a printed newsletter and receive only an on-line version? In the president's message there frequently is a reminder that the newsletter can be received digitally. Christine isn't sending an actual pdf, she sends a link each month.

Action: The BREA officers should think about sending out a physical printed newsletter annually, maybe when the annual vote for officers takes place, in the Nov-Dec issue.

Action: Arnie will talk to Christine to see how possible this is.

6. Community Advisory Council. Mark Israel will report on CAC activity, if any. The CAC met on May 13. Environmental update presentation addressed bldg. 650 demolition (in final stages). General clean up, removing HEPA filters, soil is being bagged and loaded onto rail cars and will be shipped out. Final reporting of final contaminants will be issued mid- to end of July. The next presentation was by Charles Fultz on the electron-ion collider. They have completed the infrastructure review, the design will take place 2022-2025 and construction will take about 10 years. NY state will fund about \$100 million of the structure, through the Empire State development core. There will be a readiness review of the infrastructure plan in early 2026. The third item was the NEPA policy review. Findings were of no significant impact on NEPA. Completed in March of 2021. No further studies required or necessary. The technical presentation was given by Daniel Olds, who oversees NSLS-II's Pair Distribution Function (PDF) beamline – artificial intelligence. How they use AI to ensure reinforcement learning. Plotting AI to data analysis is now being done throughout the country. PFAS discussion? Yes – monitoring continues. Design approval was received from Suffolk County and they will provide us with additional updates.

Action: If any updates are provided before the next CAC meeting in September, Mark will share them with us.

Mona: estimated budget for the EIC? No. Only \$\$ discussed were the numbers from NY state. Joint project between BNL and TJNAF. It appears that the funding will go through TJNAF and whatever we do for infrastructure, etc. will be reimbursed by them.

Action: Arnie will talk to Gwyn Williams about this.

The next CAC meeting is Sept. 9.

7. BNL operations continue in Phase 2, with gradual approach to normal operations. Retirees are not allowed on the BNL site, with only minor exceptions.

Action: Arnie will start talking to HR about retiree access when BNL is nearing the end of current on-site restrictions.

8. SelectQuoteSenior and Medicare Part B supplement / Part C Advantage sign-up. Arnie is communicating to HR some of the complications encountered by retirees when trying to use SelectQuoteSenior services.

Arnie communicated with HR and they are looking into it. HR seemed not well aware of complications occurring when people sign up for Part B and/or Part C. HR forgot or didn't know that they sent us off to subcontractors. Mona: when they moved us to SelectQuote, we became lost to HR. Lil: United Healthcare is still in the process of negotiating with NY and NJ as to what our rates will be from July to the end of the year. Difference in Part B supplement plans from state to state are that you can switch without being re-rated. Part C owners seems to be doing well.

Action: Arnie will continue talking to HR about this and will update us at future meetings.

9. Election of BREA officers. Every two years we elect officers, and our next election will be this fall. In the past we established a nominating committee that identified candidates and we can do so again. We welcome volunteers and willing nominees to

stand for election, including those who may be at locations off Long Island. Arnie, Les, Laura all agreed to continue in their current roles. Lil (VP) said she would like to back off, but if there's a bind, she will help out. Arnie thinks this could be a good position to for someone who is 'off island'. This could be good for the next issue. Mona and Beth will continue in their nonelected roles.

In our current setup, we can have officers 'off island', but the Treasurer would be better if local, although credit unions are 'interconnected' (CO OP) so it may be possible to work with them wherever one lives. The election will be held in November, the transition in January. Process to get candidates: nominating committee will come up with choices (maybe they contact people themselves). Need volunteers for VP, would also like to have volunteers for other positions.

Action: Arnie will talk to Liz Seubert.

Action: All retirees should look at the bylaws to learn the responsibilities of each position.

Do we want backup for newsletter editor and membership chair? The newsletter editor is basically desktop publishing. It works well for Mona because she can work completely remotely and knows a lot of people. The best part for her is that she gets lots of story ideas from the BREA meetings.

Action: Mona will talk offline to Mark and Les about credit unions interconnected around the country. Could be a topic for the newsletter as we have members all over.

Action: Mark will get someone from the branch operations area of TFCU to talk with Mona.

Action: Arnie will talk to Beth about the possibility of a backup.

Les: in January he paid \$247 for the printing and mailing of 240 pieces (newsletter). 25 copies of every issue to go HR for their use. HR puts them in the retiree packets and has them around when people come in and out. They also like to keep back copies to give to people.

Another article Mona would like to work on: going paperless in general. She asked if anyone is going paperless or has gone paperless.

10. Possibility of a luncheon in the Fall of 2021. Scheduling can only occur after BNL permits in-person BERA activities.

We are required to have BERA up and running before we can officially meet in person, and they are still officially suspended. Any official 'in person' meetings will wait for BERA approval including an official BREA luncheon.

11. New Business

J. Baum: International City of Peace: John is trying to get the Lab to become one of these cities. Anyone interested in promoting peace through the Lab should let him know. We get visitors from around the world, and we could plant 'peace poles' at the Lab and have unveilings, etc. We would be the first Lab to do this. There are 50 peace poles in the US, 300 in world. "International Cities of Peace", www.peacepoles.info is the local, Long Island site. They are trying to get 10 cities on LI to become cities of peace.

12. Adjournment: motion to adjourn made by Cheryl, seconded by Lillian, none opposed, passed by show of hands. Meeting adjourned at 2:23.

NEXT MEETING: July 13.