

## **BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 1/10/2023**

Minutes recorded by M. Rowe and A. Moodenbaugh

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

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

**Present:** G. Cisco, C. Conrad, D. Cox, S. Duffin, R. Evans, L. Feierabend, A.J. Feldman, L. Fishbone, A. Ghosh, V. Ghosh, R. Hackenburg, L. Hanson, P. Haustein, B. Lin, S. McCorkle, A. Moodenbaugh, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, G. Williams

1. Call to order: 1:06 p.m. by A. Moodenbaugh

2. Minutes: A. Moodenbaugh

Laura is away and has computer troubles, so Mona and Arnie will take the minutes for this meeting. Minutes for recent meetings are not yet finalized.

3. Membership: B. Lin

Current paid members: 246

Those w/ email addresses: 226

Sent dues to renew: 13

Joining: 1

Discussion about membership when a retiree passes: Gene Premuzic had a life-time membership and his daughter asked to receive the hardcopy of the newsletter when he died. Arnie noted that the newsletter is available online and that we can advise family members of that.

*Action: Arnie and Beth will talk about making changes to the database to account for the passing of members.*

4. Newsletter: M. Rowe

Mona said that BNL is no longer doing a “top 10 in science” press release to reflect on the past year. So instead of a science wrap-up for 2022, she may

feature something else for the March/April 2023 issue BREA News. Possible topics: Updates on Discovery Park, on-site changes or environmental cleanup.

*Action: Don will contact Peggy Caradonna, Modernization Project Office, to get a name for Mona for a Discovery Park article.*

#### 5. Treasurer's report: L. Fishbone

Les presented details as a screen share within Zoom. The grand total for the checking and savings accounts and the three certificates of deposit (CD) is \$26,043.13. At the suggestion of Mark Israel during a previous BREA meeting, Les looked into a Teacher's Federal Credit Union 16-month CD with an APY (annual percentage yield) of 4.25%. He recommended taking \$5,000 from BREA savings and opening a new CD. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

*Action: Les will open for BREA a new TFCU CD with a balance of \$5,000.*

#### 6. Recycling Physics Books

Les thanked Linda for her suggestion months ago at a BREA meeting to contact BNL physicist Ketevi Assamagan, who founded the African School of Physics. Les then summarized what he has learned about shipping remaining cartons of his old physics books to Assamagan's next physics school in South Africa, in September 2023 (Ketevi brought some books himself to the December 2022 meeting). Discussion followed: Arnie thinks that if the Lab is using this shipper, then we have more confidence that the shipments will succeed. Linda: Suggested reaching out to Office of Educational Programs for help. Gretchen added that Les could contact Noel Blackburn, Chief Diversity Officer. Sean McCorkle: What is cost of a physics textbook shipped by Amazon to South Africa? He also pointed out that some books could be available online. Mona questioned BREA's continued involvement in shipping used science books around the world, saying, "How will this end?" Arnie said, "Let's leave it at this for now; Les will continue his effort."

#### 7. Brookhaven Veteran's Association:

Linda introduced Sue and Bob Duffin, who had joined the meeting to ask BREA for support in mailing boxes to family members overseas. BVA ships once a month, using USPS flat-rate boxes at \$22/each (the boxes include newspapers, toiletries, snacks and sauces) to an APO location in the U.S. Sue said the group is no longer able to do fund-raisers on the BNL site; only

events for United Way are permitted. Les asked how much the group needs from BSA. Sue said \$100/month would keep them keep them afloat.

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It was moved and seconded that BREA provide \$600.00 to Adopt-a-Platoon (a BNL Veteran's Assn. BVA activity) for costs associated with supplying service members stationed overseas with packages of food and other items. It was estimated that this would provide for about six months shipping costs.

*Action: Treasurer Les Fishbone will issue a check to Adopt-a-Platoon.*

8. Future speakers. Steve Shapiro mentioned that Dr. Harilou (?) could discuss the Worker Health Protection Program and the DOE compensation program.

*Action: Arnie M. will contact Jean Jordan-Sweet about the possibility of speaking to the BERA membership at a meeting and explore some additional possible speakers.*

9. Covid Status: BNL increased COVID measures to coincide with Suffolk County status of high risk of transmission.

*Action: Arnie M. will discuss with Christine Carter the path ahead to have future hybrid ZOOM meetings at BNL when threat level falls.*

10. Arnie M. noted that there were volunteer opportunities for retirees living on Long Island to take part in the Science Bowl competition coming up in early February.

11. Comments on Medicare open enrollment. None.

Meeting was adjourned.