

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 04/11/2023

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

Present: A. Moodenbaugh, R. Backofen, R. Bari, G. Cisco, R. Clark, C. Conrad, A.J. Feldman, L. Fishbone, R. Hackenburg, P. Haustein, M. Israel, J. Lemley, B. Lin, L. Miller, S. Shapiro, B. Siskind, L. Stiegler, J. Usher

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 1:00 pm
2. **Minutes of March meeting.** Laura Miller
 - a. Revised minutes from December, January, February, and March were sent to the board. All requested changes have been made. Arnie, Beth, Len, Mona and Mark have approved them. After today's meeting, Laura will post these minutes on the BREA website.
3. **Membership Report.** Beth Yu Lin
 - a. Current paid is 252. Number of members with email is 232. This month Beth received three checks for dues from members. One is a new member.
 - b. Beth sent an updated list of paid members to Renee Warno for posting on website. Mary Heiich passed away. Check, and if your name is on there, you are fine. Issue: it includes life members, even those who are deceased. She will update the list but needs help with it. Arnie: we need a database expert to come in and update the Access database.
 - c. **Action:** Robert Hackenburg will work with Beth offline to help her with Access (roberthackenburg@gmail.com). Arnie will participate.
 - d. **Action:** Beth will cc Arnie on her communications with Robert.
 - e. Motion to accept report by Laura Miller, Mark Israel seconded, passed unanimously.
4. **CAC Meeting Report.** Mark Israel
 - a. No meeting until April 13th. Mark provided last month's meeting notes to Laura, and she incorporated them into BREA's March minutes.
5. **Newsletter.** Mona Rowe
 - a. The plan was to have an article on social media, with comments from a handful of BREA members and from someone at the Lab explaining how BNL uses social media.

- i. Mona will replace the article about social media with an article on the announcement of the new Lab Director.
 - b. Letter to the editor on PFAS
6. **Treasurer's Report.** Les Fishbone
- a. Les presented details as a screen share within Zoom. This report is based on February and March data. The grand total for the checking and savings accounts and the three certificates of deposit (CD) is \$26,485.42. Les learned that he had overwritten four earlier Treasurer's Reports, so he reconstructed them. Nothing was affected.
 - b. Motion to approve made by Mark, seconded by Gretchen Cisco. Approved.
7. **Books for Africa.** Les Fishbone to report on status of project.
- a. Adopt A Platoon – Les sent another check for \$120, which will allow us to support them for another two months. (Six separate packages to six different platoons).
8. **Future speakers for BREA Zoom meetings. Suggestions welcome.**
- a. Ernie Lewis, Environmental Division has some 'out of BNL' experiences. Used to go on arctic cruises and recently set up an atmospheric system to acquire atmospheric conditions in the Pacific on a freighter that travels between the US mainland and Hawaii.
 - b. **Action:** Arnie will include this in his President's Message in newsletter
 - c. Ernie Lewis: not available on our regular meeting days so he would need to be scheduled on an off-day. Can we reschedule a regular meeting to an off day? Main concern is that attendance will be low.
 - d. Arnie had been talking to a potential speaker but that individual would not be available during regular meeting times in the near future. Arnie tried to get an informal reading whether scheduling the meeting at a non-standard time would be useful. The sentiment was that we should not schedule a non-standard meeting at this time.

Next month's regular meeting will most likely have Ernie Lewis presenting.

9. **Covid status at BNL.** In-person / hybrid Zoom meetings in the future?
- a. Back to normal with rules, but not too many people are there at all times.
10. **Update on Issues with BNL retiree health benefit and SelectQuote Senior to be brought to the attention of BNL Human Resources.**
- a. Several of us have been working on the issue of retiree benefits. Arnie has put together a 'white paper' of suggestions about how BNL could be clearer on its information to employees about to retire: a big one is to use caution on the Medicare website when signing up. Retiring employees can sign up for Medigap etc. and will lose their benefits right off the bat. Gretchen Cisco and Dave Cox looked at what the Lab sends employees and made suggestions on changes that could be made. There is a need to clarify suggestions to employees. Lots of links to lots of documents that are lengthy. Shapiro saw B. Lincoln, who is retiring soon and who asked about BREA. Steve told him about the issues with Select Quote Senior. Also, there is a new benefits manager.

- i. **Action:** Ask new benefits manager to present at an upcoming BREA meeting.
- b. Arnie went through the white paper as a screen share and changes were made in real time.
- c. **Action:** Arnie will arrange a meeting with HR, himself, Dave Cox and Gretchen Cisco and S. Shapiro to give them the white paper and discuss the changes.
- d. **Action:** Arnie will send the BREA Board an updated copy of the white paper
- e. **Action:** Arnie will send B. Siskind (siskindb@gmail.com) a copy of the white paper.
- f. **Action:** anyone who wants a copy will email Arnie and ask him to mail it to them.

11. New Business

- a. In-person meetings at the lab? We need an employee from the Lab who can use BNL's internal facilities. Arnie can't originate a zoom meeting from on-site.
 - i. **Action:** Arnie will talk to C. Carter again to see if she has the staff.
- b. New director announcement (Joanne Hewlett). Doon is leaving Monday. Try to get BREA on Dr. Hewlett's calendar for a talk.
 - i. **Action:** Ask Doon to give a farewell address to us. Also ask him to rejoin.
- c. Possibility of lunch or summer activities
 - i. BREA lunch at cafeteria – they have food trucks outside.
 - ii. **Action:** Arnie will talk to Christine about this type of luncheon.
- d. BREA elections this fall. Think about people to nominate. Current Board members should think about whether to continue.

Motion to adjourn made by S. Shapiro, seconded by Mark. Passed with no objections.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

The next BREA meeting will be held May 9th at 1:00 pm via Zoom.