

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 09/12/2023

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, D. Cox, R. Duffield, A.J. Feldman, L. Feierabend, L. Fishbone, V. Ghosh, L. Hanson, J. Hurst, M. Israel, J. Koropsak, S. McCorkle, L. Miller, S. Musolino, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, E. Sperry, M. & B. Tannenbaum, 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
Meeting called to order at 1:03 pm
2. Minutes of July meeting. Laura Miller
 - a. Minutes: Les made a motion to approve, Don seconded, vote taken, no abstentions
3. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.
 - a. Beth is traveling. Arnie read her report: Currently there are 248 members, 229 with email. She received dues from one member between 7/11/23 and 9/12/23. Sent \$1705 checks to Les. Les confirmed that he received her last check. Laura made a motion to accept the report, G. Williams seconded, vote taken, passed unanimously.
4. CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel.
 - a. No report. The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2023 and Mark will report at the October meeting.
5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe. Most recent issue: Medicare and BNL retiree health benefits.
 - a. The last issue was the Medicare issue, which used G. Cisco to raise a couple of points. The note from B. Lin also contained questions about Medicare. Mona will check with Beth. Beth mentioned that she is confused about the letters that describe the different plans (A-G).
 - b. Barbara Tannenbaum: concerned because the United Health AARP Plan N has gone up 12%. The lab supplement is still \$180, and she/they are paying over \$400 monthly, so the \$180 is no longer enough. She/they have written many letters to HR with no response. The \$180 allotment is not enough.
 - i. Arnie noted that BREA has sent HR a white paper with some of our issues, including the payment and stated that the 12% is still only a proposal, which NY state must approve.
 - ii. Louise Hanson mentioned that BREA officers had consulted a lawyer around the time that BSA was implementing the new (reduced) retiree health benefit. BREA actually accumulated funds to possibly pursue a lawsuit. The lawyers told us that there was no chance of forcing a return to the previous plans.
 - iii. **Action:** Barbara will compose a letter that could come from BREA. She has been working with Jennifer Froelich and she wants to do whatever she can for retirees.

- iv. Another issue is the penalty if people fail to use Select Quote Senior.
 - c. The next issue is the election issue. It will contain bios for candidates for office – nominees for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus committee members: Mona (newsletter), Beth (membership), Mark and Jane Koropsak reporting on CAC meetings. Page 2 will have articles on Veterans Day, Adopt A Platoon, Honor Flight.
 - i. **Action:** Mona will get the name of Jane’s Veterans’ trip to WDC. Brookhaven Veteran’s Association (BVA) will send two veterans on their next trip, which will be in April 2024.
 - ii. **Action:** Jane is taking letters for veterans if anyone would like to write some.
 - d. Deaths: E. Forsythe at age 91, Larry Kukacka
 - e. L. Hanson agreed to be nominated as treasurer, AJ Feldman as VP. Laura will stay as Secretary, Arnie as President. A committee will be created to field additional names and come up with a slate. A year from now we will need to form a committee to develop names for the next term.
 - i. **Action:** Next summer (2024) S. Shapiro and Arnie will put together a list.
 - ii. **Action:** Each person here today should think of names to submit for these positions.
6. Treasurer Report. Les Fishbone
- a. 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 \$25,903.16. He sent out two checks totaling \$333.90 to Adopt a Platoon. So far this year we have paid them \$1008. After one more payment we will be close to the end of what we originally approved to give them.
 - b. If the idea of giving \$10k to the Tesla project comes to fruition, we will need to know in advance so that one or more of the CDs can be redeemed at maturity.
 - c. Laura moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Arnie seconded, passed unanimously.
7. Update on planned donation to the Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe (<https://teslasciencecenter.org/>) Steve Shapiro
- a. S. Shapiro met with J. Alcorn and Doug Borge (Tesla) on August 31. \$10k: They will supply Steve with a list of needs and where money can be sent. One possibility is windows on the original building. Buildings are attached to the original building, by AGFA [?]. They want to demolish all the buildings that are attached and make it a free-standing building.
 - b. S. McCorkle moved to acknowledge Steve’s work, seconded by S. Shapiro, approved.
8. Status of our white paper discussing BNL retiree health benefits delivery
- a. Arnie sent a white paper to HR; there needs to be a follow up with a meeting with them.
 - i. **Action:** Arnie will schedule a follow-up meeting.
9. Plan for fall 2023 election of officers. We seek volunteers and/or nominees for BREA offices.
- a. See discussion under 5.c.
10. Possibility of in-person with ZOOM meeting originating from BNL. Some challenges.

- a. An in-person meeting at BNL was tentatively scheduled for July, but BNL's systems intervened. We need support from IT to manage these meetings. CORUS might work, but it's only for Guests and Users. Adam Merone is our new advisor, right now he has limited time for our interests.
 - i. **Action:** Arnie will talk to Adam about it after today's meeting.
- b. V. Ghosh supports the idea of in-person meeting to encourage local people to get more involved. Maybe every other meeting could be in person. If Zoom is difficult, hold in-person meetings, but have people call in by telephone.
- c. A parallel group of retirees meet for lunch every quarter. E. Sperry is a part of it. They will meet Sept. 19 at noon. Any local BNL retiree can come to the Medford Pastaria on Horseblock Road in Medford, \$28 pp. 30-40 show up each time. Ed doesn't think any of them belong to BREA.
- d. Mona is looking for people with stories about the closing of the reactor and thinks the place Ed mentioned might be a good place to find people. She would also like to revisit the book, "The Leak" and is trying to set up a discussion of people's thoughts about it, etc. There would be a sidebar about the radiation. She intends to discuss the positive applications of nuclear radiation. Could use Zoom's audio recording only.

11. New Business (summer vacation reports?)

- a. Bob Lincoln – retiring soon. Will he be eligible for membership in this organization? No, not enough years in.
- b. Don Sievers: Northwell Health: Don had been using CVS pharmacy (SilverScript part D). He did some research and learned it had the highest co-pay. Do your homework and find the least expensive plan for yourself.

Don made a motion to adjourn, Mark seconded, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:17.

The next meeting will be held October 10th, via Zoom.