



## Minutes for the July 10, 2023, 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; and Fred Peretz, Secretary.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball, Al Ekkebus, and Carolyn Krause.

Adjunct members in attendance: Bob Compton and James Rome.

### *Announcements – Herb Krause*

None.

### *Lab Liaison –Katy Brown*

Two questions were submitted to Katy Brown by Carolyn Krause. Brown is out of town and has not responded.

### *Secretary –Fred Peretz*

Edited minutes for the June 12 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

### *Treasurer – David Mullins*

Income for the past month included four renewing annual member dues, interest, and Benevity. Paypal fees were paid.

### *Membership – David Mullins*

Four annual memberships were renewed this past month. There are now 55 lifetime and 43 annual members.

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

The June talk was cancelled due to the speaker's illness.

### *Upcoming meetings:*

The July 11 talk will be by Rob Peacher, a consultant supporting ORNL via Strata-G, titled "Radioisotope Processing Facility (RPF), ORNL's Planned Facility Designed to Meet Growing Demand for Radioisotopes." (Fred)

On August 8, Bruce Moyer of the ORNL Chemical Sciences Division, will speak on "Why ORNL remains a powerhouse in separations science and technology." (Carolyn)

On September 12, Kirk Sorensen, leader of Flibe Corp in Huntsville, AL, will speak on thorium based small molten salt reactors and similar topics in advanced nuclear energy (Syd). This talk may be delivered in person or via Zoom.



A talk by Phil Snyder, a theoretical and computational physicist who was recently appointed interim director of ORNL's Fusion Energy Division, has been proposed for either October or November. Fred Peretz will contact Snyder, as Kirk Sorensen is now confirmed for September.

Carolyn Krause identified several potential speakers, based on recent press releases by ORNL. Mali Balasubramanian, who spent many years at Argonne's Advanced Photon Source, is now at ORNL as leader of ORNL's Emerging and Solid-State Batteries Group in the Energy Science and Technology Directorate. He guides his team in exploring potential new materials and systems for electric vehicles and other battery applications. Peter Fuhr is conducting research on the use of drones for fighting wildfires and for enhancing cybersecurity. Jonathan Harter is a young, charismatic principal investigator conducting research on automated electric vehicle battery recycling using robots.

Potential speakers Carolyn has recommended earlier include computational chemist Jerry Parks (mercury and COVID discoveries), Phil Snyder or Mickey Wade (fusion), and Stephen Hamilton of ORNL (use of the Frontier supercomputer to speed the design of a safe, reliable, efficient small modular reactor).

Six national labs (including ORNL) led DOE's workshop on scientific grand challenges where artificial intelligence plays a major role in making progress toward solutions in transportation, autonomous laboratories, national security, and the development of next-generation novel materials. A speaker on this effort might be of interest.

Other suggested speakers have been identified in earlier minutes.

#### *Media reports*

##### *Newspapers – Carolyn Krause*

A news release promoting the Tuesday, July 11, talk on the planned new Radioisotope Processing Facility at ORNL was supposed to appear in the Monday, July 10, print edition of The Oak Ridger, but may appear on the day of the talk. The article did appear in the online edition. The news release was sent to other media outlets and to ORNL.

Carolyn updated the list of and links to ORNL news releases on the FORNL website. She reiterated that this listing can be used as a source of speakers for the monthly meetings.

##### *Facebook – Ellen Smith*

Ellen observed that the posting on tomorrow's talk is drawing considerable interest from commercial entities in the area.

##### *Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause*

Arrangements for the July meeting are in order. Herb Krause will do setup and serve as host. David Fields will serve as co-host and will pass on Zoom chat questions. Fred Peretz will introduce the speaker. Herb will include an outreach message in the introduction, soliciting member feedback on potential future speakers or other aspects of FORNL operations. David Mullins will be on vacation, and membership renewals will be forwarded to another board member for deposit.

##### *Webmaster – Jim Rome*

A review of our meeting announcement emails via Mailchimp shows that of the 278 total messages issued, 21 are not deliverable as addressed. Of those delivered, about half are opened by the recipient.



#### *AMSE and Bus Tours –Al Ekkebus*

June saw the highest number of attendees at the AMSE/DOE Public Facility Bus Tour this year. There were 14 tours with a total of 437 passengers. Attendance included several families traveling through the area, giving an uptick with guests in the 10-18 age group. July is almost fully booked, and August is starting to fill up. The tours are planned to continue through November.

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

Fred Peretz observed that volunteer opportunities at local schools can often be identified through their websites. For example, Knox County Schools identify needs and a contact email, by individual school. Most of these are for physical items and services, but some do identify a need for speakers. Bob Compton mentioned that he established a contact through Tony Mezzacappa (via ORACLE) and expects to be speaking at Hardin Valley in the fall.

Additional volunteers at AMSE and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park continue to be needed.

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

Kent Williams was not in attendance, and there was no update on his plans to contact Siegfried Hecker, past LANL Director, for the possibility of a community lecture in the fall. The possibility of a lecture by Steve Arndt, currently a Distinguished R&D staff member at the ORNL performing research involving advanced reactor design readiness and formerly a senior scientist with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was again raised. Fred Peretz agreed to contact Arndt to investigate this possibility further.

Because of scheduling conflicts, it does not appear Tony Mezzacappa will be available for a lunch lecture for several months. The possibility of a community lecture by Mezzacappa was discussed. It was observed that new results in his research area may be documented in the next few months, and that he might be best scheduled for a community lecture early next year.

*History Room – Al Ekkebus*  
*Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz*  
*PDH Certificates – David Fields*  
*Visitor Badges – Syd Ball*

No significant reports were given on these topics.

#### *Old Business*

In June, the loss of a lunch option was mentioned as a potential reason for low in-person participation; providing a lunch might enhance early arrivals and communication between FORNL members. The possibility of bringing in lunches for purchase was raised. A menu and agreement from the Soup Kitchen used in the past by the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge was circulated as an example along with the meeting agenda. It was observed that the cost would now increase, and delivery by the Soup Kitchen may not be available.

Fred and Ellen suggested “sandwich tray” options for a low-effort lunch. For the limited in-person attendance of recent meetings, such an approach could be initiated without charge (possibly with a donation basket). A volunteer (preferably not a current FORNL officer) is needed to organize and execute a lunch option.

No action was taken on defining records. Fred Peretz will present a proposal at a future board meeting.



*New Business*

No new business was identified.

*Closing*

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on August 7, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Peretz  
Secretary, Friends of ORNL