



Minutes for the March 4, 2024, FORNL Board Meeting

Call to Order and Amendments to the Agenda – Ellen Smith

Ellen Smith called the in-person meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. A quorum was present. No amendments to the agenda were requested. A slight delay ensued as Zoom issues in the AMSE conference room were worked out.

Attendees:

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

Board Members Present: Syd Ball (via Zoom), Ray Garrett (via Zoom), Carolyn Krause, Alan Lowe, and Steve Overbury.

Adjunct member in attendance: Annette Brun (via Zoom), Herb Krause, and Kent Williams.

Minutes of February Meetings – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the February 12 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 13 annual membership meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

Treasurer's Report – David Mullins

At present, FORNL has a \$45 surplus for the year. Income is mainly through membership fees, with lecture lunches about breaking even. The primary recent expense was \$360 for hosting the website (with an annual cost of about \$600).

A certificate of deposit at the ORNL Federal Credit Union is now within its 10-day renewal window. The board approved renewal as a new 9-month certificate.

Election of Officers

A motion to elect 2024 officers came from recommendations by the nominating committee (Carolyn Krause, convener) and required no second. Nominations were:

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

An objection was raised to voting on an incomplete slate. Discussions that followed included a suggestion that individual candidates be elected to the offices they agreed to serve, as well as an observation that completion of the slate might lead to adjustments in other office positions. Election of officers was deferred until later in the meeting.

ORNL Liaison's Report – Annette Brun and Katy Brown

There are two Wigner lectures planned by ORNL this year. The first will be on April 1, by Frank Wilczek, an American theoretical physicist, mathematician, and Nobel laureate. A second Wigner lecture may be in July.



Annette was asked whether FORNL members could attend in person or by Zoom and will check on possible arrangements.

Annette thought the public bus tours could start as soon as April 1; Alan Lowe observed that AMSE would require about a 30-day notice prior to startup. Annette was not sure whether the Graphite Reactor would be accessible this year.

There was no update on regular visitor badges for FORNL members that are ORNL retirees. She also said that obtaining permission to post the recent Lind lecture video is still underway.

Membership – David Mullins

Membership records show 55 lifetime and 23 annual members thus far in 2024. Bob Compton has been moved to memorial status.

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

The March 12 talk will be by Jerry M. Parks, ORNL's Group leader for Molecular Biophysics in the Biosciences Division. His talk will explain the use of computational chemistry and bioinformatics to understand the structure, function, and mechanism of proteins and enzymes. (Carolyn)

Upcoming meetings:

- April 9 - Bob Bolton, deputy of operations for the Next-Generation Ecosystem Experiments (NGEE) Arctic project led by ORNL. (Carolyn)
- May 14 – Tony Mezzacappa, UTK Physics Department and Joint Institute for Computational Sciences at ORNL, speaking on gravitational waves from core collapse supernovae. (Herb)
- July 9 – Amy Elliot, addressing topics on additive manufacturing, robotics, and outreach.
- June 11 remains open.
- 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. (Steve)

Syd might contact Ivan Selin to speak on the history and future of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. From July 1, 1991, through June 30, 1995, Ivan Selin served as Chairman of the NRC.

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 possibility of ORNL Wigner speakers doing community lectures was raised, but the option might be offset by tight schedules arranged around their ORNL visit. Alan Lowe observed that community lectures could be held at AMSE at no cost. The possibility of a State of the Laboratory talk in the fall continues to be pursued.

Outreach:

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

Providing information about FORNL to ORNL retirees would be aided by the availability of an updated brochure. Recent experience at the ORNL benefits fair should aid in other promotional activities.



AMSE and Public Tours – Alan Lowe

As always, more volunteers are needed as museum docents and bus tour guides. Tony Schnadelbach is the AMSE contact for volunteers.

ORNL History Room and Related Topics

No report.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Fred Peretz

Additional volunteers are needed to staff the NPS information desk at the Childrens' Museum, allowing the rangers to develop additional park programs. Ranger Ian Wilder has just completed a training session on integration of volunteers into the park structure. No word is available on the hiring of a second ranger for the Oak Ridge unit.

STEM Education

The Tennessee Science Bowl and the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair are now completing their spring 2024 activities. New volunteer opportunities will arise in the fall. Local schools may have other volunteer opportunities; for example, Knox County Schools has a needs table on its website. Volunteering at either AMSE or the NPS provides opportunities for STEM mentoring on a one-to-one basis.

PDH Certificates

This topic will be dropped from the agenda due to a lack of recent interest.

Media reports:

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

An article on Jerry Parks' talk appeared on page 2 of the March 11 print edition of The Oak Ridger .

Website – Jim Rome

No report.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

Facebook has released a menu structure for inputting information; Ellen has found this helpful. Information on the March 12 Jerry Parks talk has been posted.

Old Business:

Tech Team – Herb Krause, Carolyn Krause, Steve Overbury

Herb Krause will schedule Zoom board and lecture meetings and send meeting link information to Ellen, Carolyn, and Steve about two weeks before the event. Herb will also serve as the ETEC emergency contact and will post last-minute emergency messages from Ellen such as a lecture shutdown caused by speaker illness or ETEC closure.

Carolyn Krause will be in contact with all speakers and receive all final speaker information (abstracts, bio, photos) and produce the announcement Word documents that will be posted on forn1.org, sent in MailChimp emails, ORNL lectures, etc. Herb and Steve are her emergency backups.



Steve Overbury will post all regular messages generated by Ellen and Carolyn about lunch lectures, ORNL lecture opportunities, etc. for the fornl.org and MailChimp platforms. Herb is his backup. Mailchimp access was changed from Fred Peretz to Steve.

Herb will allow continued use of his personal Zoom Pro account at no cost to FORNL for hosting board and hybrid lunch meetings until an alternative hosting solution is worked out. A new Zoom account for the future president (paid by FORNL) is recommended.

Arrangements for Virtual Hosting – Herb Krause

Herb will continue to: prepare and restore the ETEC room; setup computer equipment, run, record, and upload talks; add the YouTube video link to our website; collect and report lunch meeting attendance to the lunch speaker and the board; and continue to recruit board members to serve as Zoom co-hosts.

Food for monthly luncheon meetings – Ellen Smith and others

Ellen will not be available for the March lunch lecture, but Rich Norby (filling in for Ellen) will bring the lunch. As before, food will be dispensed from 2 small tables in the meeting room at a cost of \$10, starting at 11:15 a.m. Additional volunteers to handle lunches would be appreciated.

Election of Officers

After other agenda items were addressed, discussion returned to the election of officers. This discussion led to board members agreeing to serve in a modified slate. A motion was made and seconded to elect the following slate of officers for the 2024 term:

President – Ellen Smith
Vice President – Steve Overbury
Secretary – Fred Peretz
Treasurer – David Mullins

The slate was elected by unanimous vote.

New Business

No new business was raised.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

As the board meeting was adjourned it was observed the next board meeting would normally be scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024. As this is the date of the upcoming solar eclipse, and several board members would likely not be available, consideration was given to reschedule the meeting to April 1. After the board meeting, it was confirmed that the next board meeting would be held on April 1, in the AMSE conference room, with Zoom made available for those unable to attend in person.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL