

## **BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 09/14/21**

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, R. Clark, D. Cox, J. Falco, L. Feierabend, A. Feldman, L. Fishbone, V. Ghosh, J. Guthry, R. Hackenburg, L. Hanson, M. Israel, B. Kinsey, L. Kouchinsky, J. Lemley, B. Lin, L. Miller, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind

**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  
Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm.

2. **Minutes of July meeting.** Laura Miller.

Laura sent the corrected July minutes to the board shortly before the meeting.

**Action:** Board members will review the revised minutes and email Laura their changes or their approval.

**Action:** Laura will make any additional changes if needed. When she has approval from the board, she will post the minutes on BREA's website.

3. **Treasurer's Report.** Les Fishbone (*Possibly to be revised by LF; see the November minutes when posted.*)

Les gave the July account report, including regular accounts, cds and transactions (dues payments and cost of mailing newsletters). No changes in August. A cd will come due at the end of October, and we will need to decide whether to do something different or leave it as is, in which case it will roll over. He will send the report to Arnie. Motion to accept by Laura, seconded by Lil. Carried with none opposed.

4. **Membership Report.** Beth Yu Lin.

In the last two months she received two membership dues. A total 285 have paid, and 256 have email. She updated the paid members list today. C. Carter told her Terry Kneitel passed away about a year ago, but she only heard about it recently. G. Tanguay's postal mail is being returned. He is a life member but hasn't updated his address although members said he still resides in the same city. Motion made to accept, seconded. None opposed.

5. **Membership retention.** Arnie Moodenbaugh. Once each year, consider mailing paper copies of the BREA News to encourage renewal of membership by members. Also contact lapsed members by mail with a letter encouraging renewal of membership. These steps could help maintain membership and keep rolls up to date. The next newsletter is the election issue, so we will send paper copies out. Les asked if we can send it to ALL retirees (~2500 retirees). This might get more people to join, plus fill

them in on the latest retiree news. Louise Hanson agrees, Shapiro agrees but thinks we should wait until the lab reopens. Lemley asked about sending email first, to save postage costs. Note: nothing official comes via email from BNL.

**Action:** Arnie will ask an HR contact at BNL if they will email or mail the newsletter to the full retiree list for BREA. If they won't, he'll concentrate on our formal members list since they are the most likely to rejoin.

**Action:** Beth has the records; she and Arnie will work on getting Arnie access to Beth's file.

**Action:** Beth will generate addresses of all current paid members to send to BNL for distribution.

**Action:** Beth will count returned ballots, both paper and email ballots.

**Action:** Arnie will draft a letter to all paid members.

#### 6. **CAC Meeting Report.** Mark Israel

Held Sept. 9. Administrative Update – Doon Gibbs and Jack Anderson No FY'22 budgetary information available yet. Approximately 950 employees working on site; about 50 visitors/guest researchers on site. Approximately 1800 employees continue to work from home. The new Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm visited and toured BNL for approximately 2 hours.

Environmental update by Jason Remien: Bldg. 650 remediation is complete. Grounds being seeded, waste is ready for shipment. Bldg. 705: HFBR is undergoing 'final status survey'. All waste is removed, in rail cars and ready to go. Soil samples are being taken by the Lab and contractors and will be independently verified by ORISE in Oak Ridge. PFAS update by Doug Paquette covered the water supply treatment systems being put in place by BNL water. PFAS and 1,4 dioxane characterization remediation is proceeding. With regard to the firehouse plume, additional wells are being added. A series of maps was displayed, showing where 12 wells are being continuously monitored.

Two PFAS water treatment systems have been mobilized. Testing offsite (houses south of the lab) for PFAS was not discussed in this presentation. Final presentation on energy storage and BNL's Interdisciplinary Science Department dealt with a discussion of grid modernization, energy efficiency and energy storage battery systems, the science of large scalable batteries, and the different kinds of batteries they are testing for large scale use. This is in line with NY state goals and targets – solar energy, offshore wind, and an overall grid distribution. You can contact BNL's Public Affairs office for the presentations. Also, the CAC Stakeholder Relations has a BNL website that can be accessed for agendas, meetings, and minutes: <https://www.bnl.gov/stakeholder/CAC.php>.

#### 7. **Newsletter Report.** Mona Rowe

Nov.-Dec. newsletter – this is the biannual newsletter that carries the slate of candidates for the upcoming two years. Mona presented the newsletter, which includes the slate and a ballot. At the bottom of the ballot she added a new line, providing name, signature and date for people to print out, sign and return. Discussions took place about anonymous voting and the possibility of voting more than once (via email and by paper ballot). Suggestion: keep the new line and remind people they can only vote once – via email or via postal/paper mail – and include instructions. Completed ballots can be returned by email also. Newsletter will be sent out at the end of October.

**Action:** responses will come to Beth. She has the membership list and will check the email addresses with the names on her list.

8. **BREA election discussion.** (A. Moodenbaugh) The Bylaws require an election of officers in December of odd numbered years. Members and associate Members may vote. Most of the current officers and appointees are willing to continue to serve. Vice President Lillian Kouchinsky has indicated her desire to step down. We'd like to thank Lillian for her service. Vinita Ghosh has indicated

that she is willing to stand for that position. Members, both local to Long Island and remote, are also encouraged to consider becoming a candidate for any position (Pres., Vice Pres., Treasurer, or Secy). See “Newsletter Report” above. It was suggested that a paper copy of the election issue of the November BREA News (containing ballot) be sent to all members; Arnie will look into this possibility. As stated earlier, the Membership Chair will receive both hard copy ballots and email ballots.

#### 9. **Retiree Health Benefits (SelectQuoteSenior).** A. Moodenbaugh

Arnie’s wife has a different plan than Arnie and she received notification of changes coming up in her drug plan this week, so people are getting information from their providers. Health benefits – what needs to be done through SelectQuoteSenior: go through them to sign up for any Medicare Advantage or Supplemental plan. If you don’t have any changes, you don’t need to do anything. New people can’t sign up for Plan “F”, but they can sign up for Plan “G,” which is similar. Mark has Plan G and doesn’t get billed for any copays? (In general, Plan G has no copays; Arnie and Spouse are regularly billed for the Plan G deductible). Note: cold calls that people are getting can be very deceiving because they say they are from Medicare. People should be very careful about who they listen to and take advice from. Jim said he received something from the Benefits Office in July and wondered who it applies to. Mark said some of it deals with people who may be on disability retirement, and people who retired before age 65, but for most retirees, it doesn’t affect them. The only difference Les could find from the previous year was a new page on COVID. Len suggested that we try to persuade Denise DiMeglio to highlight new changes when sending these out, to make it easier to locate them.

#### 10. **Charitable Donations.** Discuss potential donations by BREA.

A BREA member suggested a charitable donation project. Arnie suggested he bring it up himself at a future meeting. Steve S. asked for an update on TESLA donation of \$10k made in the past to replace TESLA laboratory windows. We were waiting to hear from them about pricing so he will follow up on it for the next meeting.

#### 11. **New Business**

Les took a trip to Idaho and was thinking of showing some photos of it. We might schedule the showing at the next meeting.

Our Zoom account has one license – for the one person who hosts the meeting calls. Arnie suggested two other people be added so that a meeting can go on using some other process. Current cost is \$14.99/mo and adding a second person would be the same additional amount. Or Arnie could designate a host and he would give login information to people.

**Action:** Arnie will send login information to the VP, Sec., and Treasurer.

Motion to adjourn: Don Sievers, seconded by Mark. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Next meeting is planned for Oct. 12 at 1:00 pm via zoom.