

Minutes for the November 11, 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; Steve Overbury, Vice President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; and David Mullins, Treasurer.

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

Adjunct members in attendance: Annette Brun, Herb Krause, James Rome, and Kent Williams.

Minutes of February Meetings – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the October 7 board meeting were circulated to the board, and editorial comments from Carolyn Krause were incorporated. The minutes were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

Treasurer's and Membership Report – David Mullins

The \$3,000 grant from UT-Battelle was received and deposited. Reimbursement was made for nametags and copies of the FORNL information sheet. David observed that if a volunteer has an account at the ORNL Federal Credit Union, he can easily process a reimbursement through an account transfer.

We received a request for support from the Tennessee Science Bowl. We have not yet heard from the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair. Last year we sent checks to both at the end of November even though we didn't receive a sponsorship request from SASEF until December.

Eight new or renewal annual memberships came in during the past month. One of these was a renewal credited to 2025. All annual dues received from now on will be credited to 2025.

STEM Education

A motion passed unanimously to contribute \$1,000 each to the Tennessee Science Bowl and the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair. The contact for the fair will be confirmed prior to sending out the check.

ORNL Liaison's Report – Annette Brun and Katy Brown

Arrangements for the 2024 State of the Laboratory Community Lecture by ORNL Laboratory Director Dr. Stephen K. Streiffer at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 14, in the auditorium of the American Museum of Science and Energy are essentially complete. ORNL is looking forward to the event. Kathy Gant will bring the flyers left over from the Benefits and Wellness Fair to hand out at the address.

The ORNL Benefits and Wellness Fair was held on October 24. Syd Ball, Kathy Gant, and Herb Krause staffed a two-table display, using 2 computers and a large screen. Handouts were picked up by 29 people. Most were close to retirement age, but some were younger. Participation in ORICLE classes was also advertised, and a connection was made with Bill Cabage's successor in ORNL public relations.

Nominating Committee – Alan Lowe

Alan was not present and has not yet convened a meeting of the nominating committee. Alan will be encouraged to do so soon.

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

The October 8 lecture was from Ivan Selin, with introductory material covering “Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Past and Present.” Selin then encouraged member participation in a discussion on how NRC might adapt to address new reactor concepts in a more focused and efficient manner.

The November 12 speaker will be Lætitia H. Delmau of the Radioisotope Science and Technology Division and the 2024 winner of the Glenn T. Seaborg Actinide Separations Award. Her talk is titled “Actinide Separations Tailored for Californium-252, Plutonium-238, and Promethium-147 Campaigns.”

There is no talk in December.

For January 14, Ray Garrett suggested Warren Grice as a speaker on quantum communications. Ray will confirm Grice’s availability for the January 14 date (and subsequently did confirm).

On February 11, Robert (Bob) Hettich, Leader of the Bioanalytical Mass Spectrometry group in the ORNL Biosciences Division will speak on the microbiome (gut bacteria) and his work in analyzing it using mass spectrometry.

Suggestions for an Earth science talk in April included the possibility of a talk on ORNL’s climate modeling, with a possible connection to recent flooding in the area.

Miaofang Chi from the ORNL Center for Nanophase Materials was suggested as a speaker, working on novel electron microscopy techniques for energy and quantum materials. Stephen Jesse might also be a speaker covering nanoscience topics. (Steve Overbury and Ellen Smith)

Annete Brun observed that the High Flux Isotope Reactor turns 60 in August; a talk on the upcoming reflector replacement and reconfiguration project might be of interest this summer.

The current list of potential speakers is being maintained as a Google online spreadsheet used for recruiting and scheduling prospective speakers. The worksheet has been updated for 2025 and can be viewed and edited using the link https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ETI6DIem5_jf_0rNfZUfHf5PycV11b2vIOpNT6KFjH0/.

There was a discussion on the possible need for a microphone/amplifier for the in-person audience at the luncheon lectures. The existing system in the room has not been used out of concerns for interference with the camera and microphone used for Zoom.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams

As noted earlier, arrangements for the 2024 State of the Laboratory Community Lecture by Laboratory Director Dr. Stephen Streiffer are nearly complete. Kent Williams has issued a contract for refreshments at a cost of \$700.

A community lecture by ORANO, addressing a new uranium enrichment facility using centrifuge technology, continues to be considered.

Outreach:

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

Minor modifications to the brochure prepared by ORNL Graphics have still not been completed. Because the modifications are not required for internal ORNL use, Fred Peretz will bring 100 copies to Annette Brun at the upcoming Community Lecture for use in retirees’ packets. David Mullins will provide Fred with the FORNL nonprofit tax-exempt form.

Website Content – James Rome

There was no news to report on the website.

Volunteer Opportunities and Needs – Partner Organizations:

AMSE and Public Tours – Alan Lowe

The public bus tours will continue for two more weeks and will likely restart in April.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Fred Peretz

It was announced that the Park Superintendent (located in Denver) is retiring at the end of the year. Two rangers and the Los Alamos unit are also moving on later this year.

Education Support

The Alvin Weinberg corner is now located in a lab room at the Children’s Museum. There is an interest in further additions to the room reflecting current science activities.

Media reports:

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

The articles on talks by Zili Wu and Ivan Selin have been submitted to The Oak Ridger but have not yet been published – probably because newspapers have been swamped with Hurricane Helene damage news and election news.

The news release announcing Laetitia Delmau’s talk was published in today’s (November 11) edition of The Oak Ridger on page 5 and the news release on the State of the Lab address on Thursday, November 14, is scheduled to be published tomorrow or Wednesday.

Website – James Rome

There was nothing new to report on the website.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

There was no update on the FORNL Facebook page.

Old Business:

There was no old business; the nominating committee was reported earlier.

New Business

There was no new business.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, December 9, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL