BROOKHAVEN RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

BREA NEWS

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

Volume 26, Issue 6 November/December 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

November 10, 2026

December 8, 2026

January 12, 2027

BREA Officers

President
Arnold Moodenbaugh
moodenba@gmail.com

Vice President
open position

Secretary
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Louise Hanson
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* * *

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BREA members report about their travels. See pages 2-3.

From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@gmail.com

Happy Holidays!

This newsletter features some travel reports from a members. Charlie Weilbrenner recounts his ambitious road trip with his wife from Long Island to Colorado to spend time with family. Frank Scheifele goes to Atlantic City for gaming options. And Hue-Anh Pham recently queried BREA meeting attendees for travel tips to Hawai'i, indicating her interest in a future trip to the islands. As an aside, this fall my wife Joanne flew to California to visit her brother's family at Carmel. Stay tuned for more travel reports in our 2027 January/February newsletter.

We are in the midst of the Medicare open enrollment period, which ends December 7, 2026. At the November BREA meeting, we can continue discussing Medicare and BNL retirement benefit issues. This year is marked by some impactful changes in overall pricing, as well as adjustments to Medicare Advantage availability and coverage. If you are thinking about changes, you can start

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Time to Travel!

Hue-Anh Pham retired from her job in the Collider Accelerator Department as an Advanced Technical Associate, in June 2025. In the past year – by her own admission – she's lost track of time. But she has found time to travel.

In early December 2025 she was in New York City for the holiday train show at the botanical garden and later flew to Paris for Christmas markets and a concert. This year, she's already gone on a cruise through Alaska and is planning a quick visit to Charleston. Then she's off to Munich, Germany, also for Christmas markets and concerts. Always planning, Pham queried the gathered retirees at a recent BREA Zoom meeting about Hawai'i. That's next on her bucket list.

Below are reports from two new BREA members, both of whom retired earlier this year. See where they have traveled.



Prairie dogs in Colorado, where the Weilbrenners also saw the Keyhole at Devil's Backbone (photo on page 1), a natural arch made of sandstone



Charlie Weilbrenner

My wife, MaryEllen, and I still live on Long Island, in Yaphank. We are considering moving – to Delaware, the Carolinas, or Pennsylvania – but have no real place or date yet.

In May, we took a nice trip. We drove from Long Island to Colorado for an extended 10-day visit with our daughter/son-in-law and our two-year-old granddaughter (our first). We also spent a weekend in beautiful Vail.

On our return trip, we visited Chicago for a couple of days. I enjoy road trips, and it was great to see some of the country during our travels.

In June, we went to Letchworth State Park in New York. This was my second time, the first for my wife. We saw spectacular waterfalls and the gorge. Letchworth is called the "Grand Canyon of the East."



Charlie and MaryEllen Weilbrenner at Alpine Lake, New York

In July, we rented a cabin for five days and four nights with other family members in Alpine Lake, NY, near Lake George. We watched eagles fish and feed their young every day! Their nest was in a tree across from our cabin. We also did some canoeing

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and fishing on the lake. The cabins there have kitchens. We cooked and grilled as well as went out to dinner as a group one night. The weather was great, and we had a good time.

– Charlie Weilbrenner, retired March 2026
Group Leader of Quality Representatives, Quality Management Office

Frank Scheifele

Depending on what I have going on, I go to Atlantic City every couple of months. I don't use the beach or stay in the room much because I'm too busy playing craps or poker.

Yes, I like to gamble. And now that I'm retired, I have more time to travel to AC.

If you gamble and get a players card through Caesers Entertainment, the airfare is free. First-time flyers pay $100. This may have changed because of the price of fuel now, and it has very limited availability.



Frank Scheifele was in Harris Casino when he took this photo, along with the two other interiors on page 1.

When I went in June, I won $1,000. I usually go alone but sometimes I meet friends there. I also like to go to Mohegan Sun in Connecticut but not often.



Craps is my favorite game. It's exciting when people are throwing the dice well and hitting the right numbers. Then you hear a lot of cheering. Poker is a little bit more laid back except when someone gets the high hand. Then you hear some cheers. I did that once. It's great because you win $300 or more depending on the day and what the casino is paying out. Poker is mostly luck but there is some skill involved. As I say, "You gotta know when to fold'em." That's from a Kenny Rogers hit song, 'The Gambler.'

People can gamble online. I do not because I don't want to give out my credit card number. I do play poker online with friends, which I set up during the Covid pandemic through PokerStars. It's free and we play with play money. We enjoy it.

I find gambling fun and exciting, but you have to have some self control. You can't expect to win all the time, and I do lose a little. I bring a certain amount of money with me, and I allot myself a certain amount of money for each day. When it's gone, that's it for the day. I find something else to do – see shows, walk the boardwalk, visit shops and, my favorite, eat good food!

Some people spend three to four thousand dollars to go to the Bahamas or wherever. I take that money and play craps or poker.

– Frank Scheifele, retired March 2026
Advanced Technology Associate Elec., Collider Accelerator Department

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.

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

In Memoriam

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

Georgia Lane Irving, 82, September 2026
Robert L. Marascia, 82, October 2, 2026
Tom Oversluizen, 92, February 22, 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 or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

President's Message (cont'd from p. 1)

by referring to the 2026 September/October BREA News on our website.

This fall, BREA is considering donations to local groups. In July 2025, BREA voted on an initial contribution of $1,050 to the Tesla Science Center at Wardencliffe, located in Shoreham. Should we make a larger donation? Coming up is BNL's annual Long Island United Way campaign. The floor will be open for discussing both at our November meeting.

I hope you join our Zoom call on November 10, 2026. For a future meeting, I'll see about arranging a hybrid meeting on the BNL site, linking in folks via Zoom. That would be a chance for Long Island members to meet in person.

Our Vice President position is still open. Please consider volunteering, or possibly suggest a candidate. You can contact me or another BREA officer.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@gmail.com

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