

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, March 12, 2013; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach (by phone), Carmen Benkovitz, Robert Brown, Victor Cassella, Dave Cox, Louise Hanson, Eena-Mai Franz, George Oldham, and Richard Skelton

Dave Cox opened the meeting at 1:00 pm.

The minutes of the Feb. 19, 2013 meeting were accepted as submitted.

Steve Shapiro was not present; therefore there was no Treasurer's Report.

Old Business:

DOE former worker medical screening program: If an individual is found to have an EEOICPA-approved health problem, Victor Cassella said that the medical screening program will help with the paperwork for filing a claim. Also, if the claim is successful, the individual is entitled to at least partial coverage of home care costs.

Dave Cox received an email from a man associated with a home health care agency in Colorado that works exclusively with former DOE workers whose claims have been approved under EEOICPA (Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Act), at no cost to the worker. He would like to make a presentation to BREA members. Dave will follow through with him.

Dave would like to create a guide for retirees with Victor and George Oldham so people know what to expect from the medical screening program and how to proceed with a claim. Hearing and vision losses may be covered; claims may be rejected the first or even second time around.

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz has received a flurry of membership checks. In Steve Shapiro's absence, Dave Cox and Louise Hanson will deposit them in the BREA FTCU checking account after the close of the meeting.

BREA office: BREA has lost its office in the Biology Dept. However, Dave Cox said in its stead, BERA has come up with three large filing cabinets for BREA's use in Building 400.

Annual Luncheon: BREA's annual luncheon will be held on June 5. In Ken Mohring's absence, Richard Skelton plans to meet with the restaurant, Lombardi's On The Sound, located at the Port Jefferson Country Club in Harbor Hills. An initial announcement of the event appeared in the March/April issue of the BREA newsletter. The price is still to be determined.

Medical/prescription drug benefits: Target and Wal-Mart apparently offer a number of prescription drugs at a very low cost (much lower than Cigna's TelDrug): \$4 for a 30-day supply and \$10 for a 90-day supply. Check the respective websites of these companies for lists of these low cost drugs.

Dave Cox reported that renewing prescriptions on-line with myCigna.com doesn't work anymore – not since BNL retirees on Medicare were switched to Medicare Rx at the beginning of 2013. Other attendees also expressed displeasure with various aspects of the Medicare Rx program and felt that BREA was not properly informed of the impact of some of these changes.

People with diabetes should be aware that Cigna requires no copay for several classes of diabetic drugs.

BREA newsletter: Mona Rowe was not present. The March/April issue has been mailed out to members.

On a related subject, Eena-Mai Franz thought she had signed up for "This Week at BNL", the Lab's on-line replacement for the Bulletin, but she has not received it. An attendee at the meeting mentioned that one can also sign up for email delivery of the "Monday Memo".

SeniorNet: Dave Cox said that SeniorNet will present talks at public libraries on topics such as Windows 8 and iPad apps. Check their website.

New Business:

The location of the April 9, 2013 BREA meeting is still to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

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

May 2013 meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson