

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 12/14/21

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, C. Conrad, D. Cox, A. J. Feldman, L. Fishbone, V. Ghosh, L. Hanson, M. Hemley, M. Israel, L. Kouchinsky, J. Lemley, B. Lin, L. Miller, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, B. Siskind, J. Tuli, 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 1:02 pm.

2. Minutes of November meeting. Laura Miller.

Beth Lin couldn't complete her November action items because she was unable to find the Membership List on the BREA/BNL website. Mona Rowe thought she might know where to look for it.

Action: Mona will send Beth instructions to the link after the meeting.

Action: Les will send input to November minutes after today's meeting.

Action: Laura will send the board the revised November minutes and will post after they have been approved by a majority of the board

Louise Hanson motioned to approve the minutes, Mark Israel seconded, motion passed.

3. Treasurer's Report. Les Fishbone

Les presented the detailed Treasurer's Report at today's meeting as a screen share within Zoom. The grand total for the checking and savings accounts and the three certificates of deposit (CD) is \$28,560.68. One CD was partially redeemed, with the redemption going into the savings account. The TFCU paperwork for this revalued CD is in the signature process by BREA officers. Mark moved to accept the report, Gwyn Williams seconded. The report was accepted unanimously.

4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.

Busy month. Number of paid members: 289. Number members who sent dues since the November meeting: 32. Paid members with email: 260.

Vote for BREA Board:

36 by postal mail / 26 by email: 62 total as of today. Arnie suggested we accept this as our final vote.

Totals for each position:

President: A. Moodenbaugh 62

Vice President: V. Ghosh 62

Treasurer: L. Fishbone 62

Secretary: L. Miller 62

Six of the mailings were returned to BNL as undelivered.

Motion to accept the report by Laura, seconded by Mark. Unanimous acceptance on Membership Report.

Action: Arnie will send emails to those who had envelopes marked undelivered to be sure they are around and interested in continuing their membership.

Election report: Motion to accept this report was made by Steve Shapiro, seconded by Dave Cox, motion passed unanimously.

5. **CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel**

Oct. 14: Jason Remien provided information about the 2020 Site Environmental Report and gave an overview. There are two volumes to the report: Volume 1 is 9 chapters. Volume 2 focuses on more detail on groundwater status. For additional info: contact Jason's office to get a printed copy. Copy is available on CAC site at BNL's website.

Also, there was an interesting presentation on actinium 225. Discussed overall program at lab and mission of program. Discussed BLIP, linear isotope producer. Primary focus was about how Actinium-225 and "daughter," Bismuth-213, are powerful isotopes for treatments of various cancers.

Last presentation: Conrad Sherman from the EPA presented on the application/evaluation process for the application the lab is completing for the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS), which is part of the Clean Air Act, to cover the hot cells in bldg. 801.

Nov. 10: Bill Dorsch, Manager, Groundwater Protection Group presented the 2021 CERCLA (Superfund for environmental contamination) 5-year review, update and status of groundwater cleanup. These reviews are needed when hazardous substances remain on site that are above levels that permit unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The report is submitted to regulators in June; comments are received from NYSDEC in August; responses to these comments are issued in September; and final EPA technical comments are received in October. The Laboratory's responses are now being prepared. There have been five interim reviews since the 2016 review: Progress since the 2016 review include HFBR stack removal, installation of six new groundwater extraction wells, radiological-contaminated soil removal. There will be an update on groundwater in March or April.

Science presentation: M. Jenson, Meteorologist in the BNL Environmental and Climate Sciences Department, addressed the question of atmospheric conditions – do they make storms stronger? They are monitoring and then simulating how aerosols interact with clouds and storms in the Urban-Coastal area of Houston, Texas. He provided many maps and graphs. Further information, including the presentation, can be found on the CAC website.

Jean Jordan Sweet: CAC sent an email notification in December, of an article that can be found in the newsroom: Jean Jordan Sweet is retiring from IBM and her role at NSLS-II. However, she will be continuing to do experiments as a consultant.

Action: Invite Jean to speak at a future meeting. [Jean is not a BNL retiree and cannot be a member of BREA.]

The next CAC meeting will be in March (the current schedule is 3 months on, 3 months off).

Of interest:

BNL received an \$8 million grant for batteries research.

Lab announced new CFO: Susan McKeon. She is featured on the BNL website:

[Brookhaven National Laboratory](#).

6. Newsletter Report. Mona Rowe

The upcoming newsletter will have an article about the top 10 scientific achievements of 2021. Mona has a draft copy from Karen McNulty Walsh. Note: there are 10 categories. Arnie will announce board elections in the President's Message. Other articles: 2021 is showing us how COVID or some variant will always be around and how we are coping with it. Some examples: Vinita Ghosh on dancing, Leonard Mausner playing French horn.

Action: Dec. 25: Deadline for Mona to receive Arnie's President's message.

7. **BREA election.** Beth Lin announced the results of the BREA election of officers. The newly elected officers (anticipated new Vice President) will take office at the January 11, 2022 meeting. See #4, Membership Report, above, for details.

8. Class action suit against ZOOM.

This settlement can provide compensation of \$15 for ZOOM meeting attendees and a minimum of \$25 to account holders. Deadline to file is March 5, 2022.

The issue was inadequate security of the Zoom website for users. Each BREA member can receive \$15 if you show an email meeting invitation that you received between 2016 and July of 2021. If you originate Zoom meetings, you can get 15% of the cost of the amount you paid over the eligible period (\$30 for BREA for example). If you run Zoom meetings, you are eligible for compensation. In the announcement that went out for today's meeting, an email address was provided. Some people who never initiated a Zoom meeting received the email, others who have initiated Zoom meetings have not. Question of whether this is a scam was not known at the time of the meeting.

Action: Arnie will file for BREA, anticipating a settlement of about \$30.

9. Charitable donations by BREA.

Consider possible donations to charities. BREA has contributed to a Long Island food bank in the last two years. Last winter BREA also contributed to the BNL Long Island United Way campaign. Suggestions are welcome.

BREA bylaws suggest that our contributions be local or oriented toward the BNL community. United Way – as of this meeting, BNL hasn't announced their annual drive for 2021 yet. Louise Hanson: There is a continuation of hunger in the area. Since COVID has started, her daughter's organization has given out 4.7 million meals. And it's continuing, this is still a real problem on LI. Consider contributions to LI Island Harvest / Inn? Consideration of United Way? Contributing to United Way be good, it helps solidify our 'stature' at BNL. United Way has a range of charities and people can designate their contribution go to specific areas.

BREA donated to the food bank LI Cares in May of 2020 and (based on checks written December 31, 2020) to LI Cares and to BNL's United Way campaign early in 2021.

Hunger is the most important, but what about the two children's hospitals?

Any more details about the TESLA Science Center?

Action: Steve will try to find some information about Tesla's Science Center and provide it at the next meeting.

Action: Mona will talk to CEGPA.

Action: We will decide at next meeting how much and to whom we will contribute.

10. **Retiree Health Benefits / SelectQuoteSenior.** You can share your experience with SelectQuoteSenior regarding the just ended open enrollment period. Specific experience with a particular insurance or advantage program provider may be less useful since plans and prices vary regionally. United Health Care premium increases are six months off schedule with SSA. Medicare didn't publish all the rates of the supplements that are offered. You must go to each offeror or go to SQS for availability and pricing for.
 - a. **Action:** Send Arnie any unusual dealings you had recently with SelectQuoteSenior, etc.

11. **WHPP (Worker Health) program.** A. Moodenbaugh. On behalf of BREA, I provided a signed letter to the local WHPP manager to be included in their correspondence to retirees eligible for health evaluation and potential compensation. Arnie wrote a letter, using our new logo, for the WHPP to include in their next mailing. They will include his letter with their mailings to BNL retirees. It includes information that the program is available to people who have moved out of the BNL area.

12. **Assurance of continuity for BREA activities and records.** We do not now have a plan for backup of our records. With the holiday season Arnie doesn't anticipate much immediate progress, but we should start making plans this spring.

Action: we need to plan ways to have backups for our records.

Action: Arnie will work with Les on monthly bank statements, and with Beth to get a better knowledge of the database that Beth uses.

13. **New Business**
 - a. Les has received a lot of spam email recently, supposedly from reputable businesses. Is this a new phenomenon or is it just him? Mona will contact Les about this to discuss in a future newsletter. AJ Feldman gets 15-20 calls a day. Mark gets emails all the time about Medicare and also extended warranties for a car.
 - b. Brookhaven lectures are continuing, the next one is tomorrow. Garth Williams will speak on NSLS-II
 - c. Malcolm Howells passed away recently, aged 79.

Cheryl Conrad moved to adjourn, Gwyn seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Next meeting: January 11 at 1:00 via Zoom.