



Minutes for the May 13, 2024, FORNL Board Meeting

Call to Order and Amendments to the Agenda – Ellen Smith

Ellen Smith called the Zoom meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Attendees:

Officers present: Ellen Smith, President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; and David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball, David Fields, Kathy Gant, Carolyn Krause, and Alan Lowe.

Adjunct members in attendance: Annette Brun (ORNL liaison), Herb Krause, James Rome, and Kent Williams.

Minutes of February Meetings – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the April 1 board meeting were circulated to the board. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

Treasurer's and Membership Report – David Mullins

David reported a quiet month with a couple of new annual memberships. The cash balance for the year remains strong.

There are now 29 annual and 57 life members.

ORNL Liaison's Report – Annette Brun and Katy Brown

Arrangements for ORNL retirees to obtain one-day badges to attend the July 1 Wigner Lecture by Marsha McNutt are being finalized. A form soliciting information for the badges will be made available soon. Access to live Zoom or recordings of the lectures for FORNL members is still being evaluated.

An event allowing non-profit organizations to promote themselves at ORNL will be held Wednesday; AMSE and NPS will attend but FORNL has not registered. The next Benefits and Wellness Fair will be held in October.

The ORNL Human Resources team has agreed to incorporate a single-page informational sheet into the retiree package. Generation of a sheet is discussed later in this meeting.

The public bus tours will be held on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, beginning May 20. Because of construction adjacent to the Graphite Reactor, the ORNL stop will be at the Frontier supercomputer.

Monthly Lectures – Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, other board members

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

The May lecture will be given by Tony Mezzacappa, UTK Physics Department and Joint Institute for Computational Sciences at ORNL, speaking on gravitational waves from core collapse supernovae. Herb Krause will introduce the speaker and Steve Overbury will serve as co-host.

Talks scheduled for upcoming meetings include:



- June 11 – Tomonori Saito; speaking on polymers, including converting plastic waste into useful polymers.
- July 9 – Amy Elliot, addressing topics on additive manufacturing, robotics, and outreach.
- August 13 – Lee Riedinger, on the release of his new book on the UTK/ORNL partnership.
- September 10 – Zili Wu, ORNL Chemical Science Division and the Center for Nanophase Material Sciences at ORNL, addressing topics on surface chemistry and catalysis.
- October 8 – Ivan Selin, speaking on the history and future of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- November slot remains open; there is no talk in December.

AMSE has been working with Mark Buckner and the Oak Ridge city schools, conducting science education events at the museum. Mark was mentioned as a possible speaker for one of next year's lectures. Alternatively, he might speak at a future community lecture, as this involves community schools.

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/.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams

The June 27 community lecture will be presented by Peter Fuhr, covering ORNL's use drones for scientific investigations related to forest fires, cybersecurity, and other projects. We are still planning on using the City Room at Roane State. Ellen will investigate booking the room from 6 to 9 pm.

Kent suggested the amount of food purchased for the last lecture was appropriate. Kent will contact Judy Dodd Catering, with a planned arrival at 6:15.

There is no update from ORNL on a schedule for a State of the Laboratory talk in the fall.

Outreach:

Brochure, Poster, and Promotional Materials – Syd Ball, Fred Peretz

This task is now focused on preparing a one-page information sheet to add to ORNL retiree packets. Past efforts considered other applications, including rack cards. Fred Peretz observed that he had begun a draft revised brochure a couple of years ago, including a map to the ETEC conference room. That effort identified a need for quality pictures depicting FORNL activities (preferably not solely depicting a collection of old men). A conversational tone was offered as an alternative to a direct listing of purpose as described in the by-laws, with a focus on activities FORNL is performing at this time. Board members were encouraged to send pictures and suggestions to Fred Peretz.

Member Interaction

The possibility of a member newsletter was briefly discussed. It was observed that newsletters require significant effort; pursuing this further might require a volunteer stepping forward. Including more and current information on the website's main page might also serve this purpose. Again, a volunteer would be needed to incorporate this.

The cost of coffee mugs with the FORNL logo, in the quantities we might require, appears to be \$18 each. Going to a monochrome version might reduce this cost. No further action was taken at this time.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Fred Peretz

Ranger Ian Wilder is at a training session at Grand Canyon National Park. Tennis court dances are resuming; victory garden public activities begin June 1. Special programs and activities conducted by MAPR rangers is identified in their monthly newsletter. Contact Ian Wilder to be placed in the distribution for this newsletter.



STEM Education

No activity on the Tennessee Science Bowl or the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair is expected for the remainder of the school year.

The ORNL Travelling Science Fair trailers will be displayed at ORNL on June 12. Touring local sites is resuming, although the schedule has not yet been published. There is a preference to have younger professionals staff the trailers, as they might seem more relatable to a student audience.

Volunteer Opportunities and Needs

Public Tours – Alan Lowe

The public bus tours will be held on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, beginning May 20. Tours in May will be led by AMSE staff as experience is gained with the new ORNL route to the Frontier supercomputer. Tour volunteers are being assigned ride-along opportunities during this initial break-in period.

AMSE

The AMSE Foundation hosted Nuclear Energy Discovery Day on Saturday, May 11. The well-attended event included hands-on activities, take home activities, and presentations from leaders in the nuclear field including CTO and co-founder of Kairos Power Ed Blandford.

The K-25 museum has been renamed the K-25 Atomic History Center. AMSE publishes a monthly newsletter; contact Alan Lowe or museum staff to get on the email distribution.

Media reports:

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

An article promoting Tony Mezzacapa's lunch talk appeared on page 8 of The Oak Ridger. The article also appeared in the on-line issue. It was observed that the Zoom link in the on-line article disappears after a few days.

An article on Bob Bolton's talk, "Arctic Soil Thawing Poses Risks to Alaskan Life and Climate" was submitted and should appear in print soon (the article appeared in the May 20 print edition of The Oak Ridger).

A report on a recent presentation by Jim Roberto on the element Tennessine recently appeared in "Historically Speaking."

Website – Jim Rome

The MailChimp email engagement report for early May showed 271 messages delivered with no unsubscribes or bounces.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

Ellen offered to share the Facebook administrator role with other board members to allow postings by others. She also encouraged participants to Share postings, and to invite Friends to mark Like on the postings.



Oak Ridge Library Community Calendar

The Oak Ridge Library is publishing a community calendar. This provides an opportunity to promote our monthly lunch lectures and community lectures. We are currently in the process of obtaining approval to be included in the calendar.

Old Business:

Food for monthly luncheon meetings – Ellen Smith and others

Food for the April lecture ran out; it was recommended that we increase the number of sandwiches from 10 to 20. Additional vegetable and tuna selections were also recommended. Otherwise, the practice will continue as implemented in the past few months. Additional volunteers to handle lunches would be appreciated.

Sponsorship

The issue of sponsoring FORNL activities, possibly including providing lunch at the monthly lectures, was discussed briefly. An attendee had asked about the possibility of sponsoring a FORNL event a couple of months ago but has not been heard from since. No action was taken at this board meeting.

New Business

No new business was raised.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, June 10, 2024. The Zoom link should continue until September.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL