

THE MODERATOR

B R E A C T O R M U S E U M A S S O C I A T I O N

Jan.—March

Vol. 23, Issue 1

Winter 2017

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

Another successful year has been the story for BRMA. All members can be commended for the accomplishments achieved in 2016. This includes festivities at B Reactor and other portions of OUR National Historical Park at Hanford. BRMA members can be proud of our collective efforts to not only preserve B Reactor, but to achieve the establishment of the National Park. It is important that we never forget the foresighted thinking of our original founders, some of whom are still with us as active participants. But we also must not forget to recognize those who have passed on after playing a pivotal role in pressing forward to preserve B. It is specifically to the BRMA founders that the nation and world owes so much for the consistent and “never give up” endurance that now ensures B’s prominence in US and world history.

As we enter the New Year we recall the 2016 activities relevant to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MPNHP) at Hanford. Refer to earlier editions of *The Moderator* pertinent to the first three quarters of 2016. For this last quarter the celebration in November capped off a successful year. The first concert ever performed in a nuclear reactor was presented by the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers choir. The Hanford 18 mile on-site public bike event was also a new activity available to the general public. These “not done before” events are likely the beginning of many similar community events and opportunities that can be publically scheduled at B and the pre-Manhattan facilities. The establishment of the National Park at Hanford and the increased number of visitors appear to be an early indication that many more visitors and new public events are likely in the future. We look forward to working with the National Park Service (NPS) and DOE in 2017 toward new and exciting developments.

A number of BRMA members were pleased to have the opportunity to spend several hours meeting in November with Kris Kirby, the recently announced NPS Superintendent for the entire MPNHP with headquarters in Denver, Co. BRMA members provided Kris with information about their work experience on site and/or their role with BRMA. This afforded Kris the opportunity to learn and gain a greater knowledge of BRMA and Hanford. We look forward to reading the

NPS announcement of the person it selects to be the NPS ranger located and in charge of operations at Hanford. It is expected that selection will be announced shortly. Hanford will be the first of the three sites of the Park to have a designated ranger located on site.

Both the monthly BRMA Board of Directors and general membership meetings have embellished the old adage that working as a team brings forth great results. My personal and most pleasurable item was to help obtain BRMA’s goal to have B Reactor part of a designated National Historical Park. That achievement is a great one for all BRMA members. B Reactor is the prime exhibit for the entire three sites of the MPNHP. There were a lot of local and national parties involved in the establishment of the MPNHP. That includes our Washington state Congressional legislators who played key leadership roles in establishing the MPNHP. BRMA’s early desire and continued efforts to preserve B Reactor for future generations can now be assured. We are often reminded of that. With the establishment of the MPNHP, B Reactor is a prominent key element of the Manhattan project history available for future historians, scholars, students, and the general public.

I reflect back on these past years as President of BRMA as a very enjoyable time. Working with knowledgeable and talented BRMA members who have continuously worked to set and achieve goals has been a true privilege. I particularly mention those who have passed on for their significant role is helping BRMA reach those goals. Those major contributors were Dee McCullough and Roger Rohrbacher (both of whom participated in B’s initial start-up), Norm Miller, Larry Denton, Larry Fisher, and CJ Mitchell from whom I learned so much in my years with BRMA. I’m also grateful to the original BRMA members who so deserve to be recognized for their foresight and hard work to preserve B. A number of them are actively serving BRMA as key officers and contributors. Without these past and present members we would not have a national park at Hanford.

I close my last article for *The Moderator* as President of BRMA with no doubt that BRMA will continue to be a strong voice in the community. I’m confident that John

Continued on page 3

Membership Report

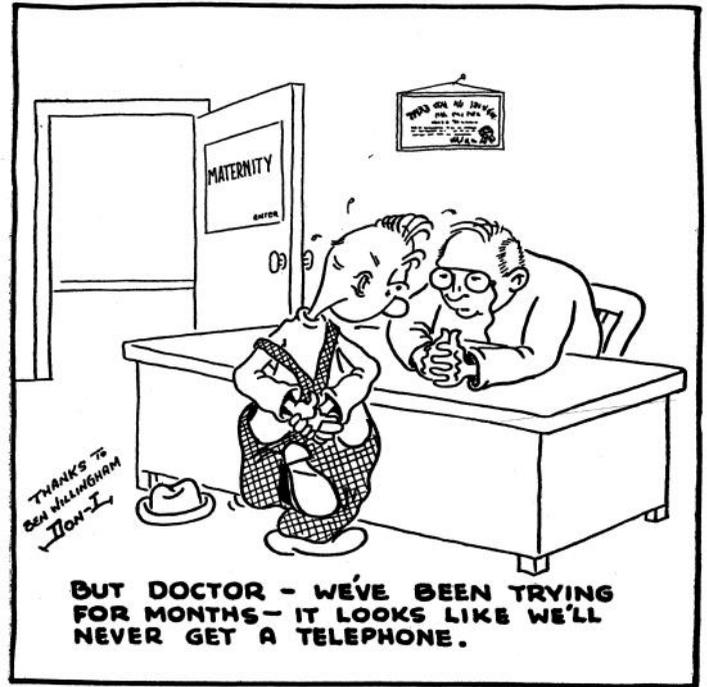
By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

2017 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. 26 people (2 New) and 2 Organizations (Los Alamos Historical Society & The WSU Hanford History Project, New) took advantage of the Early Renewal Period for 2017. Anyone who has paid and not received their 2017 Membership Card yet should receive it in a separate mailing. To send in your Renewal, the Form is below to Clip or Print and send in.

BRMA Charitable Contributors

This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous cash contributions to BRMA. The following list covers the period October through December, 2016.

Charles & Elaine Davis
 Gary Fetterolf
 Tony Grambihler
 Maureen Hamilton
 Michael & Tana Inglima
 Wanda Munn
 Maynard Plahuta
 Bob Smith



Babies were also used during the Vietnam War to save hubby from the draft!

Contributed by Connie Estep

Vital Statistics

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Mays
 Gary Petersen
 WSU Hanford History Project (Org.)

IN MEMORIAM

Fortunately, none reported

2017 Renewal and New Member Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (h): (____) _____ (w): (____) _____ MSIN address: _____
 (current Hanford employees)

E-mail: _____

- Individual (\$20) or Senior (age 65+) or Student (\$10) and New or Renewal
- Organization (\$25 up to 100 members; please add \$10 for each additional 100 members)

For Organization Membership, Official Representative: _____

Additional tax deductible contribution: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____
 (Tax ID # 94-3142387) (Please make check out to BRMA)

Thank you; please mail this application with payment to:
B Reactor Museum Association
PO Box 1531
Richland, WA 99352

BRMA Election Results

At our last meeting of 2016, on December 12, elections were held for the 2017 officers of the BRMA. The slate of candidates was submitted by the nominating committee. As background, our long-serving President, Maynard Plahuta, has openly hinted that he would like to step aside but always gave in to the members' views that he was the one with the contacts and "juice" to deal with the DOE in a myriad of political challenges.

As luck would have it (for Maynard), a little over a year ago, another Richland political heavyweight (and new BRMA member), John Fox, had stepped in to fill the Government Relations Committee Chair opening, due to a death in the BRMA family. The nominating committee negotiated a "swap," no other potential candidates stepped forward to get on the ballot, so by unanimous vote at the meeting, the three carryovers and John Fox were swept into office for 2017:

John Fox - President
Hank Kosmata - Vice President
Del Ballard - Treasurer
Gene Weisskopf - Secretary.

BRMA STORE YEAR-END REPORT By Del Ballard, BRMA Treasurer

The sale of BRMA souvenirs has seen a significant improvement over previous years during 2016. We contribute this primarily to experiencing the first full year following the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park that includes the B Reactor. The principal outlet for our sales is through Whimzees, a retail store operated by Debbie Burnet and located in the tour headquarters building at 2000 Logston Blvd, Richland.

BRMA has for several years provided a variety of products for sale to those visiting the reactor or participating in other Hanford tours. Inventories have included such items as caps, T-shirts, history documents, and various memorabilia items with graphics reflecting the B Reactor, BRMA, or the National Park Service. Some of the more popular items are those made from excess materials from the reactor.

During 2016 our BRMA organization received \$6,823 resulting from souvenirs sales; more than double the amount of sales from any previous year. Our inventory replacement costs for this year were \$3,056. Our purchase cost of current inventories in stock totals some \$5,400.

BRMA is fortunate for the services provided by Ms. Burnet, not only for managing the sales outlet, but also in maintaining inventories for all items that BRMA provides for resale. Our other outlets include The REACH for most of our products, and The Octopus Garden for Paul Beardsley's History of Richland book.

Also for 2017, the Committee Chairs will continue to be held by last year's chairpersons, with the exception mentioned above and the addition of Robert Franklin as co-chair of History & Archives. The 2017 committee chairs are:

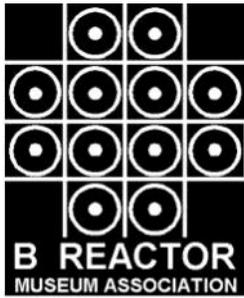
Maynard Plahuta - Government Relations
Gary Busselman - Tour Coordinator
Burt Pierard - Membership
Burt Pierard and Robert Franklin - History & Archives
Del Ballard - Property & Facilities;
Richard Romanelli - Editor of *The Moderator*
Missy Keeney Baker - Associate Editor of *The Moderator*
Gary Fetterolf - Communications
Webmaster - Jim Stoffels

BRMA FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2016 By Del Ballard, BRMA Treasurer

BRMA completed another successful year with revenue exceeding expenses. Our major financial activity this year was a major upgrade of our web site and the production of an on-line video series known as "Know before You Go" (view link on our web site "b-reactor.org"). This project was revenue neutral since it was funded by a \$25k grant from the City of Richland. Exclusive of that program, BRMA experienced total revenue of \$15,417 and expenses of \$8,606. Major sources of income included dues \$1,205, donations \$1,110, and net from souvenir sales of \$3,707, and tours \$2,425 respectfully. Misc. items of income and expenses resulted in a net yearly gain of \$6,811.

From the Control Room (cont'd)

Fox, as our new President, will bring forth and accomplish a new and invigorating role for BRMA. His vast experience in working with community leaders, along with his vision for moving BRMA forward, will ensure a bright future for BRMA. John's leadership also means that NPS and the other two sites of the Park (Oak Ridge and Los Alamos) will recognize BRMA's active and needed role in remaining an important player within the MPNHP community. That role holds true for our cooperating Tri-City community leaders as well. I look forward to much success for BRMA as we enter an exciting new year. I personally wish John and all BRMA members the best of health and prosperity in 2017.



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<http://www.b-reactor.org>
info@b-reactor.org

There were three local events in October that BRMA members took part in.

October 10th – BRMA members Terry Andre and Steve Buckingham visited the Charbonneau Retirement Community in Kennewick. Terry presented a talk titled “From Factory to National Park.” This presentation traced the history of the B Reactor from construction to present-day national park and tourist attraction. Steve added historical comments and answered questions from the group. There were 16 attendees at the talk. Among the attendees was a woman who had come to Hanford in the early years of the war. She provided us with her contact information and is now scheduled to do an oral history with the Hanford History Project.

October 18th – BRMA had an information booth at the Senior Times Senior Expo. This was held at the Pasco Red Lion Inn and approximately 600 seniors attended. Several BRMA members staffed the booth. We provided information about BRMA and handouts on how to sign up for the B Reactor and Hanford site tours. At this event we also had the opportunity to meet and talk with people who shared memories of working both at B and other areas of the Hanford site.

October 20th - BRMA member Terry Andre gave a talk through the Humanities Washington program at the Richland Public Library. The talk was about Leona Woods Marshall Libby focusing on Leona’s time at the Chicago Pile with Enrico Fermi and her experiences at the B Reactor. 140 people attended the lecture which ended with an invitation for people to learn more by signing up for a B Reactor tour. As you may have seen, the new middle school in West Richland will be named for Leona Libby. Good choice!

In November of 2016, BRMA members took part in two events.

November 2nd - BRMA had an information booth at the Tri-City Visitor and Convention Bureau’s annual Meeting and Expo. Several BRMA members took part in staffing the booth. This event was attended by over 600 people and was an opportunity for BRMA members to encourage the public to visit the reactor.

November 3rd - Several BRMA members staffed a table at the Chief Joseph Middle School Science night. Our table had two Cold War-era Geiger counters. Students and their families had the opportunity to see and hear the Geiger counters reacting to several non-regulated radioactive sources. The students used various materials to shield the sources and watched as the counts were affected (or not!) by the different materials. Families were encouraged to visit the tour signup site and bookmark it for future tour opportunities. Attendance at this event was estimated at approximately 450 students and family members.

Upcoming Events

January 19th - Enterprise Middle School STEM night. This event is for students and families of Enterprise Middle School.

March 8th - There will be a panel discussion hosted by the Kennewick Community Education program. This is open to the public by advance reservation. The cost is \$5 per person. Registration is available online at www.kennewick.coursestrom.com or by visiting the Community Education office in the Kennewick School District Administration Center, 1000 4th Ave..

April 19th The Senior Times Spring Senior Expo will be held at the Red Lion Inn in Pasco. Come see our booth during this free event.