



## Minutes for the February 12, 2024, FORNL Board Meeting

### *Opening – Herb Krause*

Herb Krause called the Zoom meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

### *Attendees:*

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

Board Members Present: Ray Garrett, Carolyn Krause, and Steve Overbury.

Incoming board member present Alan Lowe.

Adjunct member in attendance: James Rome.

### *Announcements – Herb Krause*

Herb prepared and distributed contact information for the 2024-2025 board members, and asked attendees to review and correct the information as required. ORNL's Annette Brun and Herb Krause were identified as adjunct board members in the list.

The UT-Battelle Impact Report for FORNL's 2023 grant was submitted to ORNL on January 18, as requested from all grantees. Comments were incorporated into the 2023 FORNL Annual Report, and the report has been uploaded onto the forn1.org website under the annual reports link in the site menu, or as the link <https://www.forn1.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2023%20FORNL%20Annual%20Report.pdf>.

Our new 2024 board members (Alan Lowe and Kathy Gant) were invited to attend the February 12 board meeting for orientation; Alan was present.

An invitation to attend ORNL's January 29 Lind Lecture on Zoom was emailed to the membership on January 28. Thanks to Katy Brown and Annette Brun and FORNL's Ellen Smith for this arrangement. Requests for a link to view the recording of this superb lecture again were received and passed on to the lab liaison.

### *Lab Liaison –Annette Brun and Katy Brown*

No report.

### *March FORNL Board Meeting*

Ellen Smith has volunteered to lead the March board meeting but is unavailable on March 11. The board agreed to change the meeting date to the prior Monday, March 4. Alan Lowe will investigate the possibility of our meeting live in the AMSE conference room.

### *Secretary –Fred Peretz*

Minutes for the January 8 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved with a minor amendment and will be posted on the FORNL website. Fred pointed out that he may be late for the annual meeting; Herb Krause will monitor the meeting and provide Fred with necessary information for the minutes as necessary.



*Treasurer – David Mullins*

David was on vacation at the time of the meeting but provided summary treasurer's report. There was a net positive cash flow last month. Lunch income is slightly ahead of cost. There were 14 new members in January; we now have 17 annual memberships for the year.

*Membership – David Mullins*

The membership file provided by David shows 55 life and 17 annual members thus far in 2024.

*Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause*

The January talk was from Mali Balasubramanian, 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 electrode materials and energy storage systems for electric vehicles, the electric grid, future aircraft, and other battery applications.

*Upcoming meetings:*

The February 13 talk from Madhavi Martin, ORNL BioSciences Division, will discuss use of laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy to support advances in bioenergy, soil carbon storage and environmental monitoring, and even to help solve a crime that resulted in the murderer's conviction. (Ellen)

On March 12, Jerry M. Parks, ORNL's Group leader for Molecular Biophysics in the Biosciences Division, will explain the use of computational chemistry and bioinformatics to understand the structure, function, and mechanism of proteins and enzymes. (Carolyn)

The Earth Day talk on April 9 will be from Bob Bolton, deputy of operations for the Next-Generation Ecosystem Experiments (NGEE) Arctic project led by ORNL. (Carolyn)

On May 14 Tony Mezzacappa, UTK Physics Department and Joint Institute for Computational Sciences at ORNL, will speak on gravitational waves from core collapse supernovae. Herb suggested there might be scheduling risk if the end of the UT Spring semester is extended by January's weather shutdowns. (Herb)

On September 10 Zili Wu, ORNL Chemical Science Division and the Center for Nanophase Material Sciences at ORNL, will address fundamental research topics in the field of surface chemistry and catalysis. (Steve)

Lecture dates that remain open include May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, October 8, and November 12.

The speaker committee continues to work toward a goal of having a list of a half-dozen potential speakers to draw on. The current list of potential speakers is being maintained as a Google online spreadsheet used for recruiting and scheduling prospective speakers. The worksheet can be viewed and edited by anyone, accessed via the link [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ETI6DIem5\\_jf\\_0rNfZUfHf5PycV11b2vIOpNT6KFjH0/](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ETI6DIem5_jf_0rNfZUfHf5PycV11b2vIOpNT6KFjH0/).

Ellen Smith will again bring lunch for purchase at tomorrow's lecture meeting. As before, this will include trays of half-sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks. Due to the response at the January meeting, the number of sandwiches will be increased. The cost remains \$10 each. Food will be dispensed from 2 small tables in the meeting room starting at 11:15 a.m.

*Community Lectures – Kent Williams*

Last month, we discussed the possibility of a State of the Laboratory presentation by the new Laboratory Director in the fall with the ORNL liaison. Subsequently, Jim Rushton suggested that such a presentation might be integrated



with a similar meet-and-greet with ETEC and the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. Alan Lowe stated that such a meet-and-greet has already been scheduled at AMSE for the evening of March 20. Alan will check if this event is exclusively for ETEC and chamber of commerce members, or if FORNL members could attend.

#### *Media reports*

##### *Newspapers – Carolyn Krause*

An article on Mali Balasubramanian's talk on ORNL battery research activities appeared in the February 2 print edition of *The Oak Ridger*. The announcement on the Madhavi Martin talk missed publishing today but should appear in tomorrow's print edition. An article on the February 8 Lind lecture appeared on February 8.

The website has been updated with other interesting ORNL activities.

##### *Facebook – Ellen Smith*

The Facebook interface seems to change regularly, but she continues to be thanked for invites to our lectures or other events.

##### *Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause*

Plans for tomorrow's hybrid meeting are complete. Herb Krause will set up and host the event, beginning with the annual business meeting, record the talk, and manage in-house questions. Steve Overbury will co-host, and Ellen Smith will give the speaker introduction. Ray Garrett will collect dues in place of David Mullins.

##### *Webmaster – James Rome*

No report.

##### *AMSE and Bus Tours – Alan Lowe*

Alan Lowe will begin reporting on AMSE and bus tours next month.

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

As a sponsor, FORNL is invited to have a representative at the Science Bowl dinner on February 23. Ellen Smith is considering attending and will formally respond to the invitation. Carolyn Krause may also attend as a reporter.

##### *Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz*

A meeting of rangers from all three sites of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park met together in Denver. A luncheon for both AMSE and Manhattan Project volunteers was held on February 8.

##### *PDH Certificates – David Fields*

##### *Visitor Badges – Syd Ball*

No reports.

##### *Old Business*

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on February 13 at 11:45, prior to the luncheon lecture. The Annual Meeting announcement was emailed to the membership on January 13, 2024, as required by the bylaws. Members will be



asked to vote on the board slate. Kathy Gant, Ray Garrett, Alan Lowe, Dave Mullins, and Ellen Smith are the Nominating Committee's recommended candidates for the 2024-2025 board (see FORNL Nom Com Report Dec 2023.docx, sent as an attachment to this meeting's agenda).

Election of 2024 officers will take place at the March 4 board meeting. At present there is not a proposed candidate for president.

Herb Krause has tried simplifying the president's job description by assigning seven 2023 president activities to a new "Tech Team" and assigning five other functions to the "Lecture Committees" as discussed at the December meeting. Board members will continue to advise and assist the new president. The president would only need to use Microsoft Word and Zoom apps. Herb could advise the president, lead the Tech Team, and train others as a non-voting adjunct board member after the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Several people would need to be recruited for the Tech Team to post meeting announcements, send MailChimp emails, and both host and co-host hybrid meetings. Herb would allow continued use of his personal Zoom Pro account at no cost to FORNL for hosting board and hybrid lunch meetings until an alternate hosting solution is worked out. A new Zoom account for the future president (paid by FORNL) is recommended.

#### *New Business*

No new business was raised.

#### *Closing*

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024. An in-person meeting at AMSE will be confirmed after this meeting (and was subsequently confirmed).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Peretz  
Secretary, Friends of ORNL