

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 04/09/2024

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

Present: A. Moodenbaugh, R. Backofen, G. Cisco, D. Cox, A. Feldman, L. Fishbone, R. Hackenburg, L. Hanson, M. Israel, A. Jain, J. Lemley, B. Leonhardt, B. Lin, F. Marotta, S. McCorkle, L. Miller, S. Musolino, S. Perino, H.-A. Pham, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, E. Sperry

Guest: L. Buscemi-Robles

Officers 2024-2026: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Andy Feldman, Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Louise Hanson

Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh

1. Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Talk by Andrew Feldman about his participation in Air Force flyover of World Trade Center after the 9/11 attacks.

The opening slides were at altitude flying towards lower Manhattan with smoke plumes visible from the aircraft the general location was 2000 feet over Republic Field in Farmingdale. We then flew due west over JFK airfield at 1500 feet, then due west towards Coney Island and then North-Northwest towards South Ferry, in this leg of the trip we were met by two F-15 aircraft who were there to escort us as no one had any idea if we were still under attack. As we got into NYC air space, we flew from south ferry north to about Canal Street and then we flew east to the East River and then South to South Ferry and then three more orbits following the same route. There were 3 additional orbits around Manhattan Island taking photos from both rivers looking and documenting the destruction around lower Manhattan. The primary mission was to obtain good ground level images so that the emergency service workers could obtain maps over lower NYC as all of the street signs and most of the building were no longer standing. I had shown a total of 49 photos of NYC and the World Trade Center Buildings documenting the destruction that had taken place. These 49 slides are converted to digital format from 35 mm film, we had 2 wing mounted Hasselblad high resolution digital images which were immediately flown down to Washington upon our landing. I had the 35 mm film developed near my home the next day. These were then scanned and converted to digital format later in the day.

The Mission was requested by Governor Pataki and approved by President George Bush.

The actual mission was started with a phone call and a page from my Wing Commander at 10:30 in the morning with the words get into uniform, select an aircraft and crew and mission support resources and be prepared to fly. OK, I was at work in Farmingdale, I had to get to my home in Port Jefferson, then change and then drive to the Military support area of Islip

MacArthur Airport... As I was driving towards my home I was on my cellphone and selected my 2 other crew members, we also discussed which aircraft we would be using from 3 available and each of us got to our homes got into uniform and proceeded to Islip MacArthur.

We all got there by about 11:30 and did all of our preflight preparations. I had been in contact with my command to take specific instructions on what we were requested to accomplish during our flight. It took another hour and ½ to get flight clearance and post our flight into the FAA Flight Route System. Added to this was that all US airspace was shut down and we had special preapprovals to get airborne. Our total flight time was roughly 3 hours returning to Islip around 4PM. This flight was recorded by the Air Force as the first domestic non-peacetime US Air Force Flight since December 7, 1941. Two weeks ago the aircraft was transported to the US Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Field in Dayton Ohio as a permanent memorial of the US Air Force's effort to support the country. The Aircraft will become part of an exhibit that will be dedicated this year on Sept 11.

