



Minutes for the March 13, 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; Fred Peretz, Secretary; David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball, Al Ekkebus, Ray Garrett, Carolyn Krause, and Steve Overbury.

Adjunct members in attendance: Bob Compton and Kent Williams.

Announcements – Herb Krause

Herb requested that all postings to the FORNL.org website be completed by the end of March 14 so Jim Rome can update the software.

Herb welcomed new board members Ray Garrett and Steve Overbury, and reelected board members: Syd Ball, David Fields, Carolyn Krause, and Fred Peretz, who are beginning their 2nd term. Bob Compton is now a non-voting adjunct board member. Contact information was provided last month.

Election of officers – Herb Krause

A motion to elect 2023 officers came from recommendations by the nominating committee (Janet Swift, convener) and required no second. Nominations were:

Herb Krause, President
Ellen Smith, Vice-President
Fred Peretz, Secretary
David Mullins, Treasurer

The slate was elected by unanimous vote.

Herb expressed his thanks to outgoing board members Janet Swift and Bob Compton for their 4 and 5 years of elected board service, respectively. He also highlighted the decades of service by Bob Hightower and Dave McVicker who have resigned from their adjunct board positions.

Lab Liaison – Katy Brown

No questions were posed to Katy, and no report was given.

Secretary – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the February 13 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

Minutes for the February 14 annual membership meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.



Treasurer – David Mullins

Annual membership income has been good early this year, and no significant expenses have been incurred. Cash flow for 2023 is positive. Expenses for the community lecture will be incurred soon but are covered by income. The IRS Form 990-N is due by the end of May. The treasurer's report will be posted on the website.

Membership – David Mullins

Annual membership into March is much better than in 2022; 38 paid memberships compared to 13. Lifetime memberships increased by one; 54 compared to 53. Total paid memberships are approaching 100.

Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, Bob Compton

The February 14 talk was by Gina Tourassi, ORNL Director of the National Center for Computational Sciences and Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility, on "Extreme Scale Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence at the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility."

Upcoming meetings:

The March 14 luncheon lecture will be by Joan M. Bienvenue, UT- Oak Ridge Innovation Institute Executive Director and Vice Provost, titled "UT-ORII: Aligning ORNL & UT's resources to prepare future STEM talent."

Susan Hubbard, ORNL Deputy Director for Science and Technology, was originally scheduled to talk in March but had to decline. The specific reason for declining was not stated, and it is not clear whether she might be able to talk in the future.

David McCollum was suggested as a speaker on ORNL's climate research, the Net Zero World Initiative, and ways to decarbonize energy production but he was out of the office and could not confirm. (Subsequently, he did confirm he would speak on April 11. The title of his talk will be confirmed upon his return to ORNL.)

Ken Tobin, Chief Research and University Partnerships Officer for ORAU, agreed to speak on the semiconductor industry, patents, and licensing in either May or June. In late 2022 he was named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors for his 15 patents obtained at ORNL

Bruce Moyer has agreed to speak on August 8, addressing reasons why ORNL remains a powerhouse in separations science.

Syd Ball will contact Kirk Sorensen of Flibe Energy for a possible talk on thorium-fueled salt reactors in July. Other suggested speakers have been identified in earlier minutes.

Media reports

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

A news release on the Joan Bienvenue's talk to FORNL appears in today's edition of The Oak Ridger and was posted on the website last night. An article on Gina Tourassi's talk on artificial intelligence and ORNL was submitted and should appear in The Oak Ridger soon.

Carolyn continues to update the FORNL website with the latest ORNL news releases.



Facebook – Ellen Smith

Ellen is continuing to address changes in Facebook procedures and is posting information on upcoming meetings.

Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause

Arrangements for the March 14 meeting are in place. Fred Peretz will mention the recent Science Bowl and the upcoming Science Olympiad, and will also give the community lecture announcement. David Fields will serve as co-host and manage Zoom chat questions. David Mullins will staff the membership desk.

Webmaster – Jim Rome

Jim will be updating the website software this week, and asked that all input to the website be uploaded by Wednesday. **Herb posted** information on the upcoming community lecture.

AMSE and Bus Tours – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus

AMSE heard from ORNL that with access to the Graphite Reactor restricted by adjacent work, the ORNL tour stop will be at the visitors' center with a discussion of lab history and activities centered around the wall mural. Details will be provided to tour volunteers soon. There is no specific starting date yet, but tours are expected to begin mid-April. Badge renewals for tour guides are being initiated.

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

500 people attended the Tennessee Science Bowl dinner, with Jim Rome representing FORNL. A plaque was provided recognizing FORNL's sponsorship. ORNL provided an excellent inspirational speaker. Of local schools, Hardin Valley Academy was awarded fourth place. Jim urges us to continue sponsoring the Science Bowl, and notes there were excellent door prizes for the participants.

The Tennessee State Science Olympiad is a one-day STEM competition that hosts the top 14 middle school and 16 high school teams from across Tennessee. The competition will be held at the UT Knoxville campus on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Volunteers are being recruited to serve as event supervisors. There are 46 events for this competition, and event supervisors will help with setting up tasks or exams, as well as judging experiments for their specific event.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton

Final preparations for the March 20 community lecture are underway. Kent Williams has arranged for catering prior to the event and asked David Mullens (treasurer) to contact the caterer to arrange payment details. Kent has also prepared a poster for the event; it has been reviewed, revised, and copies will be provided at the luncheon meeting. Announcements for The Oak Ridger and other outlets are being prepared.

The ORION co-sponsor will offer remote viewing via Zoom, as is their tradition. FORNL will emphasize in-person attendance, and will not advertise a Zoom option.

History Room – Al Ekkebus

Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz

PDH Certificates – David Fields

Visitor Badges – Syd Ball

No significant reports were given on these topics.



Old Business

A brief discussion on identification and maintenance of records and items of archival interest took place. An action plan will be prepared by Fred Peretz, to be addressed after our current focus on the upcoming community lecture.

New Business

No new business was identified.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on April 10, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL