

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 03/08/2022

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, C. Conrad, L. Fishbone, A. Ghosh, V. Ghosh, L. Hanson, M. Israel, J. Lemley, B. Lin, L. Miller, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, L. Weitzner, E. Sperry

Officers 2022-2024: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Vinita Ghosh, Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Les Fishbone, Membership Chair: Beth Lin, Newsletter Editor: Mona Rowe

1. Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh

Meeting called to order at 1:03 pm.

2. Minutes of the Feb. 8 BREA meeting. Laura Miller

Changes: (1) Mark Israel's name will be added to the February minutes. (2) Last page, item 9: Action Item: Arnie will contact Rene Warno [not Warner].

Mark motioned to approve as corrected, Arnie agreed. Passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report. Les Fishbone

Les presented a detailed Treasurer's Report as a screen share within Zoom. The grand total for the checking and savings accounts and the three certificates of deposit (CD) is \$26860.00. Mark motioned to accept Treasurer's Report, Cheryl Conrad seconded, passed unanimously.

A request was made at the February meeting that BREA make sustainable charitable contributions. Les provided the following estimates for discussion today. Annual income comes primarily from membership fees. Main expenses are newsletter printings at about \$1350 and incidental fees of about \$200. We accumulate about \$450 per year. Sustainable giving estimates if we keep a minimum balance of \$8000 are: donating \$1000 per year would suffice for 34 years; \$2000 would be enough for 12 years. Steve Shapiro reminded us that we committed to contribute approximately \$10k to the Tesla Science Center, reducing our balance by \$10k.

There was discussion about donating funds to a Ukrainian relief organization. A decision was made to donate to two organizations: Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF (both organizations say less than 3% of donations goes to administrative costs).

Les made a motion to send \$500 each to UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders, specifying these funds be used for Ukrainian relief. Cheryl Conrad seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Note: these donations are not part of the continuing donation discussed above.

Action: Les will send Arnie checks for each donation.

Action: Arnie will write a letter to each organization and send the donations.

Action: Arnie will discuss these donations in his President's message and will try to name a few people at the lab who are affected by the Ukrainian situation.

Action: Arnie will include a discussion of sustainable contributions on the April meeting agenda.

The Science Education Building at Discovery Park will need significant donations. Members are asked to think about a BREA contribution.

4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin

265 current paid members. Number with emails is 240. Since last meeting (Feb. 8) until today she has received 6 dues from members. Last year at this time (March 9) we had 273 paid members. Motion to accept Membership Report by Laura, seconded by Mark. Approved unanimously.

Membership is declining, for several reasons. There are more people leaving BNL who do not necessarily meet requirements to join BREA. And not as many people are joining.

Beth noted that one person, who has been a member for years, wasn't able to pay the annual fee. Beth noted that this person has paid much more over the course of the years than the cost of a life membership would have been.

Action: Think about changing membership rules so that if someone has paid for years and then has problems continuing to pay the annual fee, we have the option of giving them a life membership and exempting them from further payments.

5. CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel

The next meeting is Thursday, March 10. Mark thinks there will be some discussion of the announcement of Gibbs, Tribble and Anderson retiring.

6. Newsletter Report. Mona Rowe

Topics in the next issue (May/June) will include computer and other types of scams plus a summary of the worker compensation program, with the resumption of medical exams through Queens College.

7. BNL operations. Construction to begin at "Discovery Park" (site outside the front gate)

Resumption of operations remains in Phase 2. The current status can be found at <https://www.bnl.gov/covid19/>. There is no expectation for retirees to be allowed on site for some time, but BNL is opening Monday, March 14 for employees. Currently, retirees and guests are being deferred to a later date.

Construction is beginning on Discovery Park. Artist's concept can be found online at <https://discoverypark.bnl.gov/>.

Zoom issues: Arnie would like to distribute the login information so someone else can start a meeting when he isn't available. But Zoom sees that the person is using a new device and sends a confirmation to Arnie's email.

Action: Arnie will work with Vinita to try to get her access so she can start or schedule a meeting in Arnie's absence.

8. Potential Speakers at future meetings.

Cathy Cutler's office said she is available to give a presentation at our April meeting. She will discuss isotope production and will try to coordinate with L. Mausner.

Jean Sweet: she has agreed to give a presentation. She is still working at BNL via IBM.

Mark suggested getting an update of the electron ion collider. Also, maybe Ken White to talk about Discovery Park.

Action: Arnie will coordinate with Leonard Mausner and Cathy Cutler.

9. New Business.

Annual luncheon in June? Things are becoming more normal, but June is too soon. Maybe in the fall. In the past, minimum attendance was 75 people. This number could be difficult, so it might be more expensive. Suggestion: try to hold it at BNL.

Action: Arnie will add this to the April meeting agenda.

Action: Arnie will include a statement asking people to express their interest in a luncheon.

Don Sievers announced that as of this morning you can get four more free Covid tests from the government. To apply for four more tests, free of charge: [How to Get Another Round of Free COVID-19 Tests From the Government | Health.com](#). Note that these tests have an expiration date.

Travelers to other countries should check with the country they are visiting to find out what that country's current Covid restrictions are and what a person needs to do to meet those requirements.

Motion to adjourn by Mark Israel, seconded by Don Sievers. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

The next meeting will be April 12 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.