

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, February 8, 2011; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Richard Skelton, and Joyce Tichler (briefly by phone).

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

The minutes of the Jan 11, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented.

Ken Mohring presented the Treasurer's Report for the months of November and December 2010 and January 2011. The new interest rate offered by Teacher's Federal Credit Union on a CD that rolled over on 10/30/10 is extremely low and he intends to speak to TCFU, to see what can be done to obtain higher interest on future CD renewals.

Old Business:

SeniorNet: According to an email from Ronnie Evans (she was unable to attend the meeting), SeniorNet coordinators are especially interested in contacting someone at Leisure Village with regard to arranging a presentation. Richard Skelton has spoken to people at the Leisure communities (Leisure Village, Leisure Knolls and Leisure Glen) and reported that all three have their own computer classes. In Leisure Village there are also several volunteers who visit people who are homebound. Dave Cox said that presentations by SeniorNet would still be worthwhile because they offer a variety of courses and lectures that most likely would supplement the in-house classes.

DOE's Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP): As reported in the January minutes, Richard Skelton had been contacted by phone by someone at Queens College for screening (they are overseeing the screening program) and thus far is apparently one of the very few people who has been. The mailing he received was not the official information packet; those, according to an email Mona Rowe received from the program's Outreach Coordinator, have not been mailed out yet. Why Rich was contacted so early is somewhat of a mystery – they thought he has had cancer (he hasn't) and that he had requested the screening exam (he hadn't). He did have a useful suggestion for them as a result of his experience, and if they follow through, it ought to facilitate the process for everyone else. The goal of the FWP coordinators is to alert all eligible former BNL workers with help from Public Affairs. They hope to send out the mailings over the course of many weeks in batches of 500, so as not to overwhelm the screeners.

BREA newsletter: The February newsletter is out. Thank you Mona Rowe for a lovely job. (Check it out *in color* on the BREA website!) The next Newsletter is planned for early May. It will include a registration form for the June luncheon (as a full-page insert), a description (with photos) of the facilities to be included on the new facilities tour, a membership renewal reminder, a piece on the recent developments with regard to retiree's email, and an update on the Community Advisory Council (CAC) by BREA's CAC representative, Arnie Peskin.

E-mail/On-line communication between retirees and BNL: Mona Rowe reported that "Phase 1" consists of setting up a list-serve containing retiree's email addresses, starting with those who retire this year. The current thinking is that when HR does a close-out for a retiring employee, (s)he will be asked for his/her private email and (s)he will be automatically sent "news & events" and the Monday Memo. If people don't want to receive these emails from the Lab, they can unsubscribe. This eliminates the form that we reviewed at the January meeting. Mona would like to add all the BREA email addresses to this list-serve. Dave Cox said he would send them to her. The next thing on the Lab's agenda is to create a web portal with specific links to and postings of information relevant to BNL retirees.

Arnie Peskin expressed frustration that the issue of forwarding from a bnl.gov account to a retiree's personal email account is still being ignored. He sees no reason why it can't be done – it's a "simple little fix". He says there is no security issue involved.

Contact with retiree organizations at other DOE Labs: Because of the volume of material and the number of Labs involved, a subcommittee consisting of Myron Strongin, Joyce Tichler, and Dave Cox has been set up to actively pursue this issue. The subcommittee is to define what BREA hopes to achieve from these contacts and to decide upon a set of mutual interests and concerns. Then each member is to follow through with specific Labs.

New Business:

Spring BREA tour of new BNL facilities: It was agreed that Ken Mohring would try for a date in late May on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. This way the event can be announced in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Annual Luncheon: Martine O'Conner has agreed to oversee this year's luncheon and she would like volunteers to help her. Dave Cox said that she has already spoken to last year's vendor, the Bellport Country Club. They have raised the price slightly from last year to \$45.50 per person. This price includes the meal, hors d'oeuvres, unlimited wine and beer, tax and tip. It was agreed that we should hold the event again at the Bellport country Club, and that Martine should try for Wednesday, June 15th, with Thursday, June 16 as the backup day. The motion that BREA charge \$37 pp for the event, up from last year's \$35, was presented and approved.

Elliot Auerbach passed out an interesting table of Social Security CoLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) values for 2000-2011. He will write up a summary paragraph about them for the next Newsletter. Louise Hanson also thought he should post the full table of the information on the BREA website.

Mar. 2011 meeting: Tues, Mar. 8, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Apr. 2011 meeting: Tues, Apr. 12, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson