

**Minutes for the August 12, 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; Steve Overbury, Vice President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; and David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball, Kathy Gant, Ray Garrett, Carolyn Krause, and Alan Lowe.

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

*Minutes of February Meetings – Fred Peretz*

Minutes for the July 8 board meeting were circulated to the board. The minutes were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

*Treasurer's and Membership Report – David Mullins*

The past month has been quiet financially. \$40 was received from two new members. The cost for lunches is nearly balanced. Costs for mugs and Mailchimp are now caught up. We have a small (roughly \$300) deficit for the year at mid-year, with expenses for community lectures and science fairs approaching.

Membership is slightly behind the level at this time last year.

*ORNL Liaison's Report – Annette Brun and Katy Brown*

Laboratory Director Stephen Streiffer is scheduled to present a State of the Lab address on November 14. At this time, however, a location for the talk has not been resolved. Although Alan Lowe had coordinated with Y-12 for the New Hope auditorium, ORNL is reluctant to hold a State of the Lab talk on the Y-12 site. The auditorium at the Roane State Oak Ridge campus is likely too small, Pollard Auditorium is undergoing renovations, and the board was reluctant to consider sites outside of the city of Oak Ridge. The Oak Ridge High School auditorium may be an option but is expensive and has restrictions on its use. Cost and issues with use of the High School will be investigated further.

A sample FORNL information handout, with a suggested logo that clearly does not infringe on ORNL trademarks, was circulated for discussion. The lab's logo consists of an oak leaf and the words "Oak Ridge National Laboratory;" these are the design elements to be avoided. There was general concurrence that the handout was well-prepared and suitable for use. It was suggested that the first usage of "ORNL" in the text be replaced with the full name (as this is text and not a logo ORNL would not object to this). The board asked if this change could be made to the sample handout, and both a .pdf and native program file be provided.

ORNL will hold a Community Day for nonprofit organizations on October 15, and FORNL is invited to staff an information booth. Other volunteer opportunities include an event with the ORNL Travelling Science Fair on October 3 at Downtown Island Home airport, and again with the Travelling Science Fair at the Oak Ridge High School on October 22 (as part of nuclear science week).

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

The July 9 talk was by Mark Champion, Proton Power Upgrade Project Director, speaking on "The Proton Power Upgrade Project at the Spallation Neutron Source."

The August 13 lecture will be by Lee Riedinger, on the release of his new book “Critical Connections – The University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge from the Dawn of the Atomic Age to the Present.” Alan Lowe will introduce Lee.

Talks scheduled for upcoming meetings include:

- September 17 – Zili Wu, ORNL Chemical Science Division and the Center for Nanophase Material Sciences at ORNL, addressing topics on surface chemistry and catalysis. (A week late, due to speaker availability)
- October 8 – Ivan Selin, speaking on the history and future of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- November 11 talk by Laetitia Delmau, recent recipient of the Glenn Seaborg Actinide Separations award; she might talk on promethium chemistry or several actinide topics.

Additional future topics being considered are electron microscopy, new climatological modeling including physics-based models to evaluate flooding risk, electrochemical cooling and solid-state coolants, modeling tools for building energy use and potential savings, and issues with the electric power grid. Work between AMSE and the Oak Ridge city school system might be a topic for early 2025. Either a lunch lecture or community lecture by Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and co-chair of the Nuclear Security Working Group, is also under consideration.

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/).

#### *Community Lectures – Kent Williams*

Plans for a State of the Lab Community Lecture by ORNL Laboratory Director Stephen Streiffer on November 14 have been covered in the ORNL liaison report.

A potential community lecture by Type One Energy Group, which to plans build Infinity One – the company’s stellarator fusion prototype machine – at the shutdown TVA Bull Run Fossil Plant was suggested. Although there is considerable interest in the potential project, a willingness to discuss details would have to be confirmed before moving forward. Other potential topics include policy (as the Chuck Fleischmann topic described previously), artificial intelligence, and quantum computing.

#### *Outreach:*

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

This topic has been covered in the ORNL liaison report.

##### *Member Interaction*

No updates reported under member interaction.

##### *STEM Education*

No updates reported under STEM Education.

##### *Volunteer Opportunities and Needs – Partner Organizations:*

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

Site tours continue to go well. Tony Schnadelbach is getting updated information on the Frontier Computer. Viewing platform construction is proceeding at the K-25 site. CROET is updating portal signage; there is a general

desire for better directional signage to guide visitors to the K-25 Atomic History Center. Alan will provide the board members with links to AMSE events (these can also be viewed on the AMSE website).

*Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Fred Peretz*

As part of the National Park Service Days of Peace and Remembrance, rangers and volunteers illuminated AK Bissel Park's International Friendship Bell with luminarias bearing the messages of peace from the community. At sunrise on Tuesday, August 6 attendees were invited to ring the bell, each tone marking a year since the bombings. This was supported by staffing a booth at local farmers' markets, starting in Oak Ridge with plans to move through other markets in the Knoxville area. Tennis court dances and narrated walks continue throughout the summer.

*Media reports:*

*Newspapers – Carolyn Krause*

An article on the June 27 Dick Smyser Community Lecture on ORNL's smart drones appeared on the front page of the Friday, Aug. 9 edition of The Oak Ridger and on its website.

An article on the upcoming talk by Lee Riedinger for the Aug. 13 lunch lecture appeared on The Oak Ridger website on Saturday and should appear in the newspaper's print edition Monday.

Articles on two FORNL lectures—the one by Tony Mezzacappa on supernovae and gravitational waves and the one by Mark Champion on the Proton Power Upgrade at the SNS—have been submitted to The Oak Ridger but have not appeared. Also, an article on Marcia McNutt's Wigner Lecture on U.S. science has been submitted and is awaiting publication.

It was also noted that Bill Cabage, ORNL Communications, is retiring.

*Website – James Rome*

James Rome drafted an updated general-purpose logo based on the ORNL suggestion, and the board agreed to use it for the near term. More comprehensive and updated content is desired; mechanisms for generating content by board members are needed to facilitate this.

*Facebook – Ellen Smith*

The logo will be replaced on the Facebook page. There were 17 responses indicating interest in tomorrow's lunch lecture; this is more than usual.

*Old Business:*

*Annual Grant Application to UT-Battelle*

Our annual grant application to UT-Battelle was submitted on July 30.

*Food for monthly luncheon meetings – Ellen Smith and others*

No changes are recommended for lunch lecture food.

*Sponsorship*

ORNL has agreed to insert our brochure in retire handouts, but we must supply the printed copies. A suggestion that AMSE might sponsor the printing, and if possible minor revisions, of the brochure in return for the AMSE logo on the brochure map was accepted by Alan Lowe. Fred Peretz will work on the details.

*New Business*

The board was polled on holding the next board meeting be on September 9 (usual schedule) or September 16 (day before the luncheon lecture). It was agreed to meet on September 9.

*Closing*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Peretz  
Secretary, Friends of ORNL