BREA Meetings

BREA meets on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in the Eastern Time Zone. All BREA members are invited.

BREA meetings are held via Zoom. Some meetings will be hybrid so that retirees living on Long Island can attend in person. Contact any officer for help to join a meeting.

Meeting Schedule
July 9, 2024
August 2024 – no meeting
September 10, 2024

BREA Officers
President
Arnold Moodenbaugh
moodenba@optonline.net

Vice President
Andrew Feldman
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Louise Hanson
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Newsletter Editor
Mona S. Rowe
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From the President
by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

Summer greetings to BREA members.

Thank you to Steve Musolino for a fascinating presentation in June on RAP, the DOE Radiological Program supported at BNL. BREA’s next Zoom meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 9. As usual, we do not meet in August. The next meeting will be on September 10.

This newsletter covers additional information about the DOE Worker Health Protection Program, open to DOE and contractor employees and retirees. The program offers health screenings for conditions that may have resulted from workplace exposure and, when appropriate, provides referrals to a program offering financial compensation.

We would like to thank a new BREA member, Betty Elder, for volunteering to be the BREA membership chair, replacing Beth Yu Lin. Betty retired from BNL’s IT Division and is familiar with BREA’s membership database operation. This position is an appointed one, not elected. Beth and Betty are working together to make the transition, and we will update contact information when Betty is ready to start. BREA will provide her with a new laptop (replacing an obsolete model) to maintain our membership rolls. We thank Betty for volunteering. We owe a big thank you to Beth, who has been BREA’s membership chair for about eight years!

Our transition of the elected treasurer position from Les Fishbone to Louise Hanson has been completed. The process (continued on page 4)
Fraud Alert!

BREA members sometimes share cautions about scams when they get together on Zoom. At the June 2024 meeting, Don Sievers reported that he deletes suspicious emails from his inbox – every day!

See below an email that supposedly came from BREA President Arnie Moodenbaugh.

Hi
Do you have a minute in helping me out with something urgent? I am in a meeting, will be glad to receive your response.
Best regards,
Arnold Moodenbaugh
--
Download myMail and grab your short and cool email address @my.com!

Now look to the right to see an example of a Geek Squad scam. The “Hell Customer” salutation is an immediate giveaway. But, as Mark Israel pointed out during that same BREA meeting, AI technology is making it harder to recognize what’s real. You may remember earlier this year that Taylor Swift endorsed cookware in ads appearing on Facebook. They were fake. AI was used to create a synthetic version of the singer’s voice, which was incorporated into existing footage of her alongside clips showing the cookware.

Israel represents BREA at BNL’s Community Advisory Council meetings and has described a cybersecurity presentation to the CAC by Ian Ballantyne, BNL’s information security officer. Ballantyne gave an example of securing email with encryption. “Encryption allows users to communicate safely knowing that only the intended recipients can read the body of the email if it is intercepted,” he explained. “This is done by using a set of private/public keys that use cryptography to ensure privacy as long as it is implemented correctly. Certain platforms, like Microsoft365, allow you to encrypt emails.” Melissa Schuchman, who supervises BNL’s Benefits Office, said she and her staff use encrypted emails whenever they include personally identifiable information (PII) or protected health information (PHI). “This is done when exchanging emails with employees, retirees, long-term disability plan participants and our vendors,” she added. “If emails include attachments in a pdf format, the attachment is password protected and sent in a separate email.”

Most retirees have no need for encryption when corresponding with family and friends. At the left is a slide that Ballantyne uses when he talks about personal cybersecurity. You can increase your cyber safety by following these four easy steps from CISA, the lead federal agency for cybersecurity:

1. use multifactor authentication
2. update your software
3. think before you click on a link
4. use strong passwords

Mona S. Rowe
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For Former BNLers: Lung Cancer Screening

The Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP) is pleased to announce that it will soon expand the free occupational health screenings to include lung cancer screening for former BNL workers at high risk for lung cancer. WHPP has been providing comprehensive medical exams to former BNL workers since 2011 at a Long Island clinic. The medical exam screens for breathing problems, hearing loss, certain lung diseases, and other potentially work-related conditions.

Beginning in summer 2024, a subset of WHPP BNL participants who are at increased risk of lung cancer will also be offered free annual low-dose CT scans for the purpose of detecting lung cancer early.

Without screening, lung cancer is usually found in late stages, with unlikely long-term survival. With low-dose chest CT screening, however, lung cancer can be found early, and cure is likely. The test is fast, painless and does not involve any injections or other preparation. A few minutes of your time could save your life!

Annual low-dose CT scans will be provided through WHPP at a local radiology facility on Long Island or at a WHPP site in other areas of the country. Eligibility for the lung cancer screening component of WHPP is based on age, smoking history, former DOE work history, and personal health history.

Former BNL employees should call local WHPP coordinator Laura Buscemi-Robles, at 631-807-0457, or email info@worker-health.org to find out more about the WHPP lung cancer screening program or to schedule a WHPP medical exam. After the initial medical exam, WHPP participants can be re-screened every three years.

– Tiffany Martin, Outreach Coordinator, Queens College, tiffany.martin@qc.cuny.edu

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program offers compensation to former and current workers (or their survivors) employed at Department of Energy (DOE) facilities for radiation-related cancers and other work-related illnesses resulting from “toxic exposures” at these facilities. Congress established the program in 2000. Its original purpose was to compensate nuclear weapons workers, but the program has been expanded, including the establishment of a special exposure cohort (SEC) of employees, contractors and sub-contractors who worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory from January 1, 1947, through December 31, 1993.

The Department of Labor administers the program in two parts: Part B covers cancers caused by exposure to radiation while the claimant was employed at a DOE facility; under part B, benefits also extend to workers with chronic beryllium disease or beryllium sensitization. Part E covers illnesses resulting from “toxic exposures,” such as asbestosis or other illness from chemical exposures.

For information online about filing a claim, go here: http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/Filing_Claim.htm. You can also contact the resource center in Amherst, NY: 6000 North Bailey Avenue Suite 2A, Box #2, Amherst, New York 14226; telephone: (716) 832-6200, Fax: (716) 832-6638, toll free: (800) 941-3943, e-mail: newyork@dolrc.com.

“Qualifying Cancers” Covered Under Special Exposure Cohort

Bone cancer (osteosarcoma)
Renal (kidney) cancers
Leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia) provided the onset of the disease was at least two years after first exposure
Lung cancer (other than in-situ lung cancer that is discovered during or after a post-mortem exam)
The following diseases provided onset was at least five years after first exposure:
- Multiple myeloma
- Lymphomas (other than Hodgkin’s disease)
- Primary cancer of the:
  - Bile ducts
  - Brain
  - Breast (female and male)
  - Colon
  - Esophagus
  - Gall Bladder
  - Liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated)
  - Ovary
  - Pancreas
  - Pharynx (mouth/throat)
  - Salivary gland
  - Small intestine
  - Stomach
  - Thyroid
  - Urinary bladder

– Mona S. Rowe, msrowe.hi@gmail.com
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.

Steve Feldberg, 87, June 11, 2024
William "Skip" Henry Medeiros, 76, March 19, 2024

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 (continued)

occurred more slowly than we had hoped. First we were asked by TFCU to update and enhance information about BREA financial activities. This was required in part by regulator oversight designed to stem financial crimes, an example being money laundering. This completed, we were able to transition the officer list.

All BREA officers are now authorized on the TFCU accounts, including our Floridian VP Andrew Feldman, who signed electronically. Louise now has the check-writing authority she needs as treasurer, and she initiated a new CD. I’d like to thank Les for continuing to fulfill the treasurer role during the transition. We appreciate the time and effort that Les, Louise and Laura Miller made in attending various TFCU meetings. – Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net