

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, July 12, 2011; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: David Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Martine O'Connor, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Richard Skelton, Myron Strongin, C. Eric Schwartz, and Joyce Tichler (by phone)

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:07pm.

The minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented.

Ken Mohring presented two Treasurer's Reports. (1) A financial report detailing BREA's accounts and CDs for 31 Mar – 30 June. The June numbers include the net expenditure for the June luncheon. On July 9th, one of our CDs came due and was renewed for one year. (2) A report outlining the receipts and expenditures for the June luncheon. Both reports were accepted as presented.

Old Business:

Call-in number: On June 16th, Christine Carter emailed BREA Board members that she has arranged for the call-in number 631-344-6363 for our meetings (the second Tuesday of every month at 1pm) through the end of the year. This number will accommodate up to six people.

Annual Luncheon (held on Wed. June 15, Bellport County Club): Martine O'Connor reported that 102 people came. Three people who paid did not show up, and of the guests, Bob Lincoln was unable to attend. Martine made the general comment that she felt the affair was more subdued than last year, that people sat down at the tables immediately rather than standing and mixing when the hors d'oeuvre were served. This led to a discussion as to how to encourage people to mingle more at future events. Also, the general consensus was that the food was not as good as last year, especially the beef. All in all, the event was successful in that attendees appeared to be having a good time and enjoyed getting together with old friends and acquaintances in pleasant surroundings. Many thanks to Martine for all her efforts!

BREA newsletter: The August newsletter is taking shape. It will focus on the June luncheon. Mona Rowe has viewed the photos from the luncheon – over 70, taken by lab photographer Joe Rubbio. She has picked out 35 to cull down to about 20 that she will include in a two-page spread. The issue will also include Eena-Mai's remarks from the luncheon, a membership notice and renewal form from Dave Cox, and a piece by Elliot Auerbach on the Jan 2012 Social Security COLA (Cost of Living Allowance). Joyce Tichler suggested adding a request for nominations for the upcoming BREA elections.

The Nov. Newsletter will include the ballots, and a write-up by Anita Cohen about a visit to S. Africa.

SeniorNet: Ronnie Evans was not present. Dave Cox took a class on computer repair in Huntington. In August they will hold a class on eBay.

E-mail/On-line communication between retirees and BNL: Thus far there have been no Lab emails to retirees. BREA has supplied an email list to Bonnie Miller, the head of records in HR. Mona Rowe said she had had access problems in creating the listserve, and that she is currently on vacation. Mona will follow up with Bonnie Miller.

With regard to the issue of retirees and bnl.gov accounts, Arnie Peskin expressed extreme frustration. BREA's request is that all retirees have the option of keeping their bnl.gov accounts for some specified time period after retirement and that email to this address be automatically forwarded to the retirees' private account. Arnie says this would cost the Lab nothing. Despite a promise made to BREA by Sam Aronson several years ago and on-going efforts by BREA, the Lab is not doing anything and he doesn't see them doing anything in the near future. The current situation is a "mess" in that whatever their official policy is, BNL in practice does not adhere to it. BREA decided to shelve the issue until the appointment of a permanent HR head.

Retiree organizations at other DOE Labs: Dave Cox created a table collating data for retiree organizations at the nine National Labs (BNL, ORNL, LANL, LBNL, LLNL, SNL-NM, SNL-CAL, SRL, and INL) for which he has information on at least some of the following: number of members, officers, bylaws, They have been pleased with the feedback they've received from them. newsletter, business meetings, social meetings, and issues of concern. He could find no information for ANL and Fermilab. SLAC retirees are part of the Stanford University organization and PNL retirees are folded into the staff association. He suggested we look at the websites to get a feeling for the kinds of things they do, starting with Savannah River. "It's a neat site". For future contacts with these organizations, he suggested that his committee draft a general contact letter that can then be modified to fit a specific site.

DOE's Former Worker Medical Screening Program: Mona Rowe read an email from Jonathan Corbin, the program's Outreach Coordinator at Queens College. Ninety five former BNL workers have been screened to date. The Queens College people have been pleased with the "overwhelmingly positive" feedback they've received regarding the examinations. They are planning to expand their outreach efforts and appreciate anything BREA can do. They have just published their annual newsletter and offered to send copies to Mona to pass on to BREA. Mona also said that brochures describing the program are supposed to be included in the packets of new BNL retirees. Mona will check if this is actually the case.

New Business:

BREA website: The question arose as to whether the BREA website can include contact information for elected officials, since the site is maintained by BNL. Joyce Tichler suggested that BREA contact the webmistress, Joanne Rula, for guidance.

Nominating committee for new BREA officers: Joyce Tichler volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Other names were put forward. Eena-Mai will check the BREA bylaws to see if she, as an outgoing officer, can serve. (Note added after the meeting – yes, she can).

Health Fest: Dave Cox spoke with Michael Thorne about the next Health Fest, on Monday, Oct. 17, in Berkner Hall. He is OK with BREA having a table. We will have BREA brochures and photos from the luncheon.

Fall BREA new facilities tour: Ken Mohring will set up a date with Elaine Lowenstein and get a notice to Mona for the August newsletter.

EEOICPA (Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act): Eric Schwartz attended the meeting because he wanted BREA to remind retirees that this program exists. Former Lab workers who have become ill with occupation-related diseases, including, *but not limited to*, a number of cancers, may be eligible for compensation through the EEOICPA program, administered by the Dept. of Labor (toll free phone 1-888-859-7211). It was agreed that an article about this should appear in the Nov. newsletter.

Dave Cox will be away for the September meeting; Eena-Mai Franz will be away for the October meeting (Dave will officiate).

There will be no August BREA meeting.

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

Oct. 2011 meeting: Tues, Oct. 11, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson