



## Minutes for the July 8, 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; Fred Peretz, Secretary; and David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: David Fields, Kathy Gant, Ray Garrett, Carolyn Krause, and Alan Lowe.

Adjunct members in attendance: Annette Brun and Herb Krause.

### *Minutes of February Meetings – Fred Peretz*

Minutes for the June 10 board meeting were circulated to the board. It was noted that Steve Overbury showed up late. The minutes will be revised to acknowledge his presence. The revision was approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

### *Treasurer's and Membership Report – David Mullins*

With the food expense for the Community Lecture, we've moved from a small surplus to a small deficit in our cash flow. Lunches are staying on track. Steve gave David Mullins one of the recently purchased FORNL-logo coffee cups to give the speaker tomorrow. Steve initially obtained a dozen cups at a total cost of \$216 (\$18 each including shipping and handling).

Membership increased to 41 annual and 55 life members.

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

A few follow-up comments addressed FORNL members' attendance at Wigner Lecture on July 1. Annette did not realize there was a visitor center at SNS; some FORNL members thought that was where they should pick up their badge (which Annette held at the auditorium entrance). Some were told by portal guards they were "not on the list." The guards called the visitor center and after refreshing the list the members were allowed to pass. Annette is working on obtaining approval to share the lecture video; getting a copy of the slides may be more difficult.

The same process should be available for single-event badges in the future. With the event badges, attendance need not be restricted to retirees (although citizenship may be required without special processing). There appeared to be about 20 attendees from FORNL.

Annette noted that the media (including Carolyn Krause) must alert ORNL prior to their attendance. Carolyn does have permission to prepare an article for The Oak Ridger. There are no further Wigner lectures scheduled for this year; one is being considered for next spring.

Laboratory Director Stephen Streiffer is scheduled to present a State of the Lab address on November 14. He is available from 4 to 8 pm, so we might begin the reception at 5:30 with the talk itself planned for 6:30 pm. Although Alan Lowe had coordinated with Y-12 for the New Hope auditorium, ORNL has expressed reservations about holding a State of the Lab talk on the Y-12 site. ORNL staff are reviewing other possible locations for the talk.

A draft FORNL information flier was prepared after last month's board meeting, and after review and comments from some of the FORNL board members was passed over to ORNL to ask if they would use it in the retirees'



information package. However, ORNL legal expressed concerns over our logo, as it has elements (such as the oak leaf) in common with the ORNL logo. Legal review at ORNL is ongoing; the FORNL logo may be passed to ORNL graphics for a suggested redesign.

A community day for nonprofit organizations will be held on the ORNL Quad on October 15, and FORNL will be invited to attend.

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

The June 11 lecture was by Tomonori Saito, speaking on converting plastic waste into useful polymers, with a talk titled “Toward Closed-loop Circularity of Plastics by Chemical Upcycling.”

The July 9 talk will be by Mark Champion, Project Director, speaking on “The Proton Power Upgrade Project at the Spallation Neutron Source.” Fred Peretz will introduce the speaker. Herb Krause will do the production by himself and handle both and co-host roles. Questions will not be taken from Zoom participants. (A talk earlier scheduled for Amy Elliot, addressing topics on additive manufacturing, robotics, and outreach, may be rescheduled.)

Talks scheduled for upcoming meetings include:

- August 13 – Lee Riedinger, on the release of his new book on the UTK/ORNL partnership.
- 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 later, due to speaker availability)
- October 8 – Ivan Selin, speaking on the history and future of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- November slot remains open; there is no talk in December. A talk by Laetitia Delmau, recent recipient of the Glenn Seaborg Actinide Separations award was mentioned as a possibility. Bruce Moyer recommended her; she might talk on promethium chemistry or several actinide topics.

Additional future topics being considered are electron microscopy, new climatological modeling, electrochemical cooling and solid-state coolants, 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 Fleishmann, 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*

The June 27 Community Lecture on drones went well. It was advertised to ORNL summer interns, although only one may have attended. We did obtain a copy of slides; they are posted on our website without the “advertisements” at the beginning of the talk.

Plans for a State of the Lab Community Lecture by ORNL Laboratory Director Stephen Streiffer on November 14 are being developed. As noted in the ORNL liaison’s report, timing and location are now being clarified by ORNL.

*Outreach:*

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

A draft FORNL information flier was prepared, reviewed, and forwarded to ORNL as noted in the ORNL liaison’s report. ORNL is currently reviewing the flier, along with our logo.



### *Member Interaction*

A dozen coffee mugs have been purchased, and one will be provided for tomorrow's speaker. Further distribution may be limited pending ORNL's review of our logo. The ORNL liaison also suggested holding off on publicizing access to a broader range of ORNL talks. It was noted that the current ORNL Technical Calendar is distributed internally only.

### *STEM Education*

Alan Lowe discussed the *AMSEcast* series and other approaches AMSE is taking to support STEM education for the public. With programs underway with Oak Ridge City Schools, communications with students beyond Oak Ridge was raised. Alan noted that AMSE is attempting to address this. The Lab is also interested in a wider regional approach. The ORNL travelling science fair will be in Oak Ridge on October 22, but plans for wider tours are underway.

### *Volunteer Opportunities and Needs*

#### *Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Fred Peretz*

No report.

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

No report, although it was commented earlier that bus tour access into the ORNL campus has improved.

### *Media reports:*

#### *Newspapers – Carolyn Krause*

A front-page article on Tomonori Saito's talk on ORNL research for recycling and upcycling plastic waste appeared in the July 2 edition of *The Oak Ridger*. An article promoting Mark Champion's upcoming talk on the Proton Power Upgrade at the SNS appeared in *The Oak Ridger* print edition on Monday, July 8, as well as being posted online.

Articles on FORNL talks by Tony Mezzacappa and Peter Fuhr and his co-presenters for the June 27 community lecture have been submitted to *The Oak Ridger*. An article on Marcia McNutt's July 1 Wigner Lecture on the state of U.S. science is being prepared for submittal.

#### *Website – Jim Rome*

No report.

#### *Facebook – Ellen Smith*

No report.

### *Old Business:*

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

Offering food for tomorrow's lecture will continue. It was noted that there were 29 in-person attendees at the June lecture, with an additional 33 participating via Zoom.



*Sponsorship*

No report.

*New Business*

Our annual grant application to UT-Battelle is due by the end of July. Ellen Smith will prepare a draft and circulate it to the board prior to submittal. Annette Brun observed that the platform ORNL is using for grant applications has changed and will send Ellen the current link. Annette also offered to review the draft application to ensure it focuses on activities unique to FORNL rather than duplication of activities already underway by ORNL.

*Closing*

The next board meeting will be held via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024. The same Zoom link should continue until September.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Peretz  
Secretary, Friends of ORNL