

BREA Meeting Minutes
July 8, 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, Gretchen Cisco, David Cox, Ronnie Evans, Andy Feldman, Les Fishbone, Louise Hanson, Mark Israel, Tom Koetzle, Sean McCorkle, Laura Miller, Don Sievers, Barry Siskind, Ed Sperry, Helio Takai

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 June 10, 2025 meeting. A. Feldman motioned to approve, L. Hanson seconded, approved by those in attendance.

1. Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.
2. Minutes of the June meeting. Laura Miller. Officers met at 12:45 to discuss and vote on approval of the June meeting minutes.
 - a. Minutes were discussed and approved at the pre-meeting.
 - i. **Action:** Laura will post the June minutes on BREA's website.
3. Treasurer's Report. Louise Hanson.
 - a. Shapiro said that the Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe hasn't received the \$1050 check, which was mailed in early March. Louise placed a 'stop payment' on the check, paying the \$25 fee from the checking account. She then wrote a new check for the same amount and took it in person to the Shoreham post office. The address had the correct PO Box on it, but the check hasn't been cashed yet. She then informed Shapiro about the hand delivery and asked him to let someone at the Tesla organization know.
 - b. M. Israel motioned to accept, L. Miller seconded, passed unanimously.

4. Membership Report. Betty Elder.
 - a. Prior to the meeting, Betty sent the report to the BREA Board. There have been no changes since the May meeting. No new members. Current membership: 200. Current membership with email: 185. Those with a mailing address: 444.
 - b. While, technically speaking, we did not get any new members, John Flannigan retired in 2023 and at that time paid the five-year membership dues. But Betty couldn't find his name in the database nor in the list on the BREA website. He forwarded the confirmation email from Beth dated 12/15/2025. Betty has added him to the membership database and extended his expiration date to the end of 2030.
 - a. Mark motioned to accept the report, Andy seconded, motion approved.
2. New reporting requirement for all BERA organizations. We have submitted a Club Annual Plan to meet the July 1 deadline (see below). We are in a good position because our activities are documented on the BREA webpage and our funds are well monitored. Louise and Arnie worked up a tentative budget based on expenses in recent years. There are requirements for quarterly reports consisting of a list of activities, bank statements, and details of income and disbursement of funds. These reports will be due quarterly beginning Sept. 1.
 - a. Louise and Arnie will get together in August and finalize the first report, including a budget, and will send it to Adam Merone.
3. BREA election of officers this fall. Consider the future of BREA and your participation. We should probably have a discussion at the next meeting, with the intention of identifying a slate of candidates during September before the October meeting.
 - a. New recruitments: No names were submitted at the meeting.
4. Recruitment of retiring employees to BREA. Over the last few years, new memberships in BREA have declined. Part of the issue may be that retiring employees no longer receive a paper package that once included an invitation to join. BERA puts out a monthly Club Activities email to employees. Adam Merone says that it features one club each month. He is willing to feature BREA occasionally to improve awareness. Other ideas are welcome.
 - a. **Action:** Arnie will ask Adam if he would be willing to contact employees with 25+ anniversary dates and tell them about membership in BREA.
 - b. Personal contact seems to work the best. Mark mentioned seeing former

employees at CAC meetings and said he talked to them about joining. He gets a positive response, but so far most of them haven't joined.

- c. Ed Sperry holds a monthly retired luncheon and mentions BREA, but they have no interest in joining. He will continue to bring it up as newly retired members come to his luncheon.
- d. We need an internal contact within HR for issues such as this. We will continue to ask if we can get notification from HR regarding employees who are soon to retire.

5. Future Talks/Presentations

- a. Helio Takai has agreed to give a talk at our September meeting.

- i. **Action:** Dr. Takai will send Arnie an abstract before the September meeting.

- b. Possible future presentations:

- Sean is talking to someone in Nuclear Medicine
- JoAnne Hewett
- Jon Hanson, Louise's husband
- Sean also noted that BNL Instrumentation played a large role in the camera development and implementation of the Ruben Observatory Camera, especially Paul Conner in CCD and Justine Haupt, who is a photogenic superstar at the lab.
- Joe Indusi, who was at the June BREA meeting, said he would give a talk
- Kathy Scheffer[check spelling], Tim Green's replacement.
- David Schlyer, who has many interesting stories.
- **Action:** Arnie has David Schlyer's email and will contact him to give a presentation.
- **Action:** put together a calendar of speakers and see if we can post them on BNL's website.
- **Action:** Arnie or Laura will talk to Adam about posting a new separate link for a BREA calendar

6. New business

- a. Don Sievers: Vets are now entitled to dental and eye care. He encourages all vets to contact their local VA organization to find out what benefits they are entitled to receive.
- b. Mona will be on Long Island in August. There will be an open meeting at

the BNL cafeteria to discuss ideas to promote membership in BREA on August 11 at 12 pm.

There is no BREA meeting in August. The next BREA meeting will be held on September 9, 2025.

Motion to adjourn made by Laura Miller, seconded by Don Sievers and Ronie Evans, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Annual Plan

Club Name: Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (BREA)

Submitted By: Arnold Moodenbaugh (President)

Date: June 25, 2025

Goals for the Year

As stated by our constitution and bylaws, BREA's purpose shall be to “further retiree interests and benefits, to build closer community ties between Brookhaven National Laboratory (hereinafter referred to as BNL) and its neighbors, to publish a newsletter providing communication with retired employees, and to encourage activities for social interaction within the retirement community. “

Since the onset of Covid19, enrollment by BNL retirees has declined. This may be due in part to a lack of awareness of BREA. We have participated in the BERA outreach events for employees. We will seek additional opportunities to better inform retiring employees about BREA. Since Covid, all meetings but one have been ZOOM only. We will seek to arrange an additional hybrid in-person/ZOOM meeting at BNL this year.

We have not had a luncheon (previously annual) since the advent of Covid. Estimated attendance at a luncheon has dropped since our pre-Covid lunches. This wouldn't be adequate to meet the minimum numbers for our previous location, so a more informal get-together is the current goal.

BREA, working collaboratively with the BNL Benefits Office, will provide updated annual information about health coverage to members prior to annual open enrollments.

BREA will promote member participation in volunteer opportunities. An example has been for the annual Science Bowl. BREA will communicate BNL updates and achievements to members via meetings and the newsletters.

BREA has representation and regularly participates in the BNL Community Advisory Council. This commitment will continue. Our representative Mark Israel or alternate regularly attends these meetings, and updates members at BREA's monthly meetings. BREA holds officer elections every two years as described in the by-laws. Our election for the four positions will take place in the fall of 2025, with those elected taking office in early 2026. Appointed positions are Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary, and CAC

representative and alternate.

BREA has contributed to charities including BNL's annual United Fund appeal. Depending on member sentiment, BREA will continue this practice.

Planned Activities

Monthly meetings occur on the second Tuesday of each month 1:00 PM Eastern time (no meeting in August). Meetings are regularly on Zoom (since the onset of Covid). This better serves remote members than the previous telephone link. We intend to have one or more hybrid in-person/ZOOM meetings in the year originate at BNL. These occasions require BNL-based facilitation for the room assignment and web access (by BREA coordinator Adam Merone). Past meeting minutes with attendee lists are posted on the BREA webpage. Meetings include updates on BNL activities and policies, discussion of retiree health programs and benefits, and occasionally include guest speakers on scientific topics, health issues, or retirement experiences.

BREA publishes a newsletter six times yearly (bimonthly). The BREA News is printed at and mailed from BNL to retirees requesting a hard copy. Other BREA members (and all members of the BNL community) can view current and back issues posted on the BNL BREA web page. Topics covered include BNL scientific topics, human interest articles on retiree experiences, and an annual discussion of retiree health coverage, including BSA health benefits.

In addition to arranging for occasional BREA on-site meetings, BERA's advisor emails meeting announcements and other messages to members on behalf of BREA. BERA has arranged for BNL-based maintenance of the BREA web site. BERA currently covers the costs for printing and mailing of six newsletters per year.

Proposed Budget ending May, 2026

(Assets omitted)

Income: \$2000

- Dues: \$1500
- (other income): \$500

Expenses: \$5000

- Replacement laptop computer and software: for database membership tracking: \$1500
- President's Zoom subscription: for origination of remote meetings: \$250
- Donations: \$2000
- Postage and other office expenses: \$250
- Guarantees for group activities (luncheon for example): \$1000