



Minutes for the November 7, 2022 FORNL 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; David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball, Bob Compton, David Fields, Carolyn Krause, and Janet Swift.

Adjunct members in attendance: James Rome.

Announcements – Herb Krause

Herb proceeded directly to the agenda items.

Lab Liaison – Annette Bush or Katy Brown

As of the board meeting, Katy had not responded to our request for information, which primarily addressed the possibility of a State of the Laboratory address. In response to an earlier question about speaking opportunities at local schools, a list of names and contact information was provided for Katy to share with the ORNL education and outreach coordinator.

Secretary – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the September 12 and October 10 board meetings 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. A check for \$1,000 was issued to the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering fair but will appear in the December report. Dues from a modest increase in membership and funds from Benevity were added to the account. The treasurer's report will be added to the FORNL website.

A certificate of deposit with the ORNL Credit Union is maturing in December. Reinvestment options were discussed and a vote to provide the treasurer with latitude to reinvest at the best rate available with reasonable maturity times was taken and approved.

Membership – David Mullins

David Mullins reported seven new annual members, credited to the 2023 operating year. Current membership stands at 54 lifetime, 7 annual for 2023, and 25 annual paid through 2022.

Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, Bob Compton

Last month's meeting:

October 11 – Scott Brooks, ORNL Environmental Sciences Division, "Mercury Use in Oak Ridge: Environmental



Legacy and Solutions.” It was observed that the in-house attendance ratio is improving; October had 14 in-house and about 35 Zoom participants; holding to about 50 overall.

Upcoming meetings:

The November 8 meeting will be by Larry Allard, ORNL Materials Science & Technology Division, “Heating Experiments in the Electron Microscope: A 60-year ORNL Retrospective.”

Ideas for future talks:

There is no luncheon lecture in December.

January 10 is still open. One suggestion is either Carrie Eckert or Adam Guss, from the ORNL Center for Bioenergy Innovation, speaking on “Synthetic Biology and a Sustainable Future.” (Ellen Smith will pursue). Another is Kirk Sorenson, speaking on the prospects for molten salt nuclear reactors (Syd Ball).

February 14? - Anthony Mezzacappa, UT Physics Dept., “Gravitational waves from core collapse supernovae” (Bob Compton; subsequently found not to be available on that date)

March 14 - Susan Hubbard, ORNL Deputy Director for Science and Technology (Ellen Smith)

Ideas for future 2023 talks:

Carrie Eckert or Adam Guss, ORNL Center for Bioenergy Innovation, “Synthetic Biology and a Sustainable Future.” (Ellen Smith, noted earlier as a possibility for January 10).

Cynthia Jenks, Associate Lab Director for Physical Sciences. (David Mullins)

Travis S. Humble, Quantum Science Center Director, “New quantum technologies impacting scientific discovery through quantum computing”

Wampler Sausage energy recovery technologies and activities at the Proton Power biomass-to-hydrogen facility in Lenoir City (Jim Rome)

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. (Carolyn Krause)

Media reports

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

The news release on Larry Allard’s talk on Tuesday, Nov. 8, was submitted and should appear in the November 8 edition of The Oak Ridger. An article on Scott Brooks’ mercury talk in October has been submitted and may be published in The Oak Ridger the week of November 7.

A news release published in the November 8 edition of The Oak Ridger announced that ORNL will receive \$497 million from the Inflation Reduction Act for fusion research, supercomputing, and the U.S. Stable Isotope Production and Research Center. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new \$75 million isotope building was recently attended by U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm and mentioned in the local newspapers.

Peter Thornton, who gave a talk on climate change by Zoom to FORNL in April 2020, has been promoted to director of the Climate Change Science Institute.



At ORNL's recent Awards Night, one award went to the team responsible for ORNL's first-of-a-kind Cyber Science Research Facility, including Shaun Gleason, director of ORNL's Cyber Resilience and Intelligence Division.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

The announcement for tomorrow's luncheon meeting was posted on the Facebook page. Posting methods continue to change; opportunities to spread postings appear limited to personal "friends."

Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause

Arrangements for the November 8 hybrid meeting are complete.

Webmaster – Jim Rome

No significant activities reported.

AMSE and Bus Tours – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus

The bus tours will end this coming Friday. Some room remained on several buses once DOE allowed the bus to operate at full capacity. At least four student tours are scheduled at ORNL. Local elementary school tours are picking up at AMSE.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton

There is still no date established for a public State of the Laboratory talk by Thomas Zacharia. Kent Williams has been holding off on other potential speakers as the State of the Lab talk has been seen as the top priority.

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

The Southern Appalachian Science & Engineering Fair (SASEF) is a science and engineering competition for students in middle and high school in East Tennessee. The fair is sponsored by the University of Tennessee, and many local companies and agencies; FORNL approved a \$1,000 donation at the September 10 board meeting. It is held annually on the UT campus; the 2023 fair will be during the last week of March. SASEF is an official, affiliated regional fair of the International Science and Engineering Fair.

The Virtual Science Club is a joint venture between SASEF and The University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Pre-College Research Excellence Programs. Several FORNL board members will conduct a panel discussion for the club on December 13.

The Tennessee Science Bowl will be held February 24 – 25, 2023 at the Blount County campus of Pellissippi State Community College. This is a regional qualifying event for the US Department of Energy National Science Bowl, with most funding and staff provided by ORISE and ORAU. As noted under New Business, the FORNL board approved a \$1,500 donation to help support the Science Bowl.

The Science Olympiad is a local effort leading up to a national event. Local support is provided through UT's Pre-College Research Excellence Programs. An opportunity to support the Olympiad was identified by UT staff but appears better oriented toward trained educators. This opportunity is not being pursued further.

FORNL representatives Syd Ball and Gloria Caton staffed a table at the ORNL Benefits and Wellness Fair on October 20th. Rather than using an outdated large poster, the table had a display with a choice of recordings of past



FORNL talks. Handouts on FORNL (and the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning) were provided. Multiple attendees expressed interest in FORNL and left with information on joining the group.

Niki Nicholas, Superintendent of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and the Obed Wild and Scenic River, as well as Supervisor of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, will give a brief presentation on volunteer opportunities with the National Park Service at the November 8 luncheon meeting.

History Room – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus

Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz

PDH Certificates – David Fields

Visitor Badges – Syd Ball

Aside from the introduction to volunteer opportunities with the National Park Service, no significant reports were given on these topics.

Old Business

The nominating committee for the 2023 board consists of Janet Swift (convenor), Al Ekkebus and Bob Compton as board members, with Don Miller and Nick Packan as non-board members. Nick Packan was approved as a non-board member via email after the October board meeting.

The nominating committee is expected to meet by the end of the week. The convenor has already polled the five current board members that are allowed another term; of these four are willing to run again. At least one new candidate is needed. Inquiries are being made to potential candidates. The opportunity to run for election to the board was announced both in email and at the October luncheon meeting; no positive response has come thus far. The nominating committee hopes to report a full slate of candidates at the December board meeting.

No additional report was given on Community Lecture possibilities.

New Business

The annual ORAU sponsored TN Science Bowl donor request was received via Kent Williams. A motion was passed to fund the Science Bowl at \$1,500 (Silver Sponsor level) as in the past.

Closing

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL