

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, October 8, 2013; Bldg. 400, Room RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Carmen Benkovitz, Violet Bezler, Robert Brown, Nate Carter, Anita Cohen, Dave Cox, Ronnie Evans, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, Frances Scheffel, Steve Shapiro, Richard Skelton, and Joan Watson

Dave Cox opened the meeting at 1:06 pm.

The minutes of the Sept. 10, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.

Steve Shapiro presented the Treasurer's Report. A tiny amount of interest has accrued.

Old Business:

Membership: Carmen Benkovitz said that renewals are coming in slowly and that expiration date issues have been resolved.

DOE former worker medical screening and compensation programs: Steve Shapiro told the group that if someone offers to file a claim for you, such as the screening physician, s/he will most likely expect to be paid a certain percentage of any compensation you may receive. Mona Rowe then said she had been contacted by a former employee who has been diagnosed with sarcoidosis – the condition is unknown to her and she wondered if any one present had ever heard of it. No one had.

Election of Officers: The terms of the present BREA officers expire at the end of 2013. Dave Cox thanked Arnie Peskin, head of the nominating committee. Arnie presented the slate of new officers:

President – Ken Mohring

Vice President – Liz Seubert

Treasurer – Steve Shapiro

Secretary – Louise Hanson

If elected, these officers will serve for two years, beginning in Jan. 2014.

Ballots will be included in the Nov/Dec Newsletter. Currently, BREA members vote with mailed-in paper ballots. The possibility of voting via email was raised. After much discussion, Arnie agreed to accept email responses.

BNL contract renewal: BREA is a “party of interest” with regard to BNL's contract. Steve Shapiro has contacted John Carter (DOE local area office) and asked him to attend either the November or December BREA meeting to discuss the public comment phase of the contract renewal.

Medical benefits: BNL has not mailed out the 2014 Benefits Booklet, so we have no information with regard to possible changes. Elliot Auerbach said that Medicare booklets for 2014 have arrived, but they contain no mention of costs for Part B and deductibles.

Healthfest: BREA usually has a table at Healthfest. It was discovered at the meeting that the date for this year's Healthfest was the *very next day*, Wed. Oct. 9, too close in time to arrange a presence. Michael Thorn, who organizes the event, will be asked to include BREA on his contact list for future Healthfests.

New Business:

Plum Island Tour: Steve Shapiro was asked by his contact at Plum Island whether BREA would be interested in another tour. Since the last tour was very popular and many people who expressed an interest were unable to go, Steve was encouraged to accept the offer and plan for an outing in May.

Changes in retirement funds: In September, BNL mailed out a letter concerning "important updates coming soon to your retirement program". On Nov. 11, funds held by Fidelity will be transferred to TIAA-CREF. On Oct. 25, on-site transition seminars are to be held in Berkner Hall. Ken Mohring suggested that BREA send members an email notifying them of these dates and changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

November 2013 meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

December 2013 meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson