

# BREA NEWS

<https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>

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July/August 2026

## BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

Zoom meetings via video link have become the norm. Contact any officer for help to join a meeting.

### Meeting Schedule

July 14, 2026

August 2026: no meeting

September 8, 2026

### BREA Officers

#### President

Arnold Moodenbaugh  
[moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

#### Vice President

open position

#### Secretary

Laura Miller  
[lj96miller@outlook.com](mailto:lj96miller@outlook.com)

#### Treasurer

Louise Hanson  
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\* \* \*

#### Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe  
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Looking for summer fun? See what BERA has planned, p. 3.

## From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, [moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

To BREA members,

Much of this newsletter provides information about the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP), available without cost to BNL retirees, employees, contractors and subcontractors (see pages 2 and 3). The requirement is 30 days of work on the Brookhaven site. WHPP provides access to thorough physical exams that evaluate aspects of health that may be related to prior workplace exposure to hazards. A retiree may become eligible to compensation if a condition is identified. I urge you to review the information provided and follow up as appropriate.

We acknowledge the recent passing of former BNL Director Sam Aronson. The remembrance on the BNL website (<https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=222954>) recounts a wide ranging career with over 40 years at Brookhaven. In the 90s, he headed the PHENIX detector project at RHIC. In the early 2000s, he rose to BNL associate director, then laboratory director for about six years. He then directed the RIKEN US-Japan collaboration. He served in many local, state, national and international organizations, for example, as American Physical Society's vice president, then president. His wide interests are

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## Free Lung Cancer Screening for High-Risk Former BNL Workers

Since 2011, the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP) has offered comprehensive medical exams to former Brookhaven National Laboratory workers through a nationwide medical screening program for Department of Energy workers, based at Queens College of the City University of New York.

These free exams screen for work-related conditions, such as noise-induced hearing loss, beryllium sensitivity, and certain lung diseases, as well as other general health conditions, such as high blood pressure and diabetes. The BNL exams are done by Wajdy Hailoo, an occupational medicine physician in Ronkonkoma, NY.

WHPP now also offers annual low-dose chest CT scans to a subset of WHPP BNL participants who are at increased risk for lung cancer, the number one cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. The purpose of the WHPP lung cancer screening program is to detect lung cancer *early*, when treatment is most successful. Eligibility for the WHPP lung cancer screening program is based on age, smoking history, DOE work exposures, and medical history.

Without screening, lung cancer is typically discovered *after* symptoms appear, when it is more likely to have spread to the lymph nodes and other organs. Long-term survival rates are low in those diagnosed with late-stage lung cancer. With low-dose CT screening, however, lung cancer can be detected *before* symptoms occur. If treated early, lung cancer survival rates are high, and even cure is possible. The CT scan is fast, painless, and requires no injections or special preparation. Taking just a few minutes once a year to get this test could save your life.

Once a WHPP participant is determined to be eligible for lung cancer screening, the low-dose CT scan appointments are scheduled through the WHPP office at Queens College. The low-dose chest CT scans are performed at a local radiology facility in Smithtown, Long Island, NY.

The WHPP Early Lung Cancer Detection Program has existed for over 25 years. To date, the program has found 247 lung cancers, with almost three quarters (70%) found in an early stage.

(continued on next page)



*I am totally grateful to the Worker Health Protection Program. When I retired from INL, I was offered a free physical and later a low-dose CT scan of my lungs by WHPP. In January 2015, I had a yearly CT scan of my lung. I was notified that a nodule on my lung was looking suspicious for lung cancer. A biopsy was taken, and I was diagnosed with lung cancer. I had surgery, and afterward, I showed no lung cancer left in my body.*

*All my doctors credited this success to the early detection by WHPP. I want to thank everyone who is responsible for and working with the WHPP and the WHPP Early Lung Cancer Detection Program. I was feeling great before I was diagnosed with cancer. Thanks to early detection, I was given a new lease on life.*

– Loretta Moses, former DOE worker  
Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

Former BNL employees interested in learning more about the WHPP lung cancer screening program or scheduling a medical exam, should contact the local WHPP coordinator, Laura Buscemi-Robles, at 631-807-0457, or email [info@worker-health.org](mailto:info@worker-health.org).

– Tiffany Martin, WHPP Outreach Coordinator, Queens College, [tiffany.martin@qc.cuny.edu](mailto: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 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 was expanded, including the establishment of a special exposure cohort of employees, contractors and subcontractors who worked at Brookhaven from January 1, 1947, through the present. The requirement is 30 days of work on site.

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](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](mailto:newyork@dolrc.com).

### “Qualifying Cancers” Covered Under Special Exposure Cohort

*Bone cancer (osteosarcoma)*

*Renal (kidney) cancers*

*Leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia) provided onset of 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	Gall Bladder	Salivary gland
Brain	Liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated)	Small intestine
Breast (female and male)	Ovary	Stomach
Colon	Pancreas	Thyroid
Esophagus	Pharynx (mouth/throat)	Urinary bladder

– Mona S. Rowe, [msrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com)

## Summertime BERA Events

For all you “local” retirees, the Brookhaven Employees’ Recreation Association is offering a number of activities for the summer. Of note:

- NYC do-as-you-please train trip, July 11, leave from Ronkonkoma LIRR station at 9:31 a.m., arrive at Penn Station by 11 a.m. Return on our own.
- Summer Jam Series, July 25, August 6, August 20, noon to 1 p.m., Berkner front patio (inside if it rains)
- Yankees vs Braves, August 9, bus trip to Yankee Stadium
- Dragon Boat Race, September 19, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., (BERA members have volunteered in past years)

For details, contact Danielle Pontieri at [BERAoffice@bnl.gov](mailto:BERAoffice@bnl.gov).



## 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 information has changed, send me an email at [bettyelder81@gmail.com](mailto:bettyelder81@gmail.com).

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership type:

annual (\$10)     5 years (\$40)    Life  (\$95)

Dues cover year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check amount: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE 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 to:

Betty Elder, Membership Chair  
215 River Drive  
Moriches, NY 11955

– Betty Elder, Membership Chair  
[bettyelder81@gmail.com](mailto:bettyelder81@gmail.com)

## In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees.

Samuel Aronson, 83, March 18, 2026

Daniel Paul Mahalic, 85, May 4, 2026

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](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com) or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

## President’s Message (cont’d from p. 1)

illustrated by his post-employment service as secretary of the National Offshore Wind R&D Consortium, and his co-founding of the Sustainable Off-grid Solutions for African Economic Development.

BREA’s upcoming Zoom monthly meeting is Tuesday, July 14, at 1 p.m. EDT. After a break in August, we meeting again on Tuesday, September 8, the day after Labor Day. Please note that, unfortunately, due to the passing of Andrew Feldman, we have a vacant vice-president position. The remaining year-and-a-half of the term can be filled by vote of the current board members. We are asking for volunteers to come forward by contacting an officer listed in this newsletter.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, [moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

## Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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