

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, December 14, 2010; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Attendees: Dave Cox, Jeanne D'Ascoli, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Arnie Peskin, Steve Shapiro, Richard Skelton, and Joyce Tichler (by phone, briefly).

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:05pm.

The minutes of the Nov 9th meeting were accepted as presented.

Ken Mohring's Treasurer's Report was also accepted as presented. The only update was the addition of a small amount of interest for the month of November.

Old Business:

Eena-Mai read an email from Mona Rowe, who was not present. It dealt with the following:

BREA newsletter: Mona is determined that the next issue will be ready for mailing by the first week of February, 2011. She is interested in vacation photos from BREA members and reminded Arnie Peskin that he had volunteered some.

DOE's Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP): As reported in the October minutes, BNL had put together a flyer that must be approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) before the Lab can go forward. The IRB has not yet acted.

On-line communication between retirees and BNL: Nothing new to report.

SeniorNet: Eena-Mai read an email from Ronnie Evans, who was not present. (1) Registration for courses at SeniorNet's open house in Yaphank on Dec. 7 was disappointingly low, even though the event had been announced in Newsday. (2) SeniorNet coordinators would like the names of people to contact in senior communities such as Leisure Village, to set up informational meetings. Richard Skelton said he would follow up on this. He thought that Leisure Glen would be the most receptive of the "Leisure" communities. (3) Ronnie recommends that the computer refurbishment initiative be put on hold for the time being since SeniorNet's immediate concern is to increase enrollment.

BREA website: No update.

Contact with retiree organizations at other DOE Labs: Myron Strongin was not present. Apparently he is still digesting the material given to to him by Joyce Tichler. Dave Cox has perused the Oak Ridge retirees' website and reported the following: The minutes of their meetings are "uncannily like ours". Their retirement pensions differ substantially from ours and they have had no cost of living increases since the mid 1990's. Indeed, they have been struggling with management over this and others issues since that time. They do not produce a retirees' newsletter. They do not meet at ORNL, but at a local Senior citizen center.

New Business:

BREA meeting announcements: Richard Skelton asked that the announcements for BREA meetings in the Bulletin appear a week earlier than the Friday before. As it is now, retirees receive their mailed Bulletins after the meetings have taken place.

Membership: Dave Cox reported that membership is at an all time high, currently 326. Most of the renewals were responses to the Bulletin insert. We have also added 6-8 new members.

Jeanne D'Ascoli, BNL Community Relations Office, CEGPA, came to the meeting to discuss a new program she would like to develop, on talking science with the community. She sees a need to reach out to adults in the community about what the Lab does. Presumably, these people would then share what they learn with their children and their neighbors and friends. She envisions a format whereby people from the community meet at BNL (e.g., the South Room in the Brookhaven Center) to hear a brief presentation by a Lab scientist or technical person, followed by active engagement in the topic by the audience via conversations aided by facilitators.

This led to a wide-ranging discussion among those present, including,

- when to hold such meetings? (LBL apparently sponsors Saturday afternoon talks);
- how to motivate people to come? – feed them? The Lab's Summer Sunday program is successful in attracting people – what do they do? (There is currently no foreseeable funding for food or advertising);
- what about modeling "science cafes"?
- will the presenters be coached in how to effectively communicate science, along the lines of Alan Alda's workshops?;
- opportunities for getting out the word include teacher's groups, CAC members, and various scientific organizations with local chapters such as the IEEE and ANS (would these groups actually reach the target lay audience?)

Jeanne asked if BREA could send out a survey to our members, to which we agreed. Ken Mohring also suggested that she give a write-up to Mona Rowe for the February Newsletter.

Jan. 2011 meeting: Tues, Jan. 11, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Feb. 2011 meeting: Tues, Feb. 8, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson