

BREA Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Berkner Hall and 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, Les Fishbone, Louise Hanson, Mark Israel, James Lemley, Bill Leonhardt, Yousef Makdisi, Sean McCorkle, Laura Miller, Hueanh Pham, Mona Rowe, Don Sievers, Barry Siskind, Ed Sperry, Martin VanLith, Charles Weilbrenner

Officers 2024-2026: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Due to the sudden passing of Andy Feldman, this is now an open position; Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Louise Hanson

At the pre-meeting, the BREA Board reviewed and approved the May 12, 2026 minutes. Laura will send them to be posted on the BREA website.

BREA President Arnie Moodenbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Many thanks to Danielle Pontieri for her help getting our first combined in-person/ Zoom meeting started.

1. Treasurer's Report and Club Reporting to BERA. Louise Hanson and Arnie Moodenbaugh. Bank statements must be regularly submitted to BERA. Annual report and plan was submitted to BERA before May 1 deadline.
 - a. Nothing changed in the savings account or the cds because interest is posted quarterly. The next posting will take place in June.
 - b. We had a deposit of \$135 from two people who sent in their dues.
 - c. **Action:** Arnie will speak to Adam about when he should send Adam the quarterly reports.
 - d. **Action:** Louise and Arnie will discuss removing Andy Feldman's name from TFCU account.
 - i. Arnie will go to the credit union and have Andy's name, etc. removed from the account.
 - e. Laura made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Sean. Motion passed with no opposition.

2. Membership Report. Betty Elder.
 - a. 207 members, 191 members with email, 456 in 'arrears', received dues from 2 people since the BREA May meeting.
 - b. Betty received a list of deceased from Melissa in HR, which will allow Betty to update her database.
 - c. It is difficult to count the correct number of possible retirees. BNL's formula is a minimum of 55 years of age plus the number of years as a BNL employee needed to reach a total of 70.
3. Newsletter. Mona Rowe
 - a. The next newsletter will focus completely on worker health. She has been working with Tiffany about getting information out. She has asked for room for a photo of someone and a quote.
 - b. BERA activities will be promoted. Some activities are held on-site. The hope is to encourage retirees to participate.
 - i. There is a weekly or biweekly lunchtime music activity during the summer.
 - c. November-December issue will focus on gambling, particularly on-line gambling.
4. Community Advisory Council met in May. Mark Israel
 - a. CAC met on May 14. The next meeting will be in September. Mark gave an update of the May meeting and will send notes to Laura to be included at the end of these minutes.
 - i. **Action:** Sean McCorkle will reach out to Carlos Soto to invite him to speak at a future meeting.
 - ii. **Mona:** Has there ever been a breakdown in the lab's budget, i.e., related to funds coming from outside DOE? Suggestion: ask Susan McKeon or David Manning to give a budget presentation at a future meeting.
 - b. Update re. TFCU speaker at the July meeting.
 - i. Mark thinks he has 2 speakers, one discussing fraud and identity and the other on cybersecurity.
 - ii. **Action:** once confirmed, Arnie will ask BERA to send the meeting notice well in advance of the July meeting.
5. Recruitment of retiring employees to join BREA. Discuss changes in dues scheme to improve enrollment.
 - i. Other initiatives. Someone sent Arnie a list of retiring RHIC

- employees. He contacted them and got a fairly good response.
 - ii. Arnie will talk to Adam about getting the list of employees BEFORE they retire.
 - iii. Many people who participated in the Reduction In Force (RIF) have submitted on-line membership forms to Betty.
 - iv. Adam and Arnie will continue sending notices to upcoming retirees and long-term employees retiring in the near future.
6. Discuss possibility of filling the open BREA Vice President position
- a. If people are interested or can recommend someone for the position of Vice President of BREA, let any board member know. Because it's a replacement, the person would only be taking it on for the time left until the next election (approximately 1.5 years).
7. Local activities. Consider an informal lunch. Possible outings?
- a. Lunch at BNL, either before a regular meeting or at a different time/location?
 - i. Louise: Plum Island update
 - a. **Action:** Laura will check with John Sears and/or his replacement to find out about a tour of the island.
 - b. Laura sent an email but hasn't received a response.
 - c. **Action:** Laura will see if there is a Plum Island website that gives information.
 - b. Lunchtime musical events
 - i. Arnie will put this in the next meeting announcement
 - c. BREA members subscribing to BERA's email distribution list can see local BNL sponsored activities and we are encouraged to join any activities of interest.
8. New Business
- a. Check stealing and washing
 - i. The Unibol 207+ pen uses a form of ink that is difficult to erase.
 - b. BNL retirees with security clearances at one time were provided 10 years of date surveillance and after 10 years are told that they can continue to do it for a fee. Navia breach of data – the company monitoring it is offering 2 years of surveillance free of charge. Navia has a website that has information about a data breach they recently had. Some people were provided new Medicare cards with new numbers, but not all.

- c. Retiree luncheon tomorrow at Medford Pastaria at noon. The next one will be in September, meetings occur every three months.

Laura motioned to adjourn, Don seconded, passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.

The next meeting will be July 14th at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

Appendix A: May 14 CAC Meeting Notes – Mark Israel

The CAC met on May 14th. Their next meeting will be in September. There were two presentations.

The science presentation was "Making AI Work for Science: Data, Models, Security, and Embodiment" presented by Carlos Soto, AI Department Head. He discussed how the intent is to use AI to improve scientific work by making it faster, more efficient, more productive, more thorough, and to provide better performance and higher throughput. AI will enable something new. Carlos stated that Science is not a factory, but it is a workshop...a lab. The Novelty of AI is to accelerate techniques needed to support dynamism in science. Many roles of AI in science already exist:

- Perception
- Analysis and inference
- Ideation/hypothesis generation
- Simulation surrogates
- Design and control of experiments
- Inverse modeling
- Data management, filtering, and compression

The AI Department will utilize AI Applications for collaborations with all of the scientific directorates at BNL:

- Nuclear and Particle Physics
- Electron Ion Collider
- Environment, Biology, Nuclear Science and Nonproliferation
- Energy and Photon Science
- Discovery Technologies
- Computing and Data Sciences, and
- Operations

The AI Department is composed of four groups: AI Theory and Security Group, Trustworthy AI Group, Foundation Models Group, and the AI Co-design Group. The AI Department approaches AI as a Science, not just a Technology. AI will be designed for unique data needs: massive data sets, streaming analysis, heterogeneous multisource data, spatiotemporal dynamic data, and high sparsity data. The data will be used for what they refer to as Foundational Developments, and state of the art results that will outperform competing methods and be regularly published at AI conferences.

AI will be brought into the Real World as Applications for Security and Safeguards, and, therefore, industry standards must be adopted, implemented, and

assessed to assure security and trustworthiness. There must be robust training of AI models to reduce susceptibility to adversarial attack, data tainting, leakage, and poisoning risks. We must be able to identify and mitigate platform and lifecycle risks for AI within larger ecosystems.

Robotics Research includes a complex mixture of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, AI, Control Theory, Operations, and Human Factors. Approximately 20 automation and robotics platforms are presently being used across BNL to accelerate workflow, improve cycle consistency, and mitigate hazards. AI for Robotics includes Foundation Models and AI Agents -- intelligent programs that persist and demonstrate reasoning and planning to pursue objectives.

AI will be used for both basic and applied research, and will require:

- Resources and investment
- Engaging within BNL -- workshops, demos, and hackathons
- Industry, academia, and other laboratories for synergy, and
- Stakeholders and the public

The second presentation was a "BNL Environmental Compliance and Groundwater Protection Update" by Jason Remien and Brian Barth. Jason reviewed the Dashboard of the Key Environmental Compliance Programs Status, which had not changed very much, and are moving along well. All programs are stable, with no concerns. Inspection of a chemical bulk storage tank containing 15% sodium hypochlorite discovered some leakage into its secondary containment, but there was no release to the environment. This was reported to NYSDEC. The tank is now empty, and repairs are being made.

In the area of Controlled Burns, preparations are being made with NYSDEC and Pine Barrens Commission for a coordinated controlled burn when weather conditions permit.

Brian Barth presented the Groundwater Protection Update Dashboard. Here, too, there have been no changes since the prior month (April) regarding VOC Systems, Radiological Systems, and the PFAS Remediation Systems. With respect to Groundwater Updates, Brian presented the following comments:

- 2025 Groundwater Status Report is underway
- 2026 CERCLA Five-Year Review submittal to regulators is forthcoming
- Characterization of the Current Firehouse/Bldg. 170 PFAS Plume is underway
- Two additional monitoring wells were installed to enhance William Floyd

Well Field monitoring, and

- Pre-demolition soil sampling at Building 526 has been completed. Results were non-detectable or below background.