



Minutes for the October 9, 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; David Mullins, Treasurer; and Fred Peretz, Secretary.

Board Members Present: Carolyn Krause and Steve Overbury.

Adjunct members in attendance: Bob Compton, James Rome, and Kent Williams.

Announcements – Herb Krause

No one responded to Herb's requests to volunteer for the Nominating Committee or be considered for a Board term. However, progress has been made by the committee, as reported under old business.

Lab Liaison – Katy Brown

No report this month.

Secretary – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the September 11 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

Treasurer – David Mullins

Financial activity was light last month; income included a couple of memberships and interest. There were no expenses and cash flow is strongly positive for the year.

David continues to work to obtain our tax-exempt notice from the State of Tennessee. The state requires a recent 501(c)(3) determination from the IRS. An application has been filed with the IRS, but we should allow 60 days for processing. Tax exempt status is most relevant to community lectures; we will soon be billed \$500 for associated expenses.

Membership – David Mullins

Two new members were added, and 6 deceased members identified by the nominating committee were moved from the active list to the memorial list. There are now 57 life and 45 annual members.

Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, Bob Compton

On September 12, Kirk Sorensen, leader of Flibe Corp in Huntsville, AL, spoke on "Thorium Molten-Salt Reactors and the Challenge of Affordable Nuclear Energy." There were about 25 people attending in-house, with another 75 on Zoom.



Upcoming meetings:

On October 10, Phil Snyder, a theoretical and computational physicist who was recently appointed interim director of ORNL's Fusion Energy Division, will speak on "The US Fusion Energy Program and ORNL's Role."

The November 14 talk will be from James Rome, "How to Keep Your Computer (and You) Safe," addressing threats and mitigation measures in today's electronic communications world.

There will not be a lunch meeting or talk in December.

The first meeting and talk in 2024, held on January 9, will be from Mali Balasubramanian, the current 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.

This schedule confirms talks into 2024. The speaker committee continues to work toward a goal of having a list of a half-dozen potential speakers to draw on, avoiding issues with finding a last-minute speaker. Dates to fill in 2024 begin with February 13, March 12, and April 9. New suggestions, added to the list in prior minutes, include:

- Edmon Begoli, the founding director of ORNL's Center for AI Security Research, or CAISER.
- Bob Bolton, deputy of operations for the Next-Generation Ecosystem Experiments (NGEE) Arctic project. This might provide a possible Earth Day talk for April.
- Tomonori Saito and former postdoctoral researcher Md Arifuzzaman, on an organocatalyst that allows selective deconstruction of various plastics. Arifuzzaman is the CEO & founder of a company called Re-Du, which hopes to be reducing and recycling plastic waste and remaking useful polymer materials from plastic waste. Jim Rome mentioned that this is similar to the Proton Power process implemented at Wampler's in Loudon.
- Karren More, director of the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences at ORNL and a recent participant in the inaugural 2023 Nanotechnology Infrastructure Leaders' Summit and Workshop at the White House.
- John Galambos or Mark Champion, speaking on the Proton Power Upgrade project at SNS. Projected completion is expected in June; the PPU will bring accelerator power up to 2.8 megawatts and prepare for installation of a second target station.
- A speaker on the recent shipment of Pu-238 for NASA applications, or on the use of additive printing in developing a lunar wheel prototype.
- Zili Wu, who recently won a DOE Earthshot proposal on Non-Equilibrium Energy Transfer for Efficient Reactions (NEETER).

Media reports

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

The news release announcing Phil Snyder's talk on the future of fusion power appeared on The Oak Ridger website on Friday, October 6, and the article covering his talk appeared in The Oak Ridger print edition today, October 9. The article covering Kirk Sorensen's talk last month appeared on the front page of The Oak Ridger and on its website last Tuesday, October 3. Kent Williams noted that Sorensen's article was picked up by the "Nuclear Town Hall" with a link to The Oak Ridger.

A flyer and news release were prepared promoting Lynn Parker's Dick Smyser Community Lecture on artificial intelligence on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Zach Wamp Auditorium at the Y-12 New Hope Center. The intent is to promote it through ORNL, ORAU, Y-12, Oak Ridge Schools, and newspaper publicity. Lynne will promote her talk through UTK. A question was asked about buying an ad in The Oak Ridger using the flyer. Further discussion considered the possibility of addressing a wider audience through an ad in the Knoxville News-Sentinel. Carolyn will identify the possibilities and costs of such advertising.



Facebook – Ellen Smith

The Facebook page does get some attention but does not appear especially useful for promotion of luncheon lectures or community talks. The possibility of purchasing advertising on Facebook could be considered.

Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause

Preparations for tomorrow's hybrid meeting are complete. Herb Krause will set up and host, record, and handle in-house questions following the talk. David Fields will co-host, and handle Zoom chat questions. Fred Peretz will introduce the speaker. David Mullins will not be available to collect dues, but other officers will fill in as needed.

Webmaster – James Rome

Recent experience by members led to a discussion on the relationship between MailChimp and the FORNL.org web site. Jim Rome encouraged use of the web site for data entry, but it appears only the e-mail address is solicited. Jim will investigate this. The process for addressing casual "put me on the list" requests was also discussed.

Jim noted that he created a site map to enable indexing by search engines such as Google.

AMSE and Bus Tours – Al Ekkebus

AMSE had 12 bus tours with a total of 391 guests. More guests are taking an interest in the Manhattan Project with the release of the Oppenheimer film. There may be an uptick with guests both on the tours and at the museums when the film releases for home viewing and next spring during film award season. October is the last full month of the bus tours. The last tour is scheduled for Friday, November 17.

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

Gloria Caton will be supporting Herb and Carolyn Krause at the ORNL Benefits & Wellness Fair to be held on October 19. Information sheets have been prepared, and the monitor used last year was picked up from Syd Ball.

Public details and gifting information for the 2024 Tennessee Science Bowl and the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair (and its Virtual Science Club) will likely become available by November.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton

Preparations continue for the Community Lecture to be held on October 26 at the Y-12 New Hope Center Auditorium. Dr. Lynne Parker, Associate Vice Chancellor, and Director of the AI Tennessee Initiative at UTK, will be the speaker. An invoice for a \$500 deposit for use of the auditorium was expected but has not yet arrived. David Mullins is monitoring both e-mail and regular mail. Kent Williams has booked Judy Dodd Catering for the event, with a smaller food order than the previous lecture at an estimated cost of \$650. A flier prepared by Herb Krause will be passed out at the dinner meeting for further distribution by the membership. Lee Riedinger has agreed to introduce Parker at the lecture.

History Room – Al Ekkebus

Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz

PDH Certificates – David Fields

Visitor Badges – Syd Ball

No report.



Old Business

The convener of the nominating committee, Carolyn Krause, arranged a meeting with board committee members Syd Ball and Steve Overbury on October 2. The membership list was reviewed, and the committee notified Dave Mullins of a list of seven people who are deceased. As two members not on the current board are required for the nominating committee, a list of members that might be good candidates for either the nominating committee or the board itself was developed. Syd successfully recruited Ronnie Bogard and Steve successfully recruited Dick Davis to join the nominating committee, so we now have the required five members.

As convener, Carolyn surveyed the five board members up for re-election to ascertain their willingness to continue serving on the board. Ellen Smith, Dave Mullins, and Ray Garrett agreed to serve again, and Herb Krause and Al Ekkebus declined. Thus, two board candidates are required.

Syd Ball identified a potential candidate for the board. A discussion ensued at the full board meeting on desired qualifications and traits of potential candidates. The nominating committee will meet again to further consider possible candidates to present to the membership in January 2024.

No volunteer has been identified to execute a plan for setting up a lunch at the monthly lectures, after two months of solicitation. Thus, this topic will be dropped for now.

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 November 13, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL