

**American Library Association  
Intellectual Freedom Round Table  
Executive Committee  
2017 Midwinter Meeting  
Monday, Jan. 23, 2017 -- 8:30 a.m.  
Atlanta, GA**

**Chairperson Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.**

**Attending:**

Cyndi Robinson (Chair); Scott Bonner (Director-at-Large); Sheila Bonnard (Director-at-Large); Laura Koltutsky (Oboler and Nominating Chair); Julia Warga (Director-at-Large); Steve Norman (Treasurer); Doug Archer; Eldon Ray James; Martin Garnar (Councilor); Mack Freeman (Director-at-Large); Ian Ross Hughes (Program Chair); Ma'lis Wendt (Merritt Fund Chair); Wanda Mae Huffaker (Coalition Building Chair); Jamie LaRue (ALA-OIF Director); Kristen Pekoll (ALA-OIF staff); Ellie Diaz (ALA-OIF staff); Ashley J. Brown (Secretary); Jim Telina (member); Heather Hopkins (member); Terri Grief (Candidate for ALA President); Katie Spires (member); Loida Garcia-Febo (Candidate for ALA President and former IFRT Chair); Scott Walker (Candidate for ALA President); Carolyn Caywood (member); Sharon McCaslin (member); Peggy Ridlin (guest); Paul Flagg (member); Laura Jenkins (member and ALSC liaison); Joe Dahlstorm (member); Karen Downing (Executive Board Member and IFRT member)

**Introductions** of all in attendance.

Candidates for ALA President, Terri Grief, Loida Garcia-Febo, and Scott Walker spoke to the meeting.

Moved (Norman) and seconded (Freeman) to approve the **ALA 2016 Orlando minutes: Unanimously approved.**

**Karen Downing**, Executive Board member and IFRT member:

- ALA adding a fourth strategic direction- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Libraries Transform campaign (<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/>)- as of the beginning of the year more than 4300 libraries have joined the campaign. "Because..." statements have taken off on social media especially "**BECAUSE FAKE NEWS CAN HAVE REAL-WORLD CONSEQUENCES.**"
- Advocacy Boot Camps for state level conferences.
- Conference re-model plan is going forward. Give feedback to Karen Downing or comment on ALA Connect.

- Two position searches underway- Director of ALA Washington office and ALA Director

**Chairperson Robinson** reported that round table chairs will be able to have a program that is not juried.

**Garner** reported concern of the round table that juried conference programming has the potential to lose core value programming. Final conference number not available and would be reported at Council III