

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 10/12/21

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, A. Aronson, R. Clark, C. Conrad, C. Cox, A Feldman, L. Fishbone, A. Ghosh, V. Ghosh, B. Hackenburg, L. Hanson, M. Israel, L. Kouchinsky, B. Lin, J. Lemley, B. Leonhardt, L. Miller, S. Shapiro, B. Siskind, E. Sperry, G. Williams

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 1:04 pm.

2. Minutes of September meeting. Laura Miller

Responses received from board members were incorporated. Beth had questions about the following two Action Items:

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

Beth agrees to the need for a backup system but isn't sure she knows how to create one.

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

This seems easy because we have paid membership addresses, but Beth isn't sure how to make a list.

Action: Arnie and Beth will discuss the two action items Beth questioned.

Action: Arnie will advise Laura and the Board on the results of his discussion with Beth. Minutes approval is on hold until Laura receives update from Arnie.

Action: Laura will update the September minutes after she hear from Arnie.

Action: Laura will send the revised minutes to the Board for their approval.

3. Treasurer's Report. Les Fishbone

[Post-Meeting Addendum: Since Les received the October statement from TFCU a few hours after the meeting, he will amend the Treasurer's Report so that it is based on that statement; the grand total is then \$29,046.98, larger primarily because two September checks to BSA had not yet cleared.]

Les shared the Treasurer's Report with the members present. Grand total: 28451.22. First CD will come due at end of this month. For flexibility, he suggests half be moved to savings acct, and half stay in CD for one year. Mark wondered if cash needs would be that great. Arnie thinks the plan to move some funds from CD is reasonable. This CD gives a \$17 dividend/quarter. Another one comes due in February. Motion to accept report and treasurer's recommendation to move half of the maturing CD to either savings acct: Arnie made motion and Cheryl seconded. Motion passed with none opposed.

4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin

Number of paid members: 285. Number of current members with email: 256. Three members paid their dues, but they didn't have to, so it didn't change numbers. Beth sent 6 checks to Les today. Motion to accept report from Laura, seconded by Mark. Motion passed with none opposed.

5. Membership retention. Arnie Moodenbaugh

Beth sent a copy of the database, but Arnie has limited access to it, so he hasn't made a mailing list for wayward members yet.

6. CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel

The September CAC meeting will take place on Oct. 14 so there nothing to report today. These meetings are still virtual.

7. Newsletter report. Mona Rowe

Mona was unable to make today's meeting so her Newsletter Report was given by Arnie. She sent Arnie a report, which included useful reminders. The next newsletter will include a President's message, BREA election information, a ballot and ballot submission instructions. It will also include some travel reports by members and the last page will include requests for renewals at the end of the year. Next year, 2022 will be the 25th anniversary of BREA. Mona delved into archives and found a discussion/description of the first organizational meeting, which was held in the summer of 1997. Pretty impressive attendance - about 200 retirees, the DOE Source Evaluation Board, and representatives of the local DOE office and BNL management. Obituary: Marty Blume died last week, he was 89 years old. The family is working on an obituary.

8. BREA election discussion. A. Moodenbaugh. Discuss and confirm election procedures. Mail in and email voting with address and email addresses for submission of ballots.

We intend to send the November BREA News, including the election ballot, to all current members. We also expect the annual distribution of the newsletter will allow us to update our address list. We will follow the past election procedures. Beth will receive the ballots electronically and by U.S. mail. The paper ballot is sent so that we know which addresses are correct and which get returned. For this reason, the newsletter is sent out one time a year to every member. Arnie mentioned that if Vinita becomes our next Vice President, her email will be listed on BREA's website and warned her that she will receive occasional 'phishing' emails as a result.

Action: Vinita Ghosh will send Arnie her email address and it will be added to the BNL BREA website.

Action: Vinita and Arnie will talk offline about her email being exposed like this.

9. Retiree Health Benefits / SelectQuoteSenior. A. Moodenbaugh.

a) A reminder for retirees below 65 that open enrollment in BNLs medical plans is Nov. 3 to Nov. 15. b) Open enrollment for 65+ retirees Medicare begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. But DO NOT use the Medicare.gov website to enroll in or change Part B Medigap or Part C Advantage coverage. Be sure to use SelectQuoteSenior. c) Siskind said to watch for a Navia/BNL letter in the mail. That letter describes various scenarios in which you may need to contact Navia to initiate or continue distribution to you of the BNL health benefits for Medicare retirees. d) Mark Israel discussed the option of using "GoodRx" for prescription drugs. That program may provide savings for certain drugs that may have a high copay or may not be covered by your Part D plan. Andy Feldman agreed that GoodRx is sometimes a good alternative to Part D pricing. e) Unidentified member

said New York State program Elderly Pharm. Ins. Coverage EPIC 800-332-3742

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/epic/ is a supplement to Medicare Part D coverage for those with incomes below certain limits. Enrollment is available all year and allows a change to Part D provider if desired. You would need to choose mail order and standard drug store that are in NY state and accept both your Part D and EPIC coverages. It appears that the program might benefit those with Tier 3 and higher prescriptions, and those entering the doughnut hole. It may not cover drugs not in your chosen Part D plan formulary. f) Arup Ghosh suggested that we all should review our Part D coverage since many plans make major changes in premiums, copays, formulary, and providers each year. Arnie suggested that MyMedicare.gov has a useful tool to compare Part D coverages. A. Ghosh – we all should do research online before choosing a pharmacy plan. Pay attention to ‘tier’ level of drug each year because they can change.

10. WHPP program. A. Moodenbaugh. Program is restarting after suspension during COVID19. I received a request to revive the 2019 letter from then BREa president Steve Shapiro for circulation to retirees. We should consider asking WHPP representatives to make a presentation at a future BREa meeting.

The WHPP Worker Health Protection Program is restarting a program that provides for BNL employees and ex-employees a free occupational health evaluation. There is the possibility of financial coverage for illness that may be linked to workplace conditions. Arnie received a request from WHPP to update a letter (originally written by BREa ex-president Steve Shapiro) to be included in a WHPP letter promoting the program to be distributed to all BNL retirees.

Action: Arnie will rewrite the letter and inquire about the availability of WHPP medical providers in other parts of the US.

11. Charitable Donations. Discuss potential donations by BREa.

Nothing to report

12. New Business

Nothing to report

13. Les Fishbone gave a presentation of his summer travels in Idaho.

Motion to adjourn by Mark second by Ronnie. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Next meeting: November 9 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.