



## Minutes for the September 12, 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: Kent Williams.

### *Announcements – Herb Krause*

Herb noted that one of our proposed speakers, Steve Arndt, was speaking to the UT American Nuclear Society student chapter via Zoom. A vote was called and approved to announce this conference on FORNL media.

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

Katy has been unavailable but promised to provide responses to our questions soon.

### *Secretary – Fred Peretz*

Minutes for the August 8 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 certificate of deposit maturing in September will be reinvested as it comes due. The treasurer's report will be added to the FORNL website.

### *Membership – David Mullins*

David Mullins reported there are no changes in membership.

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

Last month's meeting:

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

Upcoming meetings:

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 will be by Scott Brooks, covering ORNL research on mercury contamination with a special focus on East Fork Poplar Creek. (Ellen Smith).

Ideas for future talks include a talk on single atom microscopy at ORNL. The board was enthusiastic about the topic, but a specific speaker was not identified. Larry Allard was suggested as a possible speaker and will be contacted. ORNL research into quantum science was also mentioned; Travis Humble, the director of the Quantum Science Center at ORNL, is a potential contact. Topics mentioned at earlier board meetings include synthetic biology and a sustainable future, additive manufacturing for spent fuel storage containers, TVA's strategic plan including nuclear and renewable energy sources, and Wampler Sausage energy recovery technologies.

#### *Media reports*

##### *Newspapers – Carolyn Krause*

Articles placed in the Oak Ridger under “Historically Speaking” covered Bonnie Carroll, founder and retired CEO of Information International Associates, Inc. and her presentation to FORNL. Another article highlighted Gary van Berkel's talk “Mass Spectrometry at Oak Ridge: Commercial Successes.” An article promoting tomorrow's talk by Hans Christen has been submitted.

A discussion on the status of the Oak Ridger, the Knoxville News Sentinel, and other regional newspapers ensued. Particular concern was expressed over the decline of the Oak Ridger staff, with at least partial reassignment of the sole full time reporter from Oak Ridge to Knoxville.

##### *Facebook – Ellen Smith*

No significant changes took place with the Facebook site. Ellen noted that the site appeared to work better with Google Chrome. Ellen has been posting Carolyn's news articles on Facebook.

##### *Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause*

A failure in the ETEC WiFi system led to the September presentation being given by Zoom only, as it was not clear whether the ETEC conference room system would be repaired in time.

##### *Webmaster – Jim Rome*

No report. Routine updates to the website continue.

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

The bus tour schedule has been reduced to three per week for September; schedules for October are under discussion. Due to a lack of volunteer tour guides, AMSE employees are now serving as guides and assistants. The tours are generally going fine, although some issues may remain with ORNL access. The tour schedule will again be limited in November, and will then conclude until next year.

ORNL has been opened up for student group tours. Three or four high school tours have been scheduled this fall.

##### *Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton*

A vote was held and passed to empower the FORNL president to send a formal invitation to Thomas Zacharia to give a public State of the Laboratory address this fall, pending a response from Katy Brown on our earlier question. Kent Williams will continue to interact with other potential community lecture speakers such as former Los Alamos



National Laboratory director Siegfried Hecker. Michael Shellenberger was also mentioned as a potential speaker on environmental impacts of climate change.

Both the opportunities and drawbacks of using platforms such as Zoom for community lectures were discussed. Remote presentation may facilitate talks by high-profile speakers in distant locations but may also dilute the “community” aspect of the community lecture series. Similar talks by the UT Baker Center may serve as an example for achieving an appropriate balance.

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

It was noted that our annual contribution to the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair will be coming up. David Mullens will review our records to determine the amount we gave SASEF last year. The question of pressing for our own designated and credited award was again raised. It was also noted that the simplest manner of non-monetary support would be to participate in their existing programs with roles such as judging or general administrative support.

The support to the Virtual Science Club has changed at the request of science club staff; we now have three speakers assigned to a panel discussion on December 13. The possibility exists for interaction with specific school groups after undergoing a brief student interaction training session.

The Oak Ridge Sunset Rotary Club may be interested in restarting a local science fair.

*History Room – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus*

A brief discussion on the future of the ORNL history room was held with David Keim, director of ORNL Communications Division. If the room is closed, how will documents be stored, scanned, or disposed of?

*Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz  
PDH Certificates – David Fields  
Visitor Badges – Syd Ball*

No significant reports were given on these topics.

*Old Business*

No old business.

*New Business*

Herb Krause observed that our bylaws call for initiating a nominating committee for next year’s board by October 1. The committee should include three current board members with two members outside the board. Nominations were made for Janet Swift, Al Ekkebus, and Bob Compton to serve as the board members on the nominating committee. The vote approved the nominations.

Janet Swift was nominated as the nominating board “convenor”; this was voted on and approved. The nominating committee should meet by October 1. A search for non-board members is now underway.

After the new board is formed, the committee suggests officers for next year. The board then votes (in March) on the officers, following the board election in February.



*Closing*

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 am on October 10, 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Peretz  
Secretary, Friends of ORNL