

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, July 10, 2012; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, Dave Cox, Alyce Daly, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Steve Shapiro, Richard Skelton, Myron Strongin, and Joyce Tichler (by phone)

Dave Cox opened the meeting at 1:06 pm.

The minutes of the June 12, 2012 meeting were accepted as presented.

Steve Shapiro presented the Treasurer's Report. The June luncheon cost BREA about \$600.

Old Business:

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz has processed the renewals and new memberships reported by Steve Shapiro last month. Currently, BREA membership exceeds 300 people.

Plum Island Tour: Steve Shapiro said that the BREA tour of Plum Island on Wed. June 20 exceeded everyone's expectations. The Plum Island people were very hospitable. The visit included the boat ride to and from the island, two lectures (one of them was on hoof and mouth disease), a bus ride around the island (it has a fort, Ft. Terry, built during the Spanish-American War) and a fantastic BBQ. Although there is a lot of security, their research is not classified. Twenty-five people attended the tour and a group photo was taken. Mona Rowe asked Steve for a copy of the photo and a brief write-up to include in the next BREA Newsletter. The Plum Island people were amenable to BREA coming back again next year. Steve also suggested Cold Spring Harbor as a possibility for a future BREA-sponsored tour.

BREA newsletter: Mona Rowe is working on the August newsletter. She wants to have it ready to mail to BREA members a few days before Aug. 1. In addition to the Plum Island contribution by Steve Shapiro, it will include a President's report by Dave Cox on the June luncheon, and a two-page spread of luncheon photos. Mona has all the photos taken by the Lab photographer on a server, and she will contact Joanne Rula about making them available on the BREA website. She will include a note in the newsletter telling people to check the website for more photos.

DOE former worker medical screening and compensation programs: There will be an informational town-hall style meeting on the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and the Former Worker Medical Screening Program on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 6 pm in Berkner Hall. All retirees should have received a mailed announcement of this meeting, but it was not clear that they had done so. Mona Rowe sent out a message via the retirees' email list at BNL. Also, a notice about this event appeared in the June 29 Bulletin. This meeting concerns **two** programs – one screens for medical conditions that may have been caused by occupational exposures while working at a

DOE facility, and the other provides monetary compensation for individuals who have become ill or died from specific occupational illnesses. Many people, including several at this BREA meeting, do not realize that there are two separate programs.

New Business:

Email from SRNL retirees: Dave Cox discussed an email he had received from a representative of the Savannah River Site Retiree Association (SRSRA) Board of Directors. Apparently the Savannah River Site Contractor is in the process of significantly changing retirees' medical benefits and the SRSRA would like to know what is happening at other National Labs. Dave was sent a list of questions that he said he would respond to.

The discussion then segued to BNL. BSA's contract expires in 2014 and DOE plans to issue a new RFP (Request for Proposal) for the future BNL site contractor. (BSA and BNL were not singled out; DOE plans to do this for all the National Labs – BNL is merely the first). In the past, BSA's contract was renewed automatically, without a new RFP. What impact might a new RFP have on retirees' benefits? Would DOE use this as an opportunity to whittle away at retirees' interests? Arnie Peskin pointed out that BREA was actively involved in the RFP that brought BSA to the Lab. It was agreed that BREA should once again seek to play an active role in the creation of the new RFP.

Future Luncheon Site: Richard Skelton suggested Lombardi's On The Sound as an alternative venue for a future luncheon. He passed on information about costs and menus and provided a contact name.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

There is no August meeting

September 2012 meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 11, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson