



Minutes for the June 13, 2022, Board Meeting

Opening – Herb Krause

Herb Krause called the Zoom meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

Attendees:

Officers present: Herb Krause, President; Ellen Smith, Vice President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; David Mullins, Treasurer; Syd Ball, Bob Compton, and Carolyn Krause, Board Members.

Adjunct members in attendance: Katy Brown, James Rome, and Kent Williams.

Announcements – Herb Krause

The board voted via email to start the monthly lecture at noon and allow BYO food with masking in June.

Lab Liaison – Annette Bush or Katy Brown

Katy was able to participate in the meeting, in part because she was working from home. She is quite busy, and ORNL Protocol Office activities are her priority. She is still serving in an interim community engagement role, and between herself and Annette they will try to support FORNL whenever possible. The permanent community engagement position has not yet been posted, and thus the situation will likely continue for some time. When asked, Katy did not recommend changing the FORNL board meeting time to improve her ability to attend.

The public bus tours are set to resume on July 11. Details are still being finalized, but ORNL is confident that the starting date is realistic. The bus will be limited to about 50% capacity (17 visitors instead of 32). Volunteer guides will not be asked to enforce masking rules.

Full on-site presence by ORNL staff is slowly being implemented. A significant fraction of the current staff has never worked on-site. Katy hopes that visitors not designated as “mission critical” will be allowed on-site soon.

Wigner lectures may resume later this year, with an 80-year celebration in November a possibility. Katy feels Lab Director Thomas Zacharia may be open to a public State of the Lab address via a FORNL community lecture.

Useful ORNL contacts include Kathryn Pittman and Deborah Bowling, now actively addressing benefits and wellness and an employee resource group (ERG). Alison Melton connects scientists and staff on presentations at elementary and high schools and might include FORNL volunteers as potential resources.

Katy suggested that we email questions in advance of future board meetings to improve efficiency of communication (brownkb@ornl.gov).

Secretary – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the May 9 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. Aside from a spelling correction, no comments were received, and the minutes will be posted as submitted.

Treasurer – David Mullins

David briefly reviewed the treasurer’s report, distributed to the board as a separate file. Only routine transactions were reported. The treasurer’s report will be added to the FORNL website.



Membership – David Mullins

Lifetime 54 (49 prior May)
Annual 23 (28 prior May)

Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, Bob Compton

Last month's meeting:

May 10: Bonnie Carroll, Retired founder and CEO of Information International Associates; "Formation and Experience of Information International Associates."

Upcoming meetings:

June 14: Jack Dongarra, UTK, ORNL, and University of Manchester; "An Overview of High-Performance Computing and Future Requirements".

July 12: Initially scheduled was Joe Hoagland, Ph.D., TVA Vice President of Innovation & Research. He was forced to cancel due to another commitment, but TVA promised a substitute speaker.

August 9: Gary van Berkel, Van Berkel Ventures, LLC; "Mass Spectrometry at ORNL."

September 13 – Hans M. Christen, ORNL Neutron Scattering Division, Director; "No Charge, Tremendous Value: How Neutrons Probe Hidden Behaviors of Matter."

Aside from uncertainty in the July 12 TVA presentation, we are well positioned for speakers into the fall. Ideas for later talks include current biofuels activities at ORNL's Center for Bioenergy Innovation, and a talk by Carrie Eckert.

Media reports

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause: A notice on the June 14 Dongarra talk was sent to the Oak Ridger. The notice was also sent to the News Sentinel but apparently was not picked up. Carolyn would be interested in establishing a contact for promoting talks at UT. Robert Kennedy did forward a notice to several computer groups. Carolyn is working on potential Oak Ridger articles on Bonnie Carroll and the history of information management.

Facebook – Ellen Smith: Facebook continues to annoy Ellen. The need to use the Meta business center for input to Facebook presents challenges. There are currently 187 followers on the site.

Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause

Arrangements for the June 14 hybrid meeting are complete. Herb will set up the meeting, do the introductions, transition to the speaker, and coordinate questions as displayed in the Zoom chat. Kent Williams will co-host and monitor the Zoom broadcast. Carolyn will take photos and prepare news coverage. Anyone on home Zoom is encouraged to report any broadcast issues via the Zoom chat or cell phone texts.

Webmaster – Jim Rome

The officers page on the web site needs to be updated. After the meeting, Fred Peretz sent Jim a spreadsheet with the current officer list.



Jim reported on web access statistics: Total unique visitors of 7,863, with 27 visits in the past week.

History Room – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus

Al Ekkebus sent a report on historical documents in the ORNL History Room in the Graphite Reactor building. ORNL News was published on a weekly basis from 1948 through 1971. About 90% of the issues are available in at least two separate groups of these issues. According to Bill Cabbage, following referral from Katy Brown, ORNL was exploring making these electronically available. Tim Gawne of the ORNL archives was exploring these options and Bill asked him to contact Al with details.

AMSE and Bus Tours – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus

Al also sent in a report on plans for resuming the bus tours. DOE and AMSE have identified July 11 as the starting date for the AMSE tours. Several issues have to be resolved before the orientation of tour guides can begin and announcements can be posted on the AMSE web site. For the nearly 30 years of these tours, there was never a “real” stop at K-25; now there is a very nice K-25 History Center and DOE wants to include it on the tour. If we keep the three-hour tour time, time spent at the Y-12 and Graphite Reactor stops need to be reduced. Tour guides and assistants are needed both for the AMSE tours and museum and for the National Park Service desk at Children’s Museum.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton

Potential locations for community lectures were discussed. A meeting room at Pellissippi State may be available at modest cost for a nearby Knox County event location. The public Y-12 auditorium and conference room at the New Hope Center provides seating of 400 and 75, respectively; Lisa Conover is the contact. The Pollard Auditorium at ORAU seats 295; cost is normally \$500 but cost might be waived for a non-profit with a relevant mission. The Grove Theater provides another option, seating 400. Until prospects improve for conducting a community lecture (such as a State of the Lab address), no further action is needed.

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

Fred Peretz will lead an overall outreach program. For the near term the emphasis will be on currently available outreach activities, with an outreach topic covered in the announcements at the beginning of each luncheon lecture. The June 14 meeting topic will be the tnAchieves mentor role for students transitioning from high school to a two-year degree program (such as at a community college) or a technical training program. The non-profit tnAchieves administers the Tennessee Promise scholarship in most Tennessee counties; the program includes connecting students with mentors and a community service requirement. Further information can be found in their website; tnachieves.org.

Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz

PDH Certificates – David Fields

Visitor Badges – Syd Ball

No significant reports were given on these topics.

Old Business

The draft of the FORNL 2021 Annual Report provided by past president John Gunning has been improved and expanded by Herb Krause. The revised report has been included in the meeting notice as the attachment “FORNL 2021 Annual Report (Rev 2).docx,” Comments and suggestions are requested.



New Business

No new business was discussed.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 am on July 11, 2022.
Secretary Fred Peretz will not be available; David Mullins will fill in.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL