

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, Feb 19, 2013; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, Bob Brown, Victor Cassella, Dave Cox, Louise Hanson, John McNeil, Ken Mohring (by phone), Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Steve Shapiro, and Myron Strongin

Dave Cox opened the meeting at 1:04 pm.

Under normal circumstances, this meeting would have been held a week earlier, on Feb. 12, 2013. However, BNL was closed on the 12th because of a massive snowstorm (30+ inches fell on-site!).

The minutes of the Jan. 8, 2012 meeting were accepted as submitted.

Steve Shapiro presented the Treasurer's Report. He has made a \$500 deposit to the restaurant where the June Luncheon is to be held. He also asked about tax filings for 2012. Dave Cox and Arnie Peskin (current and former BREA Presidents, respectively) told him to give the paperwork to Chris Carter and she will take care of it.

Old Business:

Annual Luncheon: Ken Mohring is proceeding with the June BREA luncheon arrangements. It will be held on Wed., June 5, at Lombardi's On The Sound, located at the Port Jefferson Country Club in Harbor Hills. A notice will appear in the March/April issue of the BREA newsletter (see below), as well as in the May/June issue. Ken has yet to arrange for a BNL photographer to be present, but he will do so. A photo collage is not planned for this year. He expressed some concerns over the guest speaker – it was agreed that BREA would like to exercise some control over who actually speaks and for how long.

DOE former worker medical screening program: A lengthy article about this program will appear in the March/April BREA newsletter. Victor Cassella asked if someone associated with this program could make a short presentation (3-5min) at the June luncheon, and the answer was "yes". He also asked if people had received a copy of the Fall 2012 "WHPP Health Watch" newsletter, and the answer was "no". This newsletter apparently has a discussion of the eligibility criteria for reimbursement for hearing loss.

BREA newsletter: Mona Rowe has increased the number of issues from four to six per year, with the following schedule: Jan/Feb, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December. She plans to have the Lab mail out each issue during the last week of the preceding month. Thus the March/April issue should go out the last week in February. Anita Cohen is helping with the editing (thank you Anita!). In addition to the article on the medical screening program and the announcement of the June luncheon mentioned above, the March/April issue will include a full page profile of Marty Woodle and his volunteer work with BNL's Science Education programs. Carmen Benkovitz has also provided a list of the "undeliverable" email addresses she has on file for BREA members, with a request that people contact her with updates.

The expansion of the BREA newsletter from four to six issues a year will incur additional costs for postage. Who will pay for this additional postage is still to be decided.

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz said that after each newsletter goes out, she has a flurry of membership renewals. Since the Jan/Feb newsletter, she has had about 20. She has sent out membership cards to the renewals/new members. In addition, she hopes to update her email address list as a result of the notice appearing in the March/April newsletter (see above).

Eric Forsyth Sailing Video: Dave Cox said that Eric's video was extremely well attended and as entertaining and enjoyable as usual. A map of and photos from his latest voyage will be included in the March/April BREA newsletter.

SeniorNet: Dave Cox said there will be a meeting on Tues. Mar. 12, 10am-1pm, at the Yaphank Center to discuss the continuing disappointing turnout for the computer classes held there. Note that the BREA March meeting is also on the 12th, starting at 1pm.

Medical/prescription drug benefits: Dave Cox opened the discussion to anyone who had an issue to raise on the subject. People expressed the same concerns with regard to future benefits and costs that they had in previous meetings.

Then Arnie Peskin asked if there would be an advantage for DOE Lab retiree organizations to form an alliance, to collectively address common issues. Dave Cox said he would send out an email to the Labs' retirees' organizations where he had established contacts, asking for feedback. (He has never been able to find an active retiree's organization at ANL.)

Steve Shapiro received a letter from Cigna concerning the prescription coverage for retirees on Medicare that was implemented on Jan 1, 2013. For newly "not-covered" drugs, drugs that were covered under the old plan, CIGNA must provide a 30-day supply if the prescription is filled within a certain time period after Jan. 1. Dave Cox encouraged people with questions about their prescription coverage to contact Melissa Bittrolff in BNL's HR office.

New Business:

BREA office: BREA has been asked by the Biology Dept. to give up its office space in Bldg. 421. Dave Cox said that he is willing to do so provided that BREA is given an accessible storage site, such as a filing cabinet, somewhere on-site. In addition, he would like to keep BREA's mail drop, located currently in Biology Bldg. 463. Dave will discuss these matters with Christine Carter.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

March 2013 meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 12, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

April 2013 meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 9, 1pm, location to be determined

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson