

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, September 14, 2010; Bldg 488 (Berkner Hall), Rm A

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Alyce Daly, Ronnie Evans, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Thomas Schlagel, Frances Scheffel, Richard Skelton, Myron Strongin, and Joyce Tichler (by phone).

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:00pm.

The first order of business was a discussion with Thomas Schlagel (Director, Information Technology Div) about retirees' e-mail accounts. This has been a long-standing unresolved concern of BREA's and we thank Mr. Schlagel for coming today.

Arnie Peskin opened the discussion with a summary of past interactions with BNL on this issue and said that BREA's concern is based on the following: (1) There is no uniformly enforced policy when an employee retires as to whether he/she retains his/her bnl.gov email account (without a guest appointment). Some retirees retain their email seemingly forever, some for a period of time, and many not at all. (2) Losing the bnl.gov account upon retirement means losing one's professional contacts and community. (3) BNL would benefit in multiple ways if retirees could retain their email accounts. It would provide an easy, inexpensive way for the Laboratory to communicate with retirees, e.g. with benefit updates from HR; press releases, notifications of lectures, concerts, special events; requests for volunteers for educational programs and community outreach; and informing people of programs such as the DOE Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

Arnie also mentioned he understood from discussions with Lab officials in the past, that they would come back to BREA with a proposal – but this never happened. Mona Rowe remembered from one such meeting she had attended that Thomas Schlagel had suggested that a forwarding system for retirees' email might be possible.

Today, Thomas Schlagel said that current Lab policy is that upon leaving BNL, a retiree may keep his/her bnl.gov email for two weeks (without a guest appointment). Obviously, there is a lack of enforcement of this policy. BNL has an employee system, a guest/user system, but at present no retiree system. Since maintaining email contact with retirees involves multiple issues and stakeholders (BREA, ITD, HR, and CEGPA), he proposed a working group composed of all the stakeholders. To start with, this group would define what they want a retirees' system to do. It was decided that the working group would consist of Mr. Schlagel (ITD), Mona Rowe (CEGPA), and Arnie Peskin (BREA). The current head of HR, Tony Bowman, leaves at the end of September, to be replaced for the time being by Robert Lincoln as acting head. Mona Rowe will set up a meeting of the working group with Mr. Lincoln. Thomas Schlagel also said that a sponsor from senior management would be very helpful.

BREA currently has an email list of about 200 people.

The minutes of the July 13th meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Mohring presented a financial report for the months of May thru August 2010, with figures for BREA's checking and savings accounts and CD's, and a breakdown of the receipts and

expenses for the June luncheon. The net cost of the luncheon to BREA was \$1095.12. Thus the actual cost of the luncheon was \$45 per person, rather than the \$35 BREA charged the participants.

One of BREA's CDs came due on July 9, and the interest rate for the 1-year renewal was only 1.24%. Another CD comes due on Oct. 30, and Ken said he would like to obtain a higher rate by renewing for a longer period of time. Those present agreed.

Old Business:

October 13 BREA-sponsored on-site tours: In response to a suggestion made at the June luncheon, Ken Mohring has arranged for morning and afternoon tours of the Center for Functional Nanomaterials and Bldg.400 (the new Research Support Building) on Oct 13. Both morning and afternoon groups will meet together for lunch in Berkner Hall, Room A. The lunchtime speaker will be Lanny Bates, BNL's Assistant Laboratory Director for Facilities and Operations. The cost of lunch will be \$7, payable at the time. Before today's meeting, Ken had 8 responses for the morning tour and 1 for the afternoon. The event has been advertised in the BREA newsletter and by email to BREA members. Ken will contact Liz Seubert with regard to a notice in the Bulletin and a listing in BNL's on-line calendar. Paste-on nametags will be provided to participants. Alyce Daly wondered if leftovers from the lunch could be given to a food bank such as Island Harvest. Ken said he would check.

BREA brochure distribution: Mona Rowe reported that Denise DiMeglio (HR) will not allow the BREA brochure to be included in the package that HR mails out to all retirees in October. Therefore, our only option for a one-time mass distribution appears to be as a insert in a Bulletin issue mailed off-site. Mona has repackaged the trifold created by Joyce Tichler into a sheet compatible with BNL's automated folding and envelope stuffing machinery. Mona passed around a sample that was one-sided with no photos. Louise Hanson asked if the sheet could be double-sided with photos from the June luncheon printed on the backside. This was generally thought to be a good idea. BREA will cover the printing costs of the insert. Approval will be sought from Liz Seubert, the Bulletin editor.

BREA newsletter: As the new newsletter editor, Mona Rowe asked if we were pleased with her first issue, and she was met with a resounding "yes".

SeniorNet: Ronnie Evans reported that SeniorNet continues to need volunteers to instruct and coach and had hoped for more BNL involvement. They held an open house and student registration this morning at their Yaphank facility; the next one will be held on Dec. 7. They hold informative meetings with lectures the on third Tues. of every month at 3:30pm at their Huntington facility. One of their new course offerings (in Huntington) will focus on "21st C. job skills".

The BREA website: Currently in maintenance mode. Old minutes going back five years are archived on the web. Approved new minutes are to be sent to Joanne Rula for posting, with a cc to Chris Carter.

New Business:

Myron Strongin wondered whether other DOE Labs have retiree organizations and if so, what do they do and what sorts of information/services do they receive from their former workplaces? Joyce Tichler had

looked into this in the past, and has info on Oak Ridge and Lawrence Livermore that she will pass onto Eena-Mai Franz. Myron and Alyce Daly offered to look into this further; Myron was especially interested in contacting Oak Ridge and Argonne.

Future programs: Eric Forsyth has agreed to present the video of his latest sailing adventure, the circumnavigation of North America. The date has not been set. Ken Mohring said he would check with Ruth Comas about available dates for a Berkner Hall lunchtime presentation in November. The question was raised as to whether BNL had co-sponsored this event in the past.

Oct. meeting: Tues, Oct 12, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Nov. meeting: Tues, Nov. 9, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson