

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 09/13/2022

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, R. Bakofen, C. Conrad, D. Cox, Ronnie J. Falco, A. J. Feldman, L. Feierabend, L. Fishbone, V. Ghosh, R. Hackenburg, L. Hanson, L. Kouchinsky, J. Lemley, W. Leonhardt, D. Lowenstein, E. Lowenstein, C. Messana, L. Miller, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, E. Sperry, G. Williams

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 1:03 Arnie Moodenbaugh

2. Minutes of July meeting. Laura Miller.

Action Item Laura had from the July meeting to correct the June minutes to show the number of paid members is 269 has been done.

Laura received Les's suggested edits to the July meeting's minutes and sent the revised minute, including edits from Mark Israel and Les, to the Board for approval today.

Approval of July minutes: motion to approve made by A. Moodenbaugh, passed unanimously

Board was asked why minutes are approved at General Meeting and why only the Executive Board can review and approve. The answer is the Board can't post drafts on BREA's website due to BNL staffing issues. It was deemed more efficient to email to board and get edits and final approval (hopefully) at each next meeting.

3. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.

Beth wasn't at today's meeting but provided the following membership report via email after the meeting:

Number of current members paid members: 275

Number of current members with E mail: 250

Number of members who sent dues since last meeting: 3

4. Newsletter. Mona Rowe

The theme of the next newsletter is Home for the Holidays: text and pictures from people who live where they do because family lives there. She is working with Gretchen Cisco, Swapna Mukherji and Ed Kaplan. She is looking for another male, she may ask Derek Lowenstein because he's in Texas.

Reminder: Crease's book about BNL is coming out, and both Bond and Crease will be at the November BREA meeting to discuss book.

Vinita Ghosh reminder: there will be a feature on dancing.

Mona says HR is very helpful, especially Melissa and Jennifer. They are very persistent. Arnie: Gretchen said she would be happy to work with Mona, Vinita and Arnie to approach HR to consider reducing the severity of the penalty of losing lifetime HRA benefits if they don't sign up through SelectQuote. Arnie noted that HR is beginning to recognize that it isn't easy to get reliable information on the various health insurance options available.

Arnie thanked Mona and HR personnel for their efforts on our behalf.

Question about the monthly maximum we can receive. Confirmed that it currently is \$180 monthly. Next year it will be the fourth year of the previous \$10 increase. This coming year would be a good time to ask for another increase.

Action: Mona will need a lot of pictures of dancers for the feature on dancing that Venita and possibly others will provide.

Action: Mona plans to reach out to HR with a slate of issues and will include the suggestion of an increase. She thinks this might be better done face-to-face with R. Lincoln.

5. 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 \$25788.46. Arnie motioned to accept, C. Conrad seconded, motion passed unanimously.

6. Status of BNL. The BNL / BERA webpages contain the most up-to-date information.

On-site BREA meetings will be reconsidered as BNL returns to normal operation.

Look at BNL web pages for information, although they are scattered and not always easy to find. Always bring a mask with you to the Lab just in case someone asks you to use one. Mask requirements may change based on status of vaccinations, so check BNL's website before going there. The pool and gym have been opened to retirees and information can be found on the website.

C. Messana has been working in HR's administrative pool for temporary work and has been on site quite a bit. She has had to wear a mask while on site but no proof of vaccination is required at this time. Follow the rules that are stated for guests; your active badge should get you in.

The weight room and pool are now available to retirees during all posted hours. At present, indoor activities in the gym areas require a mask. Requirements and hours are subject to change. Remember, proof of health insurance may need to be shown.

D. Sievers: Resumption of operations: as of 8/26 the onsite facial covering requirements have been suspended...regardless of an individual's vaccination status.

Falco: If BNL follows Suffolk County community levels, it may float back and forth. Suffolk County announcements come out near the end of each month, and the CDC website usually posts on a Thursday. Consensus seems to be that if you've had Covid, you should wait 2-4 months before getting the booster.

7. Follow-up to the July BREA meeting presentation about WHPP worker health protection program.
Arnie is writing thank you letters to Jonathan Corbin and Laura Buscemi-Robles for their presentation. Are there any additional discussions or outstanding issues concerning WHPP? Arnie has not yet transmitted to BNL the slides from the presentation for posting on the BNL/BREA webpages because he needs to put them in a place where they won't be 'lost'. Maybe have a link from the BREA main page to presentations.

Action: Arnie will write one letter of appreciation to Corbin and Buscemi-Robles.

Action: Arnie will talk to the person who posts our minutes and takes care of our website to see about posting presentations from our meetings.

8. Speakers for BREA Zoom meetings and plans to go back to meeting on site. Maybe hold in-person meeting at the Lab in November with Peter Bond and Bob Crease. Potential issue: remote members might be frozen out. Also, we might have to use Microsoft Teams. Possibly also have it as a Zoom meeting. A concern is that we would have to use a BNL computer, and Chris Carter is not enthusiastic about the idea because of staffing issues considering the support that an on-site meeting would need.

Action: Arnie will talk to C. Carter about holding BREA meetings on site that will also allow off-site retirees to participate via an internet connection.

Reminder of speakers: Jean Jordan-Sweet.

Suggestion: Discovery Park discussion. Sievers has tried to contact M. Fallier, without success.

Action: Don S. will talk to P. Carradonna to see who she would suggest. Don might also check with K. Nasta.

9. BREA activities. Discuss potential luncheon or other event for Long Island residents.
A complication is that we probably won't have as large a contingent as we've had in the past. We need to find a place where a smaller group could meet. E. Sperry looked at Drifters: they can accommodate about 50 people but it might be more expensive. S. Shapiro thinks we should wait until we can meet on site before we discuss anything about a luncheon.

Action: Arnie will look at other restaurants in the area.

Action: E. Sperry will talk to the manager at Drifters, also J&Rs in Calverton.

10. New Business

Les: In April his 10-year-old Apple computer failed and he couldn't reboot it. He talked to several Apple techs, including at Smith Haven Mall, but had to get a new computer. He had purchased a back-up hard drive long before and every week or so backed up his computer's drive. He's been able to reload documents and pictures, and no doubt almost everything. Reminder: be sure to back up your computer regularly!

S. Shapiro and D. Sievers: Suggest iCloud for Apple/Macintosh backup. Cost is \$2.99/mo and it backs up everything on an Apple brand computer.

Sievers: Purchased a computer chair with wheels. Cheap computer chairs with wheels on bottom can fly out from under a person, causing falls and possible injuries.

Motion to adjourn by D. Sievers, seconded by E. Sperry. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:52.

Next meeting will be by Zoom on October 11th at 1:00 pm.