

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, Alyce Daly, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Martine O'Connor, Mona Rowe, Richard Skelton, Myron Strongin, and Joyce Tichler (by phone)

Ken Mohring opened the meeting at 1:05pm.

The first order of business was a Powerpoint presentation on "Preserving Nikola Tesla's Historic Wardenclyffe Laboratory" by Christopher Wesselborg, Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe. The Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe is a non-profit group that hopes to raise enough money to purchase and restore the property that once comprised Nikola Tesla's Long Island laboratory in Shoreham (at that time, Shoreham was known as Wardenclyffe). It is the only remaining site where Tesla conducted research. The original laboratory building, designed by the renowned architect Stanford White, still exists (it requires extensive repair) as does the octagonal base of Tesla's 187 foot high wireless transmitter tower. The plan is to create a science and technology center and museum at the restored site. Chris would like to interest BREA members into becoming involved with their efforts. The organization is sponsoring a conference – "Exploring Tesla's Technologies" – to be held at the Riverhead Garden Hotel on Nov. 5. Several of their speakers will be BNL people.

Contact info: www.TeslaScienceCenter.org; info@TeslaScienceCenter.org; and CWesselborg@TeslaScienceCenter.org

Ken Mohring asked Chris Wesselborg for a copy of his presentation for posting on the BREA website. Louise Hanson thought the talk would be interesting to a wider BNL/BREA audience, suggested that BREA sponsor it, and offered to make the arrangements.

The minutes of the Sept. 13, 2011 meeting, prepared by Ken Mohring, were accepted as presented. Ken did not present a Treasurer's Report.

Old Business:

Nominating committee report: Joyce Tichler announced the slate of new officers for BREA: Dave Cox, President; Ken Mohring, Vice President; Louise Hanson, Secretary; and Steve Shapiro, Treasurer. Ballots will be included in the November Newsletter, as well as a brief bio and a photo for each candidate. Mona Rowe needs these ASAP.

BREA newsletter: In addition to the BREA election, Mona Rowe said that the November newsletter will contain a piece by Anita Cohen describing her travels in S. Africa, a listing of some BERA events, BREA dues and membership renewal forms for 2012, and an article about the medical screening program, Part E. She will have more extensive coverage of the screening and compensation programs in the next newsletter. She will have the template to Quick Copy for processing the week before Nov. 1 and asked for a current list of BREA members and their addresses.

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz has met with Dave Cox, the former membership chair. She has also contacted Tom Schlagel, asking for assistance with newer versions the database program Microsoft Access. He offered her the services of Sheryl Gertzman.

SeniorNet: Ronnie Evans was not present. Martine O'Connor encouraged people to check out SeniorNet's website for courses and lectures.

E-mail/On-line communication between retirees and BNL: Mona Rowe has made the first use of BNL's listserve of retirees. The list includes the BREA members and new retirees. She sent out emails inviting retirees to the Lab's celebrations on being named a historic site by the American Physical Society, and received feedback from people all over the country who were pleased at being at being contacted.

Retiree organizations at other DOE Labs: Discussion was deferred until next month.

Library off-site use by retirees: This is an issue initiated by retiree Frances Bernstein who would like to access on-line journals from off-site, however, currently to do so, one must be a BNL employee, user, or guest. Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz and Ken Mohring have been told that the Research Library staff will email pdf files of articles if they receive emails with specific requests. However, Frances wants to be able to browse on-line journals. Dave, Eena-Mai, and Ken are still working on this.

HealthFest, Oct. 17: Dave Cox, Martine O'Conner and Ken Mohring will man a table with information about BREA.

BREA tour of RHIC, Nov. 9: Ken Mohring has arranged a morning tour of RHIC, to be followed by lunch for BREA members and their guests on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

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

Dec. 2011 meeting: Tues, Dec. 13, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson