

**Minutes BREa Meeting
October 8, 2024 at 1:00 pm
Via Zoom**

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREa

BNL Bldg. 400A

BREa Recreation/ Attention BREa Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

Present: Arnie Moodenbaugh, Rick Backofen, Gretchen Cisco, Cheryl Conrad, Andy Feldman, Les Fishbone, Louise Hanson, Mark Israel, Jim Lemley, Bill Leonhardt, Yousef Makdisi, Laura Miller, Swapna Mukerji, Hue-Anh Pham, Mona Rowe, Steve Shapiro, Barry Siskind

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

1. Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh

Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm.

2. Minutes of September meeting. Laura Miller. Mona Rowe recorded the September minutes.

The September minutes were approved for posting at today's premeeting.

3. Treasurer's Report. Louise Hanson

a. Louise Hanson summarized the August and September statements from Teachers Federal Credit Union. Mark motioned to accept her report, Andy seconded. Motion carried.

4. Membership Report. Betty Elder.

a. Betty is not available and will report at the November meeting.

5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe. Plans for Nov./Dec. Newsletter. Also discuss: providing BREa officer email contacts on the posted Newsletters. That information is being used by scammers attempting to extract money from us. We should consider removing some or all of the contact info from the web.

a. Mona is moving the article on Discovery Park to the January-February newsletter. In addition to Andy going to the ceremony at the 911 museum, Mona will include a discussion of Kay Cortz's first work of fiction, which was published this year. Mona will also provide a personal perspective from Andy of his experience dealing with the aftermath of 9/11. She will also include information on benefits.

6. Community Advisory Council CAC. Mark Israel. Any interested person can attend meetings in person or via ZOOM <https://www.bnl.gov/community/cac.php> (next mtg. Th. 10 Oct.) Arnie attended the September meeting via ZOOM. Director Hewitt presented information about a spill of tritiated AGS cooling water. The spill initially occurred in early 2024 and received a low ORPS (occurrence report) classification that resulted in management, and hence the CAC, not being notified in a timely way. She also presented an introduction to the (Bi)Annual Lab Plan; she and Deputy Director Ann Emrick will elaborate at later meetings. Jason Remien discussed 1) Bldg. 197 demolition and associated mercury cleanup; 2) Experiments to speed up soil remediation of volatile organics (VOC) near Bldg. 96; and 3) additional well monitoring of PFAS groundwater pollution south of the Firehouse vicinity. .
 - a. Arnie commented that at the September meeting Director Hewett apologized to the CAC for late reporting of the recent radioactive tritium spill of water which happened during the washdown of building 911. The spill hit the roof of the building and then went into the rainwater holding pond before anyone could measure it on the roof. There doesn't seem to have been much public reporting about it. Members of CAC may return to this topic with questions at the next meeting.
 - b. The CAC will meet Thursday, October 10 and Mark will report at the November meeting.
7. BREA contributions. Tesla Foundation.
 - a. Neither Arnie nor Steve Shapiro had any updates to report.
 - b. Standard bricks will only take letters, no images. Steve suggested this be discussed with the Tesla representative.

Action: Arnie will contact the foundation for an update.
8. Future Talks/Presentations.

Action: Arnie will contact Director Hewitt and others regarding possible future presentations.
Action: Arnie (and possibly Mark Israel) will follow up with Ian Ballentine.
9. Medicare and BNL retiree benefits.
 - a. The Sept/Oct newsletter will address a few issues about the Medicare open enrollment period beginning this week. In the September-October newsletter, Arnie noted that the **Part D** prescription drug coverage is being expanded, and significant changes in most plans are coming (in Arnie's area, the premium increases seem to be about \$25 to \$50 per month). Changing **Part D** plans does not require the use of SelectQuote Senior. Costs can be estimated reasonably easily on the Medicare.gov website. Retirees can sign up for a new **Part D** plan directly with the provider via telephone or the web.
 - b. Many Medicare Advantage plans are having financial problems.
 - c. Mark suggested Arnie talk to the HR person who deals with SelectQuoteSenior to get a

contact name of someone who can come to one of our meetings and answer questions, etc. They could possibly join one of our Zoom meetings.

i. **Action:** Arnie will follow up on this.

10. New Business

- a. BREA Officers emails are listed on BNL's website. Should we reduce or control this? Arnie suggests removing all but the President's email contact from the newsletter. Current listing: Officers and Membership Chair are the only ones listed. Decision: no change at this time.
- b. An informal lunch, originating at BNL. Arnie may include a questionnaire in the next newsletter to see how much interest there is.

Arnie moved to adjourn the meeting; Gretchen seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.

The next BREA meeting will be held November 12 at 1:00 pm. It will take place via Zoom.