

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, Jan 8, 2013; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 1

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, Victor Cassella, Dave Cox, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring (by phone), George Oldham, Mona Rowe, Frances Scheffel, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Richard Skelton, and Myron Strongin

Dave Cox opened the meeting at 1:06 pm.

The minutes of the Dec. 11, 2012 meeting were accepted. However, Dave Cox noted that the meeting venues had changed for 2013 and he asked that the announcement of future meetings in the minutes reflect those changes.

Steve Shapiro presented the Treasurer's Report. About \$1400 has been collected thus far in dues. About 20% of BREA's funds are kept in checking and savings accounts and the remaining 80% are in CD's.

Old Business:

DOE former worker medical screening program: Victor Cassella reported that December was a pretty good month in terms of participation by former BNL employees. An article about the program is to appear in the next BREA newsletter (February). Victor mentioned that people have benefitted from the program, for instance, having a hearing aid paid for.

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz said that she has had a flurry of membership renewals, about 50, in response to the November newsletter (see Treasurer's report, above).

Emailing of the classified ads: Since the demise of the Bulletin, Carmen Benkovitz has been emailing the classified ads to BREA members. She has run into a problem: a number of email addresses have come back to her as "unknown". Sorting this out will take some time. Dave Cox is also forwarding the ads to about 25 non-BREA people who also want to receive them. To his surprise, many of these are Lab people.

Eric Forsyth Sailing Video: Dave Cox said that Eric will show his video on Tuesday, Jan 29, in Berkner Hall at noon. BERA will handle publicity. Apparently, an internal Lab-wide announcement has already been distributed.

Changes in retirees' medical/prescription drug benefits for 2013: Meeting attendees reported that they have received their new CIGNA medical and prescription cards. Dave Cox and Steve Shapiro said that P and A withdrew the new fee via their monthly payment arrangements automatically. This led once more to a discussion of the current (increased) burden of the cost for CIGNA coverage, especially on elderly retirees who retired a number of years ago. People also expressed their concerns about how soon and how much future increases might/will be.

BREA newsletter: Mona Rowe is working on a draft of the next BREA newsletter, to be sent out in February. She needs a Presidents Report from Dave Cox and agreed to incorporate some additions to the article on medical screening from Victor Cassella.

The BREA newsletter is currently mailed out four times a year. A discussion ensued as to whether, with the Bulletin's demise, this frequency should be increased to six times per year. Mona said she could handle six issues a year, that Anita Cohen has agreed to serve as a backup for her, and that there would be enough material, especially if she includes more Lab-related material. The added costs for the additional mailings would need to be discussed with Chris Carter.

Annual Luncheon: Ken Mohring presented prices for food only and for food plus beer and wine at two venues, the Bellport Country Club and Lombardi's On The Sound at the Port Jefferson Country Club (recommended by Richard Skelton). The attendees decided to try somewhere new this year and chose Lombardi's, food only, with a cash bar. The date and how much BREA will charge per person (BREA always subsidizes the luncheon to some extent) are yet to be determined.

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.

The date of the February 2013 meeting was changed to Tuesday, Feb. 19. BNL was closed on the originally scheduled date of Feb. 12, due to a massive snowstorm. The Feb. 19 meeting will be held at 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2.

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

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson