



## Minutes for the August 8, 2022 Board Meeting

### *Opening – Herb Krause*

Herb Krause called the Zoom meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

### *Attendees:*

Officers present: Herb Krause, President; Ellen Smith, Vice President; Fred Peretz, Secretary.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball, Bob Compton, Al Ekkebus, Carolyn Krause, and Janet Swift.

Adjunct members in attendance: James Rome, Jim Rushton, and Kent Williams.

### *Announcements – Herb Krause*

All announcements are addressed as agenda topics.

### *Lab Liaison – Annette Bush or Katy Brown*

Katy Brown provided an email response to our questions. Overall, ORNL feels the public bus tours are going well. Portal access issues are being addressed. Access to the Graphite Reactor may change as construction in the area progresses. They are currently working to identify a date and location for a public State of the Laboratory address.

### *Secretary – Fred Peretz*

Minutes for the July 11 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted as submitted.

### *Treasurer – David Mullins*

David submitted the treasurer's report to the board as a separate file. No significant activities were noted. The treasurer's report will be added to the FORNL website.

One of our savings certificates is maturing. A promotional rate for a new certificate earning 2% interest is available through the ORNL Federal Credit Union. The board voted to renew the certificate at the promotional rate.

### *Membership – David Mullins*

David Mullins provided the following data for current lifetime and annual memberships:

Lifetime	53 (49 prior June)
Annual	24 (32 prior June)

### *Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, Bob Compton*

Last month's meeting:

July 12 - Ben Heath, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, TN, "TVA River Management Overview"



Upcoming meetings:

August 9 - Gary van Berkel, Van Berkel Ventures, LLC, formerly of the ORNL Chemical Science Division, “Mass Spectrometry at ORNL” (Compton)

September 13 – Hans M. Christen, ORNL Neutron Scattering Division, Director; “No Charge, Tremendous Value: How Neutrons Probe Hidden Behaviors of Matter” (Compton and Herb)

The October meeting has not yet been lined up. One possibility is that Eric Pierce or Scott Brooks might speak on mercury bio-geo-chemistry. This topic is also related to work by Theresa Matthews addressing ORNL research on mercury contamination of East Fork Poplar Creek. (Ellen Smith agreed to pursue this).

Ideas for future talks:

Carrie Eckert or Adam Guss, both of ORNL’s Center for Bioenergy Innovation, could speak this fall on “Synthetic Biology and a Sustainable Future” (Ellen Smith). Robert Kennedy would like to give a talk on the Tennessee Valley Stellar Corporation he founded to build for launch by NASA small CubeSat satellites (Carolyn Krause).

Other ORNL topics suggested address additive manufacturing, including an application for spent fuel storage canisters, and single atom manufacturing based on research at the High Temperature Materials Laboratory. Non-ORNL talks suggested were Wampler Sausage energy recovery technologies (as they move operations “off-the grid”), and activities at the Proton Power biomass-to-hydrogen facility in Lenior City (Jim Rome). A talk on TVA’s strategic plan, including nuclear and renewable energy sources, was also suggested.

#### *Media reports*

##### *Newspapers – Carolyn Krause*

An announcement on the upcoming Van Berkel talk appeared in the Oak Ridger. An article summarizing the recent TVA talk may appear in the Oak Ridger during the next week. A news release on TVA’s collaboration to explore the construction of multiple advanced nuclear reactors, starting with a GE-Hitachi BWRX-300 small modular reactor (SMR) at its Clinch River site in Tennessee, was also mentioned.

##### *Facebook – Ellen Smith*

No significant changes took place with the Facebook site.

##### *Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause*

Herb stated that arrangements were set for the August 9 hybrid meeting at noon. After the board meeting, technical issues with the speaker’s presentation led to the meeting transitioning to Zoom only.

A discussion on value of continuing the in-house meeting option ensued. Attendance at the ETEC conference room has been light; it was also observed that the low attendance reduces the COVID transmission hazard. The live presentations do provide a good setup for Zoom presentation. No change was recommended at this time.

##### *Webmaster – Jim Rome*

Routine updates to the website continue.



*AMSE and Bus Tours – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus*

The AMSE Public Bus Tours are now proceeding. AMSE has been challenged to provide sufficient volunteers to operate a daily schedule (at present there are only 6 lead guides). The K-25 museum draws volunteers as well. Site access issues at ORNL are being addressed. Tour registration has been close to full.

*Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton*

As addressed in Katy Brown’s email response, ORNL is working on a time and location for Thomas Zacharia to give a public State of the Laboratory address this fall. Kent Williams will contact Katy to suggest that FORNL be involved in the process, as with past “Dick Smyser Community Lectures.”

Steve Arndt, the new President of the American Nuclear Society, was also discussed as a Community Lecture speaker. The possibility of coordinating with either ORNL or the local ANS section (as the ANS President traditionally tours the local sections during their term) was identified; such coordination could lead to reduced or shared cost. Jim Rushton will pursue this. Kent Williams will also pursue the possibility of former Los Alamos National Laboratory director Siegfried Hecker. Of these options, the preference is for a Zacharia State of the Lab address first.

*New Member and Public Outreach –Fred Peretz, Bob Compton, and Herb Krause*

This month’s outreach opportunity is the Virtual Science Club, a complement to the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair. Fred Peretz will create a slide on the opportunity for use at the August 9 meeting. After asking for volunteers, a response will be given to the SASEF VSC at the end of the week. Also, as noted earlier, additional volunteers are badly needed as guides for the AMSE Public Bus Tours.

*Volunteers needed for bus tours*

*History Room – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus*

*Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz*

*PDH Certificates – David Fields*

*Visitor Badges – Syd Ball*

No significant reports were given on these topics.

*Old Business*

A final revision of the 2021 FORNL Annual Report was distributed. The report was accepted without further revision and will be posted on the website later this month.

*New Business*

Two items of new business were introduced and voted upon. A motion was made to allow a candidate for Oak Ridge Civic Music Association music director to make an introduction prior to the September meeting; the vote was against approving the motion. A motion to deny a request to advertise part-time employment opportunity with Explore Oak Ridge was made; the motion to deny this request was passed.

*Closing*

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 am on September 12, 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.



Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Peretz  
Secretary, Friends of ORNL