

Friends of ORNL
Board of Directors Meeting
February 7, 2022
Minutes

<i>Board Members</i>		<i>Officer/Committee</i>		<i>Adjunct Members</i>		<i>Committee Chair</i>
John Gunning	x	President		Bob Hightower		
Ellen Smith	x	Vice President, Troika, Facebook		Katy Brown		ORNL Liaison
Dave Mullins	X	Secretary, Membership		Jim Rome	x	Webmaster
Chuck Coutant	x	Treasurer		Dave McVicker	x	ORNL History Room, arrangements
Kent Williams	x	Immed Past President, Community Lectures		Connor Matthews		
<i>At Large</i>				Kathy Gant		
Syd Ball	X	Visitor Badges		Gloria Caton	X	
Bob Compton	X	Troika		<i>Guests</i>		
Dave Fields		Professional Development Certs		Jim Rushton	X	
Carolyn Krause	x	Publicity		Al Ekkebus	X	
Fred Peretz	x	MPNHP		Herb Krause		
Janet Swift		ORNL Tours				

x indicates present at the meeting.

Zoom link for Board Meeting –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88132938254?pwd=YzhjK0hzUnBGZUV3ZUxPbUk5a05WUT09>

Opening

President John called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

John thanked the board members for their support this past year.

Secretary – Dave Mullins

The minutes of the January 10, 2022 meeting were previously distributed.

The minutes were amended to correct typos.

Bob Compton had asked Kathy Brown how many employees had left ORNL during the pandemic. She indicated she was going to research this and get back to us. This was added to the minutes.

Treasurer – Chuck Coutant

All funds are with the ORNL Federal Credit Union. Our accounts are given as of January 10, 2022.

Checking account: \$9,247.84

Business Membership Account: \$178.53

CD 1000 (new 14 month Certificate of Deposit): \$10,192.04

CD 1003 (17 month Certificate of Deposit): \$4,682.60

Total assets: \$24,301.01

Activity since last meeting:

Income

- One \$200 Life membership and one \$20 annual membership via PayPal
- One \$200 Life membership and one \$20 annual membership by check
- Two \$20 annual membership dues (not yet deposited)

Expenses

- None

Committee Reports:

Lab Liaison - Katy Brown

Katy Brown did not attend

Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause

Last month's meeting:

January 11

Rick Raines - Director, Electrification and Energy Infrastructures Division, ORNL

Enhanced EV Charging - including wireless charging on roadways

Protecting the Future Electric Grid from Cyberthreats.

Upcoming meetings:

February 8

Cymbeline Culiati

Future Applications in Regenerative Medicine

The Science and Technology of the Company NellOne

March 8

Bronson Messer – ORNL

Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility

Supercomputing for Science

April 19 (Note this is not the second Tuesday)

Colleen Iversen – ORNL

Environmental Sciences Division

Title TBD

May 10

Bonnie Carroll

Retired founder and CEO of Information International Associates
Title TBD

Community Lectures (Kent Williams, Chuck Coutant)
No report.

History Room (Dave McVicker)
Treasures from the Archives
These will resume when Dave obtains access to the ORNL History Room.

Membership (David Mullins)
At the end of January 2022 there are 53 life members and 8 annually paid members for 2022.
At the end of January 2021 there were 49 life members and 13 annually paid members. Robert Ferguson was transferred to the Memorial list.

Visitor Badges (Syd Ball)
No report

Tours
Bus Tours – Al Ekkebus
A planning meeting was held last week.
Hope to resume tours in June.
Need documentation regarding Covid status/restrictions.
Training for guides will be coming before then.

Manhattan Project - (Fred Peretz)
Need to update ranger information on our website (Volunteer opportunities). Remove Darryl Long, add Ian Wilder.

Webmaster – Jim Rome
Herb Krause contacted Connor Matthews to encourage continuing work to transfer meeting videos to the web.

New Member Outreach – Syd Ball, Fred Peretz
No report

Alternate Media – Facebook - Ellen Smith
Currently have over 166 Followers

PDH Certificates – David Fields
No report

Nominating Committee – John Gunning – convenor
New board members will be elected at the Feb. 8, 2022 annual meeting.
New officers will be elected by the board at the March 7, 2022 Board Meeting.

Old Business

The report of the ad-hoc committee regarding the FORNL donation to the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair (SASEF) was distributed prior to the meeting (attached).

The report had four recommendations:

1. We would provide an annual FORNL lecturer from its membership for the SASEF-sponsored Virtual Science Club. FORNL would bear all costs, if there are any.
2. We would provide an additional \$500 (beyond the \$500 already donated) for the approximate cost of SASEF's existing incentive program for fair winners to join the Virtual Science Club. The incentive program offers winning students a choice of several gift items (e.g., Bill Nye's Science Kit, lens kit for smart phone, Structural Engineering Kit, a drone with camera, Electronics and Programming Starter Kit). The award could be called the "Friends of ORNL Virtual Science Club Incentive."
3. We recommend exploring how to provide an equipment award for students who need, but could not afford, equipment for an outstanding science fair project (see background below).
4. We recommend that the FORNL Board create a standing committee for our STEM donations, since these donations are a major financial part of our FORNL programs. Such a committee can start working with the SASEF and DOE Science Bowl staffs early to provide funding that meets both FORNL's and the organizers' goals.

A motion was made by the committee to approve the recommendations and it was approved unanimously.

New Business

The board thanked John Gunning for his service as president this past year.

The next meeting will be on March 7, 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Mullins

David Mullins
Secretary, Friends of ORNL

Report of the ad-hoc committee for FORNL donation to the
Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair (SASEF)

Chuck Coutant, Ellen Smith, Fred Peretz, David Fields

January 17, 2022

The Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. We would provide an annual FORNL lecturer from its membership for the SASEF-sponsored Virtual Science Club. FORNL would bear all costs, if there are any.
2. We would provide an additional \$500 (beyond the \$500 already donated) for the approximate cost of SASEF's existing incentive program for fair winners to join the Virtual Science Club. The incentive program offers winning students a choice of several gift items (e.g., Bill Nye's Science Kit, lens kit for smart phone, Structural Engineering Kit, a drone with camera, Electronics and Programming Starter Kit). The award could be called the "Friends of ORNL Virtual Science Club Incentive."
3. We recommend exploring how to provide an equipment award for students who need, but could not afford, equipment for an outstanding science fair project (see background below).
4. We recommend that the FORNL Board create a standing committee for our STEM donations, since these donations are a major financial part of our FORNL programs. Such a committee can start working with the SASEF and DOE Science Bowl staffs early to provide funding that meets both FORNL's and the organizers' goals.

Background:

At the December 13, 2021 meeting of the FORNL Board there was discussion of increasing our support of the SASEF from the \$500 already sent to perhaps \$1,500. The reasoning was that we have accumulated money during the Covid pandemic when Community Lectures were suspended and could afford to increase support of STEM activities. We also have sent \$1,500 to the DOE Science Bowl for general support.

Prior to the following (January) Board meeting, one of us (Coutant) corresponded with Susan Troop, Assistant Director of Pre-College Programs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (SASEF staff; stroop@utk.edu) to determine if the fair organizers had a particular funding need that FORNL could address while giving FORNL specific recognition. In an email of December 21, 2021, Ms Troop provided the SASEF Board's recommendation that we sponsor an existing program of incentive gifts given by the SASEF to select winners to encourage them to participate in a Virtual Science Club started by SASEF. The SASEF Board also suggested a \$100 award to a winning student who regularly participated in the Virtual Science Club the preceding year.

At the January 10, 2022 FORNL Board meeting a motion to increase FORNL's donation to the SASEF from \$500 (already sent) to \$1,500 was defeated due to lack of clarity over what the additional \$1,000 would fund.

An internet failure in west Oak Ridge cut off two Board members (Coutant, Smith) who had begun to provide the supporting information. The Board appointed an ad hoc committee of the four of us to review options and provide recommendations. The committee exchanged information and suggestions by email in days after the Board meeting and met in person on January 14 to discuss and make recommendations.

The committee's initial recommendations were communicated to Ms Troop prior to action by the FORNL Board to ensure compatibility with SASEF's planning. We encountered some logistical problems for one initial recommendation. We initially recommended that we provide a \$200 "Friends of ORNL Equipment Award" to a non-senior student winner for equipment needed to continue a superior science fair project that would be entered into the next year's science fair. Examples could be the need for an electronic measuring device, special electronic components., or specialized biological sampling or laboratory equipment. In addition, we would provide a mentor (if desired) from our membership. SASEF judges would recommend a recipient based on the project and financial need. The SASEF staff communicated a number of logistical issues with this recommendation, which would take some study, consultation with our members, and involve a time frame different from this year. This led us to modifying our recommendation. The SASEF concerns, as communicated in a January 27 email from Ms Troop, are quoted here:

We love your ideas listed below. Our only concern about the "Friends of ORNL Equipment Award" is that it is very narrow in scope and we are in discussion of how we would administrate it. We would need to give the award information to the student and have you all handle the rest through the student's parent (connecting the student with a mentor) as we are limited in making those connections due to the Programs for Minors policy at UTK. I also wondered if you would be ordering the materials for the student or if you would be giving them cash? Our office would not be able to track whether or not they are using the award for equipment and could not influence or monitor the stipulation that they participate in the next fair.

An alternate approach could be to have students from the Virtual Science Club apply for the award in the fall when they are planning their science project and know that they need funding for equipment and you could choose a student from those who apply, to mentor and provide funds to the student for equipment for the upcoming fair. The award could therefore be given during the research process and still announced at the SASEF Awards Ceremony.