

## **BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 10/10/2022**

Minutes recorded by L. Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BREA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

**Present:** A. Moodenbaugh, R. Clark, D. Cox, A.J. Feldman, L. Feierabend, L. Fishbone, A. Ghosh, V. Ghosh, R. Hackenburg, J. Hurst, M Israel, J. Lemley, B. Leonhardt, B. Lin, L. Miller, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, 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 at 1:01 pm Arnie Moodenbaugh
2. Minutes of September meeting. Laura Miller  
Revised minutes of the September meeting were sent to the BREA Board for review and final approval.  
**Action:** Respond to Laura with corrections to the minutes within a week (by 10/17/22).
3. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin  
Number of current members paid members: 276  
Number of current members with E-mail: 251  
Beth sent 8 checks to Les Fishbone four days ago.  
Beth received names from C. Carter of people whose newsletters were returned. They are all current members, but their mailing address is no longer correct.  
Laura motioned to approve the membership report, none opposed, motion carried.
4. CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel  
The last meeting was held September 8, next one is Oct. 13.  
A general overview was given by R. Tribble. Nothing was said about the 18-month period after which Gibbs, Anderson and Tribble will be stepping down. Currently, the Lab has half its staff coming on site. The Lab is operating at a medium level of Covid alert with occasional spikes periodically. New initiative: use hydrogen in place of natural gas. Consortium is looking at domestic chip production, and infrastructure funding for e-RHIC collider was included in funding request.  
There was an update on the D&D of the medical research reactor stack. It is being handled in a similar way as was done with the HFBR stack. All contaminants were below detectable limits. Right now, the low-level waste is waiting for shipment sometime in October.  
Update on PFAS and its treatment given by D. Paquette and V. Rancaniello. Details can be found in the minutes from the CAC meeting on the CAC website ([BNL | Community Advisory Council](#)). So far, none of the plumes have moved offsite and the current plan is to capture the plumes before they do move offsite.  
J. Shanklin gave a very good presentation on B. Studier's research on the T7 system and how it related to the Covid vaccine. He spoke in plain terms that the nonprofessional could

understand, describing how the T7 system is very similar to the way light bulbs work – genes are turned on and off by signals that are located in RNA. He talked a little about how Covid wreaks havoc on the human lungs. Summary: during what started off as a basic science research project, Bill made an astute observation that helped him solve how to make viral RNA and proteins for study by his group at BNL. The application of his discoveries by Moderna and Pfizer in making the COVID-19 vaccine saved 140k deaths in the USA and over \$900B in healthcare costs in first 5 months of 2020, (global estimates are approximately 1.1M lives and 10M hospitalizations).

Presentations are posted on CAC website: <https://www.bnl.gov/stakeholder/cac.php>.

**Action:** Mark will ask Doug Paquette to ask for a response about the PFAS that's been found and if it has come from BNL.

**Action:** Mona will do an update on PFAS in an upcoming newsletter.

5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe  
S. Perino is one of four retirees in the article called Home for the Holidays in the November/December issue (retirees are: E. Kaplan and S. Perino in VA, and two on LI: G. Cisco and S. Mukherji). Upcoming newsletter issues will include scientific notables and updates on Covid. Mona still hears from people who will not go to restaurants, etc. because of Covid fears. She will provide another promo of Crease's talk and will try to get the issue out before Nov. 1 because Crease and Bond will attend, and Bond will speak at our November meeting.  
**Action:** Arnie will submit his President's message for the upcoming newsletter by Oct. 18.
6. 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 \$25,806.36. First CD is coming due Nov. 1 and Les recommended that it be renewed. Mark Israel motioned to accept, Don Sievers seconded, motion passed unanimously.  
**Action:** Arnie will send Les an invoice from Zoom that Arnie paid last January for the annual subscription.
7. Status of BNL.  
BNL is opening, slowly. Arnie has been talking to C. Carter about holding BREA meetings at BNL although he's not sure how it will work out. There will need to be an option for a Zoom or other type of online presentation  
**Action:** Arnie will contact C. Carter to begin discussions about arranging in-person meetings.
8. Speakers for BREA Zoom meetings.  
Peter Bond is scheduled for the November 8 BREA meeting to discuss the politics and science associated with the closing of the BNL HFBR nuclear reactor. The talk should be informative and interesting. The presentation relates to the publication of the upcoming book, "The Leak" by Robert Crease with Peter Bond. Note that the scheduled Nov. 8 BREA meeting date is also Election Day. Plan ahead to avoid possible schedule conflicts. Peter will be the first person on the agenda and will talk at 1:00. Maybe 30-45 minutes, but the question/ period may dwarf the presentation time.
9. Open enrollment for Medicare Part B supplements (Medigap), Part C (Advantage), and Part D (drug coverage) begins Oct. 15, ends Dec. 7.  
REMEMBER: If you need to change any part of your plan other than your drug plan, you

**must** call SelectQuote. There isn't much contact information, etc. on the website.

**Also:** Be sure you are on the correct website because the government's Medicare site, [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), isn't always the first option provided to you when you do an online search. If you go through an Advantage plan that has a drug plan, you must use SelectQuote. If you cancel your Medigap Policy and go to Medicare Advantage, you also must use SelectQuote. It was mentioned that the Medicare adjustment will decrease by a few dollars a month. SelectQuoteSenior contact info is 1-(866) 479-8317, then press "1".

10. New Business

Mona received an email from J. Froelich. She is searching for 3 people for their HRAs: (1) Mary Jane Bartholomew: Ed Sperry knows her and will send an email to Mona ([msrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com)). (2) Marilyn Johnson; (3) Barbara Gaer: Laura will contact someone she thinks knows Barbara and update Mona.

**Action:** Beth will check the membership records and work with Mona on what she finds.

A member with AARP UHC Part B supplemental coverage (Medigap) asked if Medigap coverage would start covering eye care and dental care. Arnie responded that there is no plan to have Medigap cover either of them. Advertising for such coverage concerns some Advantage plans.

Les Fishbone went to the Long Island Museum to see the BNL exhibit and said it was worth seeing, but it ends this weekend. It is free to current and former BNL staff if they show a BNL badge.

Les has been trying to get rid of all his physics books without throwing them away. He has given some to Stony Brook University and has inquired about shipping to Africa, etc. It occurred to him that we have thousands of dollars in our bank accounts. Maybe we could spend some money to ship to Africa. If we think this is an idea worth pursuing, he will check with BNL's Office of Educational Programs. Linda Feierabend suggested he contact Ketevi Assamagan ([Ketevi@bnl.gov](mailto:Ketevi@bnl.gov)), Physics Dept, who is the director of the South African School of Fundamental Physics and Applications (ASP). Linda suggested Les start with him, and then if still needed, contact Noel and Ken.

**Action:** Les will investigate the costs.

Les will contact K. Assamagan, Noel Blackburn and Ken White.

Mona suggested we think about things we might do that BSA will find useful for the community. We want to be sure that the retiree association is seen as an asset to BSA.

This is Breast Cancer Month. Walk this Sunday at Jones Beach if anyone is interested. TCFU is one of the sponsors. It's also the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TCFU.

M. Israel motioned to adjourn, E. Sperry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

The next BREA meeting will be held Nov. 8 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.