3. Minutes of March meeting. Laura Miller
 - a. One correction: Laura corrected the spelling of BNL Lab Director's name in 9c to JoAnne Hewett.
 - b. After the correction was made, the March Minutes were approved by the BREA Board.
 - c. **Action:** Laura will send the revised minutes to be posted on the BREA website.
4. Treasurer Report. Louise Hanson. (Les Fishbone is handling the books until we can arrange to update the banking records at TFCU). We'll provide an update on progress
 - a. TFCU is ratcheting up their paperwork because of the antifraud issue. Not all of the people who work there know completely what's going on, neither does Arnie. He was interviewed by a TFCU representative last week and he presented a letter to provide names, etc., of our new treasurer. They will redo the paperwork and will send it to us, and the other existing officers. The president, Arnie, will need to be there in person to approve it. It may be in the long run that having remote officers isn't a good idea unless we add someone like a co-treasurer or second vice president.
 - b. Mark said federal agencies are imposing new requirements on all credit unions, not just TFCU. Because of this, other organizations may not change officers as frequently.
 - c. We are still in the process of transferring books from Les Fishbone to Louise Hanson. Les shared the screen, giving details of the month's expenditures and income for BREA's account.
 - d. Louise moved to approve Les' report, Mark seconded, none opposed.
 - e. Mark heard at the last meeting he intended that TFCU is offering 9 month CDs at 5%. We have a CD maturing in May. Depending on the requirements to change it, we may move it to the 9-month CD.
 - f. **Action:** leave as a discussion between Arnie, Les and Louise as to how to handle it: renew it as is or for a different length of time for a better rate.
 - g. **Action:** Regarding TFCU signature requirements, Mark I. said he would be glad to help in any way that he can.
 - h. Mark made a motion to let Louise and/or Les renew the CD that's maturing on May 9 as they see fit. It was seconded by A. Feldman, passed unanimously.
 - i. Transfer of officers onto the account. An upgrade is taking place (SEE 4.a. above)
 - i. **Action:** Arnie will let Les and Louise know by this Thursday if the signature update meeting will take place on Friday.

5. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin. We are looking for a successor to Beth to maintain the membership rolls.
 - a. Number of paid members: 220, number with email: 203. Between March 12 and today, she received 3 checks, one for a lifetime membership. Mark motioned to accept the report, Laura seconded, motion passed with no opposition.
 - b. Beth would like someone else to assume this position, so far no one has volunteered.
 - c. **Action:** Arnie will try to find someone to replace Beth. The person assuming the position will be provided with a computer from BREA and training by Beth.

6. Newsletter. Mona Rowe. Plans for May/June newsletter.
 - a. Arnie's message will do some heavy lifting because it will discuss the BREA meeting with HR. He will also have an announcement from Queen's College regarding the lung screening program, which is new. Topics are: HR meeting, proposed increase to benefit, Aetna hearing aids programs (we used to receive one free pair when CIGNA was part of our medical benefit), lung screening. Also there will be an article on what retirees have been doing.
 - b. The July/August issue will carry an article on the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, including a list of the qualifying cancers. I will also include a description of the medical screening program that's managed by Queens College. which we haven't done for two years.
 - c. **Action:** Ed Sperry was asked to give his lunch group a 'heads up' when our newsletters are posted.
 - i. Mona asked Ed to encourage his fellow employees to sign up to BREA membership because the more we can show representation, the stronger we can be in our discussions

7. BNL Health Benefits for retirees. Arnie.
 - a. Dave Cox, Steve Shapiro, Gretchen Cisco, and I met with representatives of BNL HR (M. Schuchman and R. Hackett) to discuss possible improvements in the program, including providing a better description of the program to new employees and retirees, performance by SelectQuote Senior, and a possible increase to the benefit stipend. A draft follow-up letter to HR will be shown for comments and possible approval by BREA membership.
 - b. Financial constraints control expenditures by HR on retirees. The most recent increase in HRA benefit was from \$170 to \$180; we are requesting an increase to \$200. They mentioned that SelectQuote bids for the commissions for each person who signs up. They get higher commissions if people sign up for Advantage Plans. HR said several companies wouldn't even bid because the number of retirees who sign up for Advantage Plans is so low. One issue is that not all people receive good explanations of the different plans. Some people get good support from them, others don't. Steve said it was a good and useful meeting. Gretchen said they were very receptive and seemed willing to work with BREA. DOE sets budget goals that BSA strives to meet, and those affect spending.
 - c. Did this meeting address the issue of retirees losing their benefits for life if they don't sign up correctly the first time. Yes, however they do not intend to change their current policies. Stay posted for further clarification.
 - d. **Action:** Retirees should try to talk to M. Schuchman if they have questions/problems.

8. BREA contributions.
 - a. TESLA bricks: : Arnie found the part of their site where the bricks (pavers) are described. Steve was trying to contact Tesla officers but was not successful. We'd rather not plunk down the \$\$ before talking to them. We also need to decide details of brick inscription and potential design
 - i. Bricks will probably be used as pavers for walkways. Brick options
 - ii. 1 4x8 brick \$100 (about 2 lines of text each about 15-20 char)
 - iii. 2 8x8 brick \$200 (about 5 lines of text, each about 15-20 char)
 - iv. 3 8x8 brick (corporate) \$350 (buyer supplies PDF or equivalent design)
9. CAC Meeting Mar. 14 report. Mark Israel. Community Advisory Council, Upcoming meeting.
 - a. David Manning, Director – Stakeholder Relations office, welcomed everyone to the March CAC meeting. He explained that due to financial considerations, the Lab will not be using an external moderator for the CAC meetings for the next three months. An internal moderator for the March, April and May meetings will be used instead. Manning then explained that Ken White and Amy Engel will be working together to moderate the meetings and monitor online participation over the next three months. Manning then introduced Ken White.
 - b. Ken White told the CAC that there are three new representatives for existing member organizations.
 - i. Councilwoman Karen Dunne-Kesnig will replace Dan Panico for Council District 6. Panico was elected Town Supervisor and will no longer be serving on the CAC. Dunne-Kesnig will be represented by her alternate, Kate Kollegger, this evening.
 - ii. James Crenshaw will be replacing Tracey Adams for the Longwood Central School District.
 - iii. Long-time member Bruce Martin bade farewell to the CAC, as he is moving to Florida. His alternate Craig Pratka will take over as the main member for the Foundation for Economic Education.
 - c. **Leadership Update:** Ann Emrick, Deputy Director for Operations, welcomed everyone to the CAC meeting and provided a brief update about the Lab. She said that the Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm, will be visiting the Lab on 4/9 and everyone is looking forward to that visit. She also said that the federal budget is better than expected for the Lab.
 - d. **Environmental updates:** Tim Green provided an environmental update which included the following:
 - i. Two new wells were installed for Operable Unit 10 (OU) for Ethylene dibromide (EDB). There will be a Remedial Investigation (RI) /Feasibility Study (FS) in the coming months for OU 10. • The Lab has been in touch with the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding new kiosks that will be placed where historic buildings at the Lab once stood. • There was a recent deer cull that took place from 2/23-2/25 and resulted in the removal of 69 deer. Every tenth deer was tested for cesium and taken by the USDA certified butcher. • The Lab is planning for a prescribed burn but needs to reduce the fuel load mechanically first.
 - e. **Driving Change: BNL's Commitment to Emission Reduction - Ann Emrick, Deputy Director for Operations, and Benedetto Schiraldi, Energy Manager**
This was a very detailed presentation discussing the Laboratory's strategic energy management objectives which includes
 - i. Minimizing energy consumption and the associated greenhouse gas emissions

- ii. Being a good "grid-neighbor" by reducing load during peak demand periods on Long Island
 - iii. Achieving 100% Carbon-Free electricity targets: The increased electric demand and consumption of the Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) and other anticipated growth starting in 2029 will make these objectives challenging, but we are planning for that now. The detailed strategic methodologies include: Load Shifting, Load Shedding, and Energy Optimization techniques. Load shifting requires Thermal Energy Storage. There are stringent Federal and NYS targets for carbon-free electricity (i.e. 100% by 2030, and Net zero carbon emissions sitewide by 2050). The Laboratory is pursuing additional solar and wind options.
- f. **Cyber security at the Lab - Ian Ballantye, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)**
- i. Ian gave a very detailed and meaningful presentation on this very timely topic. Subject areas included the Cyber Organization at BNL; the strict Regulatory Environment; the Threat environment; the Operational environment; the Laboratory and Employee Responsibilities; and Outcomes, which, thankfully, have been positive for BNL. The detailed presentation slides should ultimately be available on the CAC website.
 - ii. Ian also presented some personal tips to the CAC members regarding personal cybersecurity and safety. I would suggest that, at some time in the future, we approach Ian Ballantye for a similar presentation to BREA.

The next CAC meetings will be on April 11 and May 9, 2024. Mark will report on both at the May meeting.

10. New Business
NA

The next BREA meeting will take place via Zoom on May 14 at 1:00. BREA officers will meet at 12:45 to review the minutes.