



Minutes for the January 8, 2024, 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: Ray Garrett, Carolyn Krause, and Steve Overbury.

Adjunct members in attendance: Katy Brown, Annette Brun, and James Rome. (Katy and Annette represent ORNL.)

Announcements – Herb Krause

Bob Compton resigned from his Adjunct board position on 12/14/23 due to his health condition. His resignation email was forwarded to all board members.

A screenshot of all board members was taken for use in the 2023 Annual Report.

New 2024 board members (Alan Lowe and Kathy Gant) will be invited to attend the February 12 board meeting for orientation.

Lab Liaison –Katy Brown

Both Katy Brown and Annette Brun were in attendance. Katy noted that ORNL now has 6 people in the Community Engagement and Protocol Group she leads (part of ORNL's Communications and Community Engagement Division headed by David Keim), including Annette Brun. Annette serves as a protocol community engagement specialist and will serve as liaison with FORNL. Katy encouraged us to send questions in advance, and to put both Katy and Annette on FORNL's communications distribution.

It might be possible for the new ORNL director, Stephen K. Streiffer, to give a State of the Lab address in the fall. Waiting till that time would give him more time to learn the lab and develop such a presentation.

Making available upon request once again visitor badges for retiree members of FORNL were discussed. Katy thought it might be possible to reinstate visitor badges that were last issued in 2019 and noted that ORNL is restarting Wigner lectures (including a future talk by Marsha McNutt, president of the National Academy of Sciences). The type and approximate number of badges were briefly discussed, along with a process for collecting the necessary data for applicants. As an aside, it was mentioned that the lab has Wigner and Weinberg T-shirts for sale at \$20 each, and arrangements could be made to bring some to the February meeting.

Bus tours are expected to resume in April. Earth Week activities at the lab may also provide opportunities for interaction between ORNL and FORNL. It was noted that Lynne Parker and another speaker from ORNL will be at AMSE on February 7 to talk about artificial intelligence.

Secretary –Fred Peretz

Minutes for the December 11 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.



Treasurer – David Mullins

David reported that we ended calendar year 2023 with a \$1,300 surplus. Our primary expenses were contributions to the youth science programs and to community lectures. We received our \$500 community lecture deposit refund from Y-12, along with a slight refund for the IT support labor charge. We received one new member registration via PayPal.

A backlog of invoices for Mailchimp has now been paid and will show as a January expense. A certificate of deposit maturing soon will be renewed at the best available rate.

Membership – David Mullins

The current membership file shows 55 lifetime and 48 annual memberships at the end of 2023. Two members were added via PayPal. A review of past members who have passed on shows that none were currently on the membership roster.

Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause

There was no lunch meeting or talk in December.

Upcoming meetings:

Tomorrow's talk will be 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.

On February 13, Madhavi Martin, leader of ORNL's Biomaterials and Biomass Characterization Group of the BioSciences Division in the Biological and Environmental Systems Science Directorate, 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.

After the January 8 board meeting, Jerry Parks was confirmed as the speaker for March 14. He conducts research in computational chemistry; details on this talk will be provided later.

For the Earth Day talk on April 9, we have scheduled Bob Bolton, deputy of operations for the Next-Generation Ecosystem Experiments (NGEE) Arctic project.

This fills the schedule for speakers through April; the next opening is May 14.

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 includes:

- Zhili Wu, leader of ORNL's Surface Chemistry and Catalysis Group in the Chemical Science Division and a Research & Development Staff member at the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences.
- Edmon Begoli, the founding director of ORNL's Center for AI Security Research.
- Carrie Eckert, on the use of quantum biology, artificial intelligence and bioengineering to improve CRISPR Cas9 genome editing.
- John Galambos or Mark Champion, on the SNS Proton Power Upgrade project and its implications for neutron research at ORNL.



- Steven Hamilton, on the Exascale Small Modular Reactor project at the ORNL Frontier supercomputer.
- Madhavi Martin, on the use of laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy in bioenergy, soil carbon storage and environmental monitoring.
- Tony Mezzacappa, on the use of supercomputers to predict gravitational wave signatures needed to detect distant supernovae.
- Karren More, director of the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences at ORNL.
- Katherine Page, on the use of neutron diffraction to gain new insights into complex functional materials on both bulk and nano scales.
- Lee Riedinger, on the history of the UT-ORNL partnership as described in his new book.
- Tomonori Saito and Md Arifuzzaman, on an organocatalyst that allows selective deconstruction of various plastics.
- 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.

Ellen Smith arranged for a lunch option from Panera for the January meeting. This will include two trays of half-sandwiches (one hot and one cold), chips, cookies, and drinks. The cost will be \$10 each.

The future use of Zoom for remote meeting attendance was discussed. Discontinuing remote attendance might encourage in-person attendance, although it would also present difficulties for members with disabilities, illness, or a distant location. If Zoom is to continue in its present usage, a higher-level subscription will be required.

Media reports

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

A news release announcing Mali Balasubramanian's talk on battery research at the lab appeared on *The Oak Ridger* website on January 7 and in the print edition on January 8.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

Ellen continues to upload links to Oak Ridger stories that Carolyn produces. Announcements of the talks are set up as Facebook events. The Facebook page does get traffic and contains links to articles about FORNL talks on The Oak Ridger website. Nearly 200 hits have been registered on the announcement of tomorrow's talk.

Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause

Plans for tomorrow's hybrid meeting are complete. Steve Overbury will co-host, and Carolyn Krause will make the speaker introduction and take photos of the speaker.

Webmaster – James Rome

No report.

AMSE and Bus Tours – Al Ekkebus

As noted by the ORNL liaison, the intent is to restart the bus tours in April.

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

Volunteers are needed as judges for both the Tennessee Science Bowl (on-line judge) and the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair.



Community Lectures – Kent Williams

As noted by the ORNL liaison, there may be a possibility of a State of the Laboratory presentation in the fall.

Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz
PDH Certificates – David Fields
Visitor Badges – Syd Ball

The possibility of reinstating visitor badges for ORNL retirees who are FORNL members will be explored by the ORNL liaison.

Old Business

As of January, the nominating committee is unable to recommend a complete officer list for 2024. The committee recommends that Ellen Smith, David Mullins, and Fred Peretz continue in their present roles. No candidate has been identified for president.

The current board will present board candidates for election at the annual meeting in February and identify recommended officers noting that no president has been identified. Election of a full slate of officers will become the responsibility of the new board, after election at the annual meeting.

Herb Krause retires as a board member and president on February 14, after years of exceptionally dedicated service to FORNL as secretary for six years and president for two years. Recently, Herb drafted suggestions for additional volunteers to assist the future president, including development of a tech team that will aid in Zoom participation, execution and recording of hybrid lunch lecture meetings, and posting of announcements of upcoming monthly lectures on the website. Steve Overbury has volunteered to serve on this tech team. Herb also suggested that the community lecture committee and lunch lecture committee be merged into one committee with more than two members; it is hoped that more board members participate in recruiting speakers.

Ellen Smith may volunteer to serve as temporary president in March. It may be necessary to reschedule the March board meeting a week earlier to accommodate Ellen's schedule. This topic will be addressed in the February board meeting.

New Business

Applications for ORNL community grants are accepted in January and July. It was recommended that we pass on the January application window but apply in July after the next board and officers have resolved the current transition issues.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL