

Minutes BREA Meeting
March 11, 2025 at 1:00 pm
Via Zoom

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

Present: Arnie Moodenbaugh, Andrew Ackerman, Dave Cox, Betty Elder, Louise Hanson, Jim Hurst, Mark Israel, Bill Leonhardt, Sean McCorkle, Laura Miller, Steve Musolino, Mona Rowe, Steve Shapiro, Don Sievers, Barry Siskind

Laura Robles, Guest

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

At the pre-meeting, the BREA Board approved the minutes from BREA's January 14, 2025 meeting. The March Treasurer's Report was presented at the premeeting and approved by the board members present.

1. Call to Order Arnie Moodenbaugh
 - a. Called to order at 1:02 pm.
2. Minutes of February Meeting. Laura Miller
 - a. Louise moved to approve, all board members present voted to approve the minutes at the pre-meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report. Louise Hanson
 - a. CD Status:
 - i. Q: What is the minimum required amount in our CDs from the credit union.
 1. **Action:** Louise will check and report at the next meeting.
4. Membership Report. Betty Elder
 - a. Betty sent the report prior to the meeting to the BREA Board. Current membership: 196. Current membership with email: 182. Those with a mailing address: 444. Four new members have joined since the last meeting.

5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe

- a. March/April Newsletter: The newsletter has been mailed and Mona received hers (in Hawaii). In addition to BNL's Top 10 Discoveries of 2024, it included a Q/A regarding the Science User Support Center, SUSC, that came from follow-up questions to the article by Joe Gettler in the Jan/Feb newsletter:
 - i. The SUSC will be outside the gates, which means people will be able to go there and to the badging office without going through security.
 - ii. The building will be open in the summer and food, similar to Bldg. 400, will be available for purchase.
 - iii. There is talk about installing 'normal' food service in Berkner Hall.
- b. Plans for the May/June Newsletter:
 - i. Feature on Jane Koropsak.
- c. Shapiro asked why the Treasurer's Report was given in the premeeting
 - i. Recurring costs (newsletter printing, etc.) are discussed in the premeeting. Donations and larger expenditures are reported at the general meeting. After some discussion, a decision was made to revert to discussing and approving the Treasurer's Report during each month's regular meeting.

6. BREa Contributions Update

- a. The following letters and checks were mailed:
 - i. United Way LI (\$500)
 - ii. Caltech/JPL (\$500)
 - iii. Tesla Science Center (\$1050 check includes \$200 for brick, remainder donation)

7. CAC Meeting

- a. The next meeting will be held Thursday March 13 at 6:30 pm. Arnie will attend that meeting. Mark plans to attend the April and May meetings. The March meeting will include a tour of several facilities at BNL and a CAC members dinner will take place prior to the March meeting.
 - i. **Action:** Arnie will report on the March CAC meeting at our April meeting.
- b. **Mona:** CAC has not met since the presidential inauguration. Will someone in the group ask about changes possibly coming from the new administration?

- i. **Mark:** The grant areas: NSF and NIH funding will be affected. We are still operating on a continuing resolution, and we won't know until March 14 what will happen with the budget reconciliation. The DEI office has been shut down.
 - c. **Sean:** what's the situation for retirees to get a badge? Unchanged. Anyone trying to get on site with an expired badge will be sent first to the trailer to get cleared to go on site. Then that person will go to the Badging Office in Bldg. 400 to get their badge renewed. This will all go away when the Science and User Support Center in Discovery Park opens this summer, because badging will be handled there, outside BNL's entrance gate.
- 8. Future Talks/Presentations
 - a. Nothing at this time. Arnie is reluctant to ask the Director at this time.
- 9. Plans for Spring In-Person Meeting at BNL
 - a. It takes additional effort on Adam's part, and he won't have time until after the continuing resolution takes place. There's a possibility of holding one in April if the CR is resolved with enough lead time.
 - b. Arnie will see if in April people want to meet informally in person before the next meeting or at another time. He hasn't gotten much of a response in the past and might put it in the newsletter again to see if it gets a better response.
- 10. New Business
 - a. **Betty:** contacted Melissa Schuchmann in HR about updating our database. Melissa said starting in March she might be able to start sending a report quarterly that will allow Betty to update the database.
 - i. We should all try to reach out to people who are soon to retire (service anniversaries for 30+ years) to inform them about BREA.
 - ii. **Action:** Arnie will look at emails from BNL about this and talk to Melissa or the person who puts the package together for employees retiring. BNL HR uses links now, rather than a package, so we may want to highlight the link to BREA's website.
 - b. There is a "Leaving BSA" document that tries to answer questions employees soon to retire might. If it doesn't already have it, we should see that a link to BREA or BREA's membership form is provided.
 - c. BSA stipend: HR hasn't answered the letter Arnie sent almost a year ago. At that time, the decision was to keep the BSA benefit the same.

- i. **Action:** Arnie will write a letter to HR about the stipend (currently \$180 per person) and the retirement package links that are within “Leaving BSA”.
- d. Steve Shapiro: He found a 1958 article written in Life magazine, “Yaphank’s Happy Thinkers” about life in the laboratory in 1958 and provided the following link to the article: Shapiro@bnl.gov.
https://books.google.com/books?id=aVMEAAAAMBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false Page 102, 1958.
 - i. **Action:** Mona will put a link to the article in the upcoming newsletter.
- e. Sean: Had a knee replacement last April. Received the final bill recently: ~\$25k, 25% of which he learned he is responsible for paying. He has an Advantage Plan through SelectQuote. He was told his Advantage Plan supersedes and blocks his Medicare. They take care of his medical expenses, and he is responsible for whatever they don’t cover. He asked for a detailed list of all the expenses for his knee replacement. Two people agreed to send that information, but to date he hasn’t received it. Long Island Advantage Plans: some people had good results. New York Times had a recent article about the number of denied referrals by various Advantage Plan offers. United Healthcare was the worst, Kaiser Permanente (west coast only) was the best.
- f. BREa luncheon in June
 - i. This continues to be discussed, with no decision.
- g. Mona said the current price of eggs at Costco in Hawaii: \$15 for 24 locally grown eggs.
- h. Laura Robles: If anyone has Questions with Workers Health protection program, call her at 631-807-0457.

Motion to adjourn made by Laura, seconded by Mark. Passed with no opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 1:59 pm,

The next meeting will be held April 8th and may take place as a hybrid Zoom/in person meeting.