

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 02/14/2023

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, D. Cox, S. Duffy, L. Feierabend, L. Fishbone, A. Ghosh, V. Ghosh, R. Hackenburg, L. Hanson, J. Hurst, M. Israel, B. Leonhardt, S. McCorkle, L. Miller, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, 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. Arnie Moodenbaugh
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm
2. Minutes of January and December meetings. Laura Miller
 - a. December minutes came from Vinita. No CAC in December. Need Mona to finalize January Minutes
 - i. **Action:** Laura will send December, January, and February Minutes for the March meeting to the BREA board.
3. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.
 - a. *Beth was unable to attend the meeting, but emailed the following report a few days later:*
 - i. Current paid members: 249
 - ii. Current members with email: 229
 - iii. Number of members who sent dues since the January meeting: 5
 - iv. On Feb. 1 she sent Les 15 checks, amounting to \$355.
4. CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel

No meeting until March, probably soon after the March BREA meeting. CAC meetings are March, April, May / September, October, November.

 - a. Mark has provided input to Mona about BNL's remediation efforts regarding PFAS, which he acquired from the CAC meeting. She has sent the newsletter draft to D. Paquette for his review of the PFASs article.
5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe
 - a. The upcoming issue will focus primarily on PFAS. It starts with M. Israel and what's been reported to the CAC. It is an interesting and exciting article.
 - b. Obituaries: longest list Mona remembers reporting to us.
 - c. Recruiting new members for BREA: periodically we receive an email from Christine Carter with a list of current service anniversaries. These are active employees at BNL. Can we approach those who have high year service anniversaries (35 years? 45?) to inform them of BREA?
 - i. **Action:** Arnie and Mona will reach out to C. Carter.
 - d. **Action:** Include Dave and possibly G. Cisco, who as the former NSLS-II User Admin, knows a lot and someone who lost the Select Quote Senior retirement advantage

- e. **Action:** Don Sievers will keep track of his ski trips for 65+ people who ski double black diamond runs.
 - f. **Action:** Mona will talk to Jennifer in HR to get information for her obituaries. She will also talk to Mark Israel.
6. Treasurer's Report. Les 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 \$26,272.13.
Les will away in March but will probably be at the March meeting.
Our only recurring expense is the cost of mailing the newsletters.
Action: Les will provide Arnie with a few blank checks in case there is an issue and something needs to be covered while Les is away.
Action: Arnie and Les will discuss details after this meeting (Addendum: the discussion was held and Arnie decided he would not need any checks.)
Two maturing CDs – 2/5/23 and 2/8/23. Two months before actual maturity date of a CD, TFCU sends a letter asking for renewal instructions. We can let them turn over at prevailing rate or let them terminate and put money elsewhere. We turned one over; for other one the balance will go into our savings account to replace the \$5k used for the new CD.
Motion to approve S. Shapiro, seconded by M. Israel.
7. Books for Africa and Adopt-a-Platoon. Les Fishbone to report on status of projects.
Les has been in touch with Katevi Assamagan. After looking at shipping cost estimates, Dr. Assamagan suggested we have books brought back to Africa by students/staff who were at the lab, or who will return to Africa from the lab. Les said we would pay for any extra baggage expenses. A number of people have contributed books. Can books be something other than Physics? What level (college, high school)? Undergraduate and up.
Action: Les will ask Dr. Assamagan about the need for books other than physics.
- Adopt a Platoon: Les sent a check for about \$100 to Bob Duffin based on a receipt from the USPS. We should be able to pay for those expenses for 4-5 months. It's about \$20/shipment. Shipment he pays for are within the US.
8. Continuity of BREA functions. Looking for members who are comfortable hosting a Zoom meeting to host BREA in case the President is unavailable. Also, we will have an election of officers next fall, so start considering possible candidates (as well as your own availability) for elected positions and appointments.
Host: who is willing to host in his place, probably using a free account. Could also add someone to the paid account. Also, Arnie will talk to Chris Carter about allowing BREA to hold an on-site meeting again. This would be both an in-person and an on-line account. This needs support of AV people at BNL. In the past there were issues with people off-site getting connection.
9. Future speakers for BREA Zoom meetings. Suggestions welcome.
Arnie talked to Ed Sierra, who has a folder of historical biographies, and would be willing to give a talk. Also, Ernie Lewis, who worked in environmental area, mostly maritime. Is there anyone who could talk about the big, new collider project? Brookhaven Women in Science (BWIS) have hybrid talks and hold them in the Physics Auditorium. Heinz-Eberhard Mahnke will speak about Lisa Meitner on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 4:00 pm. BWIS zoom link for the Lisa Meitner talk tomorrow <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=221093>
Action: McCorcle will reach out to Schlyer. Another possibility is Joanna Fowler. CHM admin could provide a way to reach out to her.

10. Covid status at BNL has been eased. Gym and pool are available to retirees. Two weeks ago, masks were required. As of today, they are not.
11. New Business
 - a. Discovery Park: when Covid hit the Discovery Park Project was put on hold and no physical work was done, but now work should resume within the next six months according to Steve Canella, who will keep D. Sievers appraised.
 - b. BREa luncheon in 2023: Need a quorum for the locations we've considered in the past. Getting 80 people as a minimum isn't going to happen. We need a new location and must correctly estimate the number of people. An outdoor location would be more advantageous.

Action: Drifters in Ridge: Don will check with this restaurant about their required minimum number for a luncheon.

Action: Arnie will a note in the newsletter asking people to respond to him by email stating whether they are interested in an off-site luncheon.

Motion to adjourn by Don Sievers, seconded by Barry Siskind.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

The next BREa meeting will be held March 14th at 1:00 pm via Zoom.