

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, May 8, 2012; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Les Lawrence, Ken Mohring, Mona Rowe (called in by phone late), Sonja Santos, Steve Shapiro, Richard Skelton, and Myron Strongin

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:03pm.

The minutes of the April 10, 2012 meeting were accepted as presented with one change – the cutoff date for the Plum Island excursion.

Steve Shapiro presented the Treasurer's Report. Very little has changed.

Old Business:

Annual Luncheon: Ken Mohring reported on the upcoming BREA luncheon, to be held on Thurs. June 7 at the Bellport Country Club, at a cost of \$40 per person. The Bulletin has been generous in publicizing the event. The last reminder should appear in the May 25th issue. So far, about a dozen people have signed up, so Ken encouraged everyone present to contact friends. The deadline for signing up is June 4. The Laboratory Director, Sam Aronson, will not be able to attend. It is not clear who the main speaker will be: Ken thought it will be Michael Goldman (BNL's General Counsel), Steve Shapiro thought it will be Bob Lincoln (HR).

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz said she has received seven renewals in the past month. She has also had two of her membership notices returned as "undeliverable". It was suggested she go to the BNL Mailroom to crosscheck her addresses with theirs.

BREA newsletter: The May Newsletter is out. Members have received it. The August Newsletter will feature the June luncheon with a photo spread. Mona Rowe asked whether a photographer from the Lab will be at the luncheon - and she was assured that appropriate arrangements have been made.

Changes to retirees' medical benefits: Steve Shapiro reported that he and Dave Cox met recently with Bob Lincoln and Denise DiMeglio (HR). Their concern was letters sent out by P&A to retirees threatening termination of supplemental medical benefits by the Lab, not just suspension, if payment had not been received by a certain time. The time-table is as follows: let us say payment is due for the month of June. A letter is sent out mid-May requesting that payment. If the payment is not received, another letter is sent out mid-June saying that medical benefits will be terminated if no payment is received by July 1. Steve said they told Lincoln and DiMeglio that they thought this was very harsh and that they could

imagine extenuating circumstances as to why people may not have responded. Lincoln and DiMeglio apparently assured them that termination would not happen in cases of extenuating circumstances.

They further said that about 400 people did not respond to P&A in January and that HR has been trying to track these people down. About ninety people still have not responded (20 mailings were returned by the post office as undeliverable). At the end of May, HR will terminate anyone who has not responded. About a week to ten days ago, Carmen Benkovitz sent HR BREA's mailing and email lists for cross-referencing.

Steve also said they told Lincoln and DiMeglio that the way the Lab handled the changes to medical benefits exacerbated the situation. People don't like P&A and they find the wording in P&A's mailings to be offensive. With an issue as sensitive as charging for medical benefits that many people up to this time thought they were entitled to, the first notice should have come from the Lab, on BSA letterhead, introducing P&A.

Plum Island Tour: Steve Shapiro said that the BREA tour of Plum Island on Wed. June 20 is oversubscribed and that he has a waiting list (attendance is limited to 30 people). People attending the tour should meet at the Plum Island ferry dock at Orient Point in time to take the 9:30am employee ferry and expect to spend a full day there. For lunch, participants are invited to join a Plum Island staff BBQ (\$10).

DOE former worker medical screening program: There was no report.

SeniorNet: There was no report.

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

June 2012 meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 1pm, Berkner Hall, Rm A

July 2012 meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson