

DRAFT Minutes BREA Meeting
April 8, 2025 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, Gretchen Cisco, Ronnie Clarke, Cheryl Conrad, Betty Elder, Andy Feldman, Louise Hanson, Mark Israel, Jim Lemley, Bill Leonhardt, Laura Miller, Steve Musolino, Mona Rowe, 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 March 11, 2025 meeting.

1. Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh
 - a. Called to order at 1:02 pm.
2. Minutes of March Meeting. Laura Miller
 - a. After some discussion, Arnie made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Louise. With one abstention (due to his absence at the March meeting), the board members present voted to approve the minutes.
 - i. **Action:** Laura will have the March minutes posted on BREA's website.
3. Treasurer's Report. Louise Hanson
 - a. Question from March:
 - i. What is the minimum required amount in our CDs from the credit union?
 1. At TFCU, where BREA has an account, it is \$1000.
 2. Does the money put into a CD need to come from a different institution, or can it be transferred within?
 - a. It can be transferred from within TFCU.
 - b. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Laura, seconded by Cheryl, approved with no dissension.

4. Membership Report. Betty Elder.
 - a. Betty sent the report prior to the meeting to the BREA Board. There is no change since the March meeting. Current membership: 196. Current membership with email: 182. Those with a mailing address: 444.
5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe. Plans for the May/June newsletter.
 - a. The feature article is on Jane Koropsak, who was a Senior Public Affairs Representative for BNL. She was born and raised on Long Island. In retirement, she moved to South Carolina. Mona will be in touch with Betty for more information separately.
 - b. BNL AI is a contender for a data center. This is important because AI needs a 'power plant' to operate. Mona suggests Arnie write something about it in his piece. This is still in the works, but Newsday had an article about it.
 - c. DOE Area Office has downsized, and Bob Gordon, their most recent manager, has stepped down. Unknown whether or not he has officially retired.
6. BREA contributions.
 - a. Letters and checks went out to United Way LI (\$500), Caltech/JPL (\$500), and Tesla Science Center (\$1050 check includes \$200 for brick, remainder donation).
7. CAC meeting held Mar. 13. Mark Israel. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 10 at 6:30PM.
 - a. Arnie is the alternate and attended due to Mark's absence. Mark will attend the April meeting.
 - b. **Action:** Mark will forward Arnie's minutes to Laura.
 - c. **Action:** Laura will add them to the April minutes.
 - i. **Notes have been added at the end of these minutes.**
8. Future Talks/Presentations
 - a. Nothing specific. Arnie is thinking that by next month's meeting he will have spoken to BNL's Director and/or others to speak.
9. Plans for spring in-person meeting at BNL.
 - a. The May meeting will be in person. Conference rooms 1-2 in Bldg. 400 are reserved. It will be a Zoom meeting as well.
 - b. **Action:** Arnie will check with Adam to be sure that it's still ok.
 - c. **Action:** Arnie will see if the Director can speak, either via Zoom or if she will come in person.
10. New business.
 - a. Badge situation: If a retiree has an expired badge, bring badge to main gate. Security will take the badge and give retiree a pass to go to the Badging office and get a new one.
 - b. Harriet Martin, former Librarian at AGS has passed away.
 - c. If anyone knows someone on-site who would be willing to give a presentation, let Arnie know.

- i. Maurice DuBois, speaker?
- ii. Bring someone in to discuss AI. Maybe the head of IT from TFCU would be interested.
- iii. Speaker to discuss Electron-Ion Collider status

Possible future newsletter feature: anniversary of LI wildfire on Sunrise Highway.

Action: Send Mona the names of any firefighters Mona might be able to interview

Don mentioned his wellness checkup and reminded the rest of us not to ignore our bodies – seek attention as soon as we notice something is amiss.

Laura made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Don. Meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm.

The next meeting will be May 13 at 1:00 pm and will be a hybrid, both in-person and Zoom meeting.

CAC MARCH 13 MEETING: Notes by A. Moodenbaugh

New “Discovery Technologies” Directorate -- Gabriella Carini.

The discussion was technically oriented. The following includes some of my comments. This Directorate will have four departments: existing efforts 1) Instrumentation, 2) Accelerator Tech. (Magnet Division and accelerator detector efforts), plus newly emphasized areas 3) quantum information, and 4) microelectronics. This organization is apparently designed, in part, to respond to newly DOE funded Microelectronics Science Research Centers. BNL has been designated as a lead lab in the EL-PHO area of microelectronic characteristics in extreme environments (radiation, temperature . . .).

Environmental Updates -- Jason Remien

Bldg. 197 demolition. Mercury contamination is a concern. The project is moving deliberately. There has been an unexpected encounter with mercury. A concrete foundation block not related to known contamination was found to contain abandoned piping that had been previously cut from all connections. Some of the pipes contained mercury, some spilled during initial dislodging. The block was isolated, covered, and had pipe openings stoppered to protect it from the weather. Work planning is being done to clean up the spills and further investigate the block's internal pipes.

Tritiated accelerator cooling water systems. Magnet cooling water tritiated above the drinking water standard had been spilled. The cooling water was partially replaced with fresh water to bring the system water below the drinking water standard. Additional steps are being developed to reduce the risk of tritiated water spills in the accelerator cooling systems.

PFAS contamination of ground water in North Shirley/Mastic. In the late 1990's BNL's PFAS contamination of groundwater prompted the hookup of about 1500 homes to SCWA water at DOE expense. Currently, only 3 private wells remain in use in the potential contamination area. BNL pays for monitoring, and hookup if contamination attributable to BNL is shown. Additional potential sources of identified contamination are Brookhaven Calabro Airport and Manorville, Ridge, and Mastic Fire Substations. Contamination from those sources will be nearer the surface due to their sites being within the region of interest. BNL's PFAS monitoring near the previous Bldg. 96 site continues.

BNL Community Involvement Plan is being updated. The current CIP dates from 1991.

LIRR East Yaphank -- LIRR spokesperson presented via Zoom

LIRR station at East Yaphank (S. of BNL and E. of Wm. Floyd Pkwy.) Work is ongoing, with plans to open station later this year. Service will use existing two passenger car diesel trains, with no current funding to expand service. Arnie looked at schedules. Weekday trains are 2 westbound, 1 eastbound. There is additional bus service, about 3 each way.

Comments by Jo Anne Hewitt in response to questions.

BNL funding has not been affected. Three Presidential Executive Orders have been implemented. DEI order has closed relevant office, with some employee transfers and others RIFed. Another order restricted flags flown at BNL to US and DOE flags. The third relevant order requires removal of specific words from all BNL documents.