

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 01/09/2024

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

This meeting in Room D, Berkner, was the first BREA meeting originated at BNL since March 2020. This meeting was also the first hybrid in-person / ZOOM meeting. The ZOOMGOV meeting setup was provided by BNL personnel.

Present: BNL BERA advisor Adam Merone, A. Moodenbaugh, R. Backofen, G. Cisco, C. Conrad, D. Cox, A. Feldman, V. Ghosh, R. Hackenburg, M. Israel, B. Leonhardt, B. Lin, S. McCorkle, L. Miller, S. Musolino, S. Perry, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, G. Williams, S. Wong

Officers 2024-2026: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Andy Feldman, Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Louise Hanson, Membership Chair: Beth Lin, Newsletter Editor: Mona Rowe

1. Call to Order, Arnie Moodenbaugh at 1:07 pm
2. Minutes of December meeting. Laura Miller
 - a. Laura made the corrections she had received from Les. The revised version was sent to the Board for today's approval.
 - b. The name of the restaurant in #11 has been changed to Medford Pastaria.
 - c. **Action:** Motion to approve these minutes is pending until all new board members are present.
3. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin
 - a. There are 216 paid members and 199 have email. Since the meeting on Dec. 12, Beth has received 8 checks for dues, which she will send to the Treasurer.
4. Election Results. Beth Yu Lin will present the results of the election for BREA officers.
 - a. The last day Beth received a vote was Dec. 1. Total number of votes: 39. She received them via email and US postal service.
 - b. All votes were in favor of the four nominated candidates (unanimous election).
 - c. Officers 2024-2026: President: Arnie Moodenbaugh; Vice President: Andy Feldman; Treasurer: Louise Hanson; Secretary: Laura Miller

- i. Les Fishbone will continue in Treasurer's function until Louise Hanson can be accredited by TFCU.
 - d. Motion to accept Membership and Election report by D. Cox, seconded by Mark. Passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer Report. Les Fishbone (presented by Arnie).
 - a. December report: The account activities during December were as follows: interest credited for both regular accounts and for the CDs; a check to Adopt-a-Platoon for \$84.60 that was cashed; and a dues deposit of \$180. Contact A. Moodenbaugh if additional information is needed.
 - b. The CD that will mature in February needs to be updated.
 - c. Andy Feldman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Cheryl Conrad seconded, all approved. Motion passed.
6. BRE A contributions. Steve Shapiro.
 - a. The approved \$1000 donation to the Tesla Science Center at Wardencliff was deferred to discuss possible acknowledgment of BRE A along with a \$50 upward adjustment of the donation.
 - b. The previously discussed Tesla donation for a decorative window was postponed due to the focus on recovery from the recent fire at the Tesla.
 - c. Motion was made by Arnie to increase donation from \$1000 to \$1050 so we can get 3 bricks for the "Bricks to Nick" by Arnie, seconded by Mark, passed unanimously.
 - i. After checking the Tesla Science Center's website, we learned that the "Bricks for Nick" campaign has closed.
 - ii. **Action:** Steve Shapiro will look at what's possible and provide suggestions at the next meeting.
 - d. **Steve's email:** Shapiro@bnl.gov
7. Newsletter. Mona Rowe
 - a. The March-April newsletter will contain two articles in addition to Arnie's message. The first will introduce Adam Merone, who is Chris Carter's replacement. The second will discuss the extended accelerator dark period during Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) construction and what will be happening during that period. This issue will be revisited over the course of construction.
 - i. **Action:** Mona will be in contact with people outside of this meeting.
 - ii. **Action:** Mona will provide instructions about how to subscribe to Brookhaven News.

iii. **Action:** Mona will include readers' comments about the EIC.

8. CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel.
 - a. Nothing to report. The next meeting is in March.
9. BERA Board increases fees for Pool, Weight Room and imposes fees on students and retirees. Arnold Moodenbaugh.
 - a. BERA pays lifeguards and monitors from its budget. Those individuals are employees of BERA, not of BNL. Wage pressure from other possible employers must be addressed (last raise was in 1998!) At the same time, participation (and income) may have fallen as a byproduct of remote work over the last few years. Wages need to be improved, and all users are being asked for a larger contribution. Fees to be paid by students and retirees, along with increases for employees, will help maintain access to these facilities for all.
 - b. With mask mandate, pool and gym are closed and staff are not getting paid.
 - c. There are approximately 50 retirees who use the pool/gym.
10. Possible informal lunch on Long Island for BREA members.
 - a. We may want to do it at BNL prior to a monthly meeting.
 - b. We can do it while there is a mask mandate, just remove masks while eating.
 - c. Meetings will be held on site every two or three months. This was our first hybrid meeting and it was mentioned several times that it is tough for those participating via Zoom to hear and see people in the conference room.
 - d. The February meeting will be an online-only meeting.
11. New Business
 - a. Thanks to outgoing board members.
 - i. Arnie thanked Les Fishbone, Treasurer, who kept the books straight to the very last penny, and for agreeing to continue until Louise can take on all her responsibilities.
 - ii. Arnie thanked Vinita Ghosh, who was our first remote VP. Arnie apologized for not using her services as much as he might have.
 - b. Replacing a Retiree Badge. Don Sievers' badge had expired and he said getting a new one took him ~30 minutes. It was a more involved procedure to get a new badge and vehicle sticker than it would have been if the badge had still been current. He encouraged others to renew their badge before it expires.
 - c. Gretchen Cisco said the manager of HR, Renita Hackett, will meet with Gretchen et al once things are 'more settled'. They will discuss issues new retirees at BNL have

had navigating SelectQuoteSenior when setting up their Medicare accounts, and what the requirements are for them to continue receiving their BNL benefits.

- d. Diane Hubbert, HR employee, retired last year because her husband was ill. She is back working now.
- e. It would be interesting to have our new Lab Director, Dr. Hewett, give a lab presentation on the role of retirees at the Lab.
 - i. **Action:** Arnie will reach out to the Lab Director's assistant to see if Dr. Hewett is available to give a presentation at a future BREA meeting.

12. Motion to adjourn was made by Barry Siskind, seconded by Andy Feldman and approved unanimously.

The next BREA meeting will be held via Zoom on February 13th at 1:00 pm.