

BREA NEWS

<https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>

Volume 23, Issue 6

November/December 2023

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

With the BNL site still closed to retirees, Zoom meetings via video link have become routine. Contact any officer for help to join a meeting.

Meeting Schedule

November 14, 2023

December 12, 2023

January 9, 2024

BREA Officers

President

Arnold Moodenbaugh
moodenba@optonline.net

Vice President

Vinita Ghosh
vjghosh11786@gmail.com

Secretary

Laura Miller
lj96miller@outlook.com

Treasurer

Leslie G. Fishbone
lgfishbonenn@gmail.com

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Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe
msrowe.hi@gmail.com



Veterans Day is November 11. Turn to page 3 for a feature by Jane Koropsak (center) on local veterans and BNL-supported activities.

From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

To fellow BREA Members,

Open enrollment for retiree health benefits for 2024 takes place this fall. For Medicare-eligible retirees, enrollment began October 15 and ends December 7. Retirees below 65 years who use the BNL health plans. DO NOT enroll in Medigap or Advantage programs through the

Medicare website or through any of the direct mailings or advertisements. You MUST use SelectQuote. Their phone number: (866)897-1996. When

you contact them, say that you are a retiree from BNL. If you have problems dealing with SelectQuote, contact the BNL Benefits Office at www.benefits@bnl.gov. You may also call:

Melissa Schuchman, (631) 344-2877
Erin Getler, (631)344-5126

Note that those receiving BNL benefits through Navia will be mailed a letter from them and BNL detailing various reimbursement situations for which you may have to contact Navia to maintain regular payments. Please open the Navia envelope and read the letter carefully.

I have been in contact with the new BERA supervisor (and our BREA advisor) Adam Merone. He is a busy person, with his new responsibility for all BERA activities, as well as a recently expanded family.

We are discussing the plans for a Zoom BREA meeting at BNL, which is not as straightforward as might reasonably be expected. Our goal is to have the January Zoom meeting, at Brookhaven Lab, during which time we will install officers for the 2024-2025 term.

(continued on page 4)

Vote in BREA election for officers, p. 2

BREA Officers Nominated for 2024-2025

Candidates for BREA officers for January 2024 through December 2025 are listed. Write-in candidates are accepted, in accordance with BREA’s bylaws. If a candidate receives a positive vote on a majority of the ballots returned, he/she is elected. If any candidate does not get a majority vote, the office will be left vacant until another election. The ballot includes space for write-in candidates. Please vote by checking the appropriate boxes, then sign and mail your ballot to Membership Chair Beth Lin (snail-mail address below). If you prefer, take a photo of your ballot and email it to Lin (email address below). **Voting deadline: December 1, 2023.**

Arnold Moodenbaugh for President (reelection for 2024-25)

Arnie Moodenbaugh worked at BNL for 36 years, primarily doing materials science and solid state research, often as a user at the National Synchrotron Light Source and the High Flux Beam Reactor. Later in his BNL career, he served as Technical Equipment Coordinator for the Center for Functional Nanomaterials construction project and Materials Science Department Safety Coordinator. These assignments gave him the opportunity to interact with a range of employees, including many working in facilities & operations and in environment, safety and health. He retired in January of 2014. He is the current BREA president. Arnie would like BREA to continue Zoom meetings that have benefitted remote members and, at the same time, he would also like to restart in-person meetings at BNL and resume some additional activities.

Andrew Feldman for Vice President

Highlights of Andrew Feldman’s tenure at Brookhaven Lab (1980-2001) include his work as lead contracts specialist for the ISABELLE project and later the RHIC Project Procurement Office. Andy handled major solicitations for the acquisition of key scientific hardware for RHIC. He also served on the Department of Energy’s task force to rewrite sections of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, which governs procurement in the U.S. After retiring as a Senior Contracts Administrator, he continued working in the same capacity for Telephonics Corporation in Farmingdale and for AAR Aircraft Component Services, Garden City. Andy now lives in Florida. But though he’s not reporting to an office every day, he stays busy as a Lt. Colonel in the US Air Force, as the National Spectrum Manager for Air Combat Command at Tyndall AFB, FL.

Laura Miller for Secretary (reelection for 2024-25)

Laura started her career at General Electric’s Research & Development Division in Santa Clara, California, when she was just a youngster. She gradually headed east after that, moving next to GE’s Midwest Fuel Recovery Plant in Morris, Illinois, and then down to South Carolina for a stint with a fiberglass coating company. Returning to her career, she also returned to Illinois, working at Argonne in several divisions: the Chemistry Division, the Intense Pulsed Neutron Source and finally the Advanced Photon Source. She spent 16 years at BNL with both the NSLS and NSLS-II before retiring in 2016. Laura joined BREA almost immediately. She feels that all retirees could benefit from membership in BREA, which provides interesting and useful information as well as social contact.

Louise Hanson for Treasurer

Louise joined BNL’s Department of Applied Science in 1977 as a chemist. She was a founding member of BWIS and served in many positions in that organization, including overseeing the funds for the Renata Chasman and Gertrude Goldhaber awards. After her retirement, she became an active member of BREA, and served as Secretary for six years. In more recent years, she has continued her BREA participation via the Zoom meetings. She feels that BREA plays a vital and necessary role in fostering communication between BNL’s management and BNL’s retirees.

Ballot for BREA Officers

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| President | Vice President | Secretary | Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arnie Moodenbaugh | <input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Feldman | <input type="checkbox"/> Laura Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Louise Hanson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Please vote and mail your ballot to: Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair
81 Westchester Drive
Rocky Point, NY 11778

If you prefer, email your vote to Lin: hellobylin@yahoo.com

Name (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Honoring Veterans

by Jane Koropsak

As Veterans Day approaches, it offers us the opportunity to remember those who have served our nation to protect our freedom.

Brookhaven Lab's Brookhaven Veterans Association (BVA) strives every day to support and honor veterans. Members arrange ceremonies for the Lab community for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, participate in Wreaths Across America at Calverton National Cemetery each December, and the AdoptaPlatoon (AaP) subcommittee gathers and sends supplies to active-duty service members around the world. To date, BREA has donated more than \$1,000 to assist AaP in mailing costs.

In 2021, BVA launched a Veterans Hiring Initiative to expand their presence in the military community and increase the number of veterans both applying and gaining employment at BNL. BVA members also collaborate with the Lab's Employee Resource Groups, non-profits, and other organizations in coordinating events of interest to BNL military veterans and friends of the veteran community, including supporting the Laboratory Protection Division during its annual remembrance ceremony for those who perished following the 9-11 attacks.



Korean War veteran John Foster reads letters he received from "mail call" while traveling on an Honor Flight September 2022.



Jane Koropsak transports Korean War veterans down the jetway at Islip airport, where hundreds of family members and friends greet the veterans home from their trip to Washington D.C.

Last year, BVA donated \$400 to cover my travel expenses on an Honor Flight from Islip to Washington D.C., as an Honor Flight guardian to a Korean War veteran. (Each of the 50 veterans on the flight have a guardian to help keep them safe throughout flight day.) During their expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., veterans visit the war memorials, participate in the wreath ceremony during the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery, and reminisce with fellow veterans about their time spent serving our country. On the bus ride back to the airport they are surprised with an old-fashioned "mail call" when they receive an envelope full of personal letters from their family and friends, as well as notes from students, scouts and the general public that I have gathered for them prior to the flight. Many veterans have expressed, some tearfully, how this small gesture means so much to them. I respond that it is my privilege and honor to coordinate "mail call."

This year at its annual car wash, BVA raised more than \$800, enabling it to sponsor two veterans on the next Honor Flight from Long Island.

"The BVA is humbled to honor our fellow veterans and award them a chance to visit our nation's capital," said BVA Commander Shari Lindner.

"We also invite all Laboratory employees and retirees to attend our

Veterans Day ceremony on Thursday, November 9, at noon at the flagpole at Brookhaven Center. The BVA donation to the HFLI Board President will occur after the ceremony." For more about the BVA or to volunteer, go to <https://www.bnl.gov/bva/>.

Note: BREA member Jane Koropsak, jkoropsak@bnl.gov, retired in 2019 but works part-time in the Media and Communications Office.

Renew BREA Membership

Membership expires on December 31 of every year no matter when you paid your dues (which are requested by January 31 of the following year). To stay on BREA’s mailing list, complete the form below and mail it to me along with your payment. Include your email address so BREA can send you timely information.

If you have questions or if your contact info has changed, email me at hellobylin@yahoo.com.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: _____ First name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership type:

annual (\$10) 5 years (\$40) Life (\$95)

Date: _____ Check amount: _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO BREA

I want to receive BREA News by mail via the U.S. Post Office.

I want to receive BREA News by email only. Do not mail it to me via the U.S. Post Office.

Mail form and check (made out to BREA) to:

Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair
 81 Westchester Drive
 Rocky Point, NY 11778

– Beth Lin, Membership Chair
hellobylin@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees.

Michael Baldwin, 75, September 20, 2023

Eric Forsyth, 91, August 22, 2023

Lawrence E. Kukacka, 91, January 14, 2023

More information may be found at BREA’s website: <https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>. To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, email information to msrowe.hi@gmail.com or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

President’s Message (cont’d from page 1)

The feature article in this issue describes BNL activities concerning veterans. Recently, BREA has helped fund the Adopt-a-Platoon program that provides gift packages to current service members.

Finally, this issue includes your ballots for the biennial election of officers. Please make the effort to participate by voting. Andy Feldman is up for vice president; Louise Hanson is up for treasurer. Laura Miller (secretary) and I (president) are up for re-election. You will find short biographies for each of us in this newsletter. Thank you to Vinita Ghosh and Les Fishbone for their service as vice president and treasurer.

Beth Lin, membership chair, and Mona Rowe, newsletter editor, have agreed to continue in those roles. Thanks to both of them.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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