

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 10/10/2023

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, G. Cisco, R. Clark, D. Cox, A.J. Feldman, L. Fishbone, V. Ghosh, R. Hackenburg, L. Hanson, J. Hurst, M. Israel, B. Lin, B. Lemley, B. Leonhardt, L. Miller, S. Musolino, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, L. Stiegler

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: 02 pm
2. Minutes of September meeting. Laura Miller
 - a. Minutes through the July meeting have been posted on BREA's website. BREA board has received the corrected version of the September minutes. Motion to approve by Arnie, seconded AJ. Passed.
3. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.
 - a. Beth missed the September meeting, but current paid members total = 248, with email total = 229. From the last meeting to today, she received five dues payments for a total of \$80, which she will send to Les tomorrow. Motioned to accept made by Laura, seconded by Arnie. Passed unanimously.
4. CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel.
 - a. **Action:** Mark will send Laura a copy of his notes from the September meeting.
[Update: See Appendix A for September CAC meeting notes.]
5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe.
 - a. Current newsletter going out near end of this month includes election bios, President's newsletter. People should feel free to run for any of the positions. Need 2-3 at least from the local area to help make banking changes easier. J. Koropsak has an article about the Brookhaven Veterans' activities.
 - b. January: plans to revisit book, "The Leak", and plans to have a suggestion possibly associated with the November meeting.
6. Treasurer Report. Les Fishbone
 - a. Les presented details as a screen share within Zoom. account totals were presented. Contact the president or treasurer if specific information about available funds is require.
 - i. S. Shapiro said our possible donation to Tesla Science Center will not be needed any time soon, so Les will let CD from November renew.

- b. May 9 is a 16-month CD and Feb. 5 and May 9 are 12-month CDs. Mark noted that 13- and 16-month renewals are offering the best rates.
 - c. Motion to approve by A.J. Feldman, seconded by Mark. Passed unanimously.
 - d. Arnie moved that we authorize Les to use his judgment to decide if we should renew the November CD, seconded by Mark, passed with no opposition.
7. BREA contributions. Les Fishbone, Steve Shapiro.
 - a. See 6.a. above.
 - b. Tesla Science Center: The Tesla Science Center at Wardencliff has various activities that are open to the public. In September there was an Open House featuring activities that are fun for children and a spectacular laser show after dark.
 - c. Currently the activity at the site is mainly removing buildings that were added to Tesla's Laboratory while the site was part of a commercial company. Shapiro is awaiting a list of projects that need funding to restore the Laboratory. BREA can choose to contribute to something from that list. Check out the Tesla Science Center web site: <https://teslasciencecenter.org>.
8. Status of our white paper discussing BNL retiree health benefits delivery
 - a. Arnie has yet to schedule a meeting, but he sent HR a copy of white paper. Any meeting will include G. Cisco and D. Cox and possibly S. Shapiro.
 - b. **Action:** Arnie will contact HR and schedule a meeting.
9. Plan for fall 2023 election for new officers. We seek volunteers and/or nominees for BREA offices. A slate for President (A. Moodenbaugh), Vice President (A. Feldman), Secretary (L. Miller), and Treasurer (L. Hanson) should be nearly finalized at this meeting. The ballots will go out with the November newsletter. Candidates to be included on the ballot should have a short bio submitted to Mona Rowe soon after this meeting.
10. Meeting in-person at BNL with ZOOM. Our new primary contact is Adam Merone. Arnie and Adam will work on setting up a meeting at BNL. BNL IT will need to be involved to allow our access to internal BNL computer infrastructure. We aim to have the January meeting at BNL, where we can introduce new officers.
 - a. BNL doesn't allow access to any online systems by retirees, only guests or emeritus, but Adam has agreed to look at it. We will need to have a BNL employee there to facilitate a Zoom connection for the meeting. This will likely entail some expenses. CAC has access from the Director's Office, driven by OPA and Director's Office.
 - b. **Action:** A.J. Feldman will see if he can get access to the Zoom site needed to have a meeting that combines being in-person and using Zoom to participate.
 - c. **Action:** Arnie will work with Adam and report back next month.
11. Possible lunch for LI members.
 - a. Arnie attended a lunch with an informal BNL retiree group at an Italian cafe in Medford (Pastaria). There were about 30 attendees, and the restaurant was flexible on the number attending. The location might be a good place to have a BREA get together. A more formal luncheon, similar to those we had before Covid, might not be easy to restart, because of the uncertainty about attendance. Arnie told them about the BREA newsletter and handed out some copies. He didn't mention VA issues. No meeting structure, just an informal lunch for \$28. Word of mouth, but anyone can go. E. Sperry is the organizer. The next one is the second week in December.

- b. **Action:** Arnie will check with locals on LI to see who would be interested in a lunch there. He will go by the Pastaria and talk to them.

12. New Business

- a. Louise has vague ideas of what we are and are not allowed to do on site as retirees. There's a symposium later this month and she was in on early access and would like to attend the meeting. On-line registration is set up, but she can't access it. Her life # is invalid because she's not a guest or an employee. She contacted the organizer and was told she will need to give up her retiree badge and get a guest badge for the duration of the meeting and then give up guest badge and get her retiree badge back. Louise suggested we find out what is allowed/not allowed and with a new director with a different perspective, maybe we can get it changed. Example: Jefferson Lab. As former employees, we have already been vetted and BNL should be our sponsor.
 - i. Ronnie's badge expired last December. How does she get it updated/reinstated. Show security at gate that you need to renew it. They will provide a gate pass and send you to the badging office to get it renewed.
- b. Has anyone had issues with accessing BNL want ads? Don Sievers has tried and it hasn't worked for him.
 - i. **Action:** Ask Adam!
- c. Health insurance: prices going up in 2024. Arnie's prescription plan will increase 63% (Humana – WalMart). WellCare has been wonderful to Mark. People should throw away ALL mail advertisements. This information is in the most recent BREA newsletter.
- d. USE SELECTQUOTESENIOR only! Check Medicare booklet that BNL sends out.
- e. Prescriptions: GoodRX can be as good as any plans. Ask when you see a pharmacist for their price and for the GoodRX price.

Motion to adjourn made by meeting by Laura, seconded by Mark, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

The next meeting will be held November 14th, via Zoom.

Appendix A: September 2023 CAC notes

Appendix A: September 21, 2023 CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel.

The meeting was held on September 21, 2023, and held as a hybrid, both on Zoom and in person in Berkner B. After administrative matters were addressed, the new Laboratory Director, JoAnne Hewett was introduced to the CAC.

JoAnne presented some personal and professional highlights about herself. She did research in theoretical particle physics as a professor at Stanford University, and was involved in science outreach, strategic planning, and community leadership. She has been Chair of the APS Division of Particles and Fields, and Chair of the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel. At SLAC, JoAnne was a Division Director and Science Directorate ALD. She also held the positions of Q-NEXT QIS Center Deputy Director, Fundamental Physics ALD and Chief Research Officer. JoAnne stated that being Laboratory Director of BNL is the “opportunity of a lifetime” for her, and that her two “Enduring Core Values” are Safety and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility. Her important initiatives will be advancing science, modernizing and revitalizing infrastructure, and conducting meet-and-greet listening tours with staff. JoAnne went on to emphasize science highlights and accomplishments at BNL including:

- sPHENIX subsystems have taken data from collisions at RHIC and stored the data in the high-performance storage system.
- Real-time Quantum Error Correction Beyond Breakeven
- Duckweed Engineering
- EIC Milestones including: DOE Inflation Reduction Act Funding enabling, the start of long-lead procurements in 2024; ePIC Collaboration members electing spokespersons John Lajoie and Silvia Dalla Torre; and Polarized electron source demonstrated EIC performance parameters with significant margin.

JoAnne then spoke about the BNL personnel who received Early Career Awards:

- Elizabeth (Liz) Brost, Physics Department
- Esther Tsai, CFN
- Derong Xu, Electron-Ion Collider
- Joanna Zajac, Instrumentation Division

And, finally, she shined the spotlight on the following BNL Staffers:

- John Tranquada – Elected to the National Academy of Sciences
- Steve Musolino – Presented the Secretary of Energy Achievement Award for the Ukraine Detection Assistance Team, and
- Stasia Scocca – Named an Employee of the Year by CAREERS & the
- disABLED Magazine

Jason Remien- Manager, Environmental Protection Division presented the BNL 2022 Site Environmental Report.

He discussed the purpose of the report prepared in accordance with DOE Order 231.1B, Environment, Safety and Health Reporting. It serves as a principal environmental communications vehicle and showcases BNL’s excellence as a leader in the reporting field. The report consists of two volumes. Jason provided an overview of Volume I, which includes the following nine chapters:

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Environmental Management System

Chapter 3 – Compliance Status

Chapter 4 – Air Quality

Chapter 5 – Water Quality

Chapter 6 – Natural and Cultural Resources

Chapter 7 – Groundwater Protection

Chapter 8 – Radiological Dose Assessment

Chapter 9 – Quality Assurance

The report goes into great detail, including statistics, and discusses accomplishments and issues in all these areas. The full report is available on the BNL Website.

Volume II of the SER, the Groundwater Status Report, presents even greater detail than what is found in Chapter 5 of Volume I above. It will be presented at the CAC October 12th meeting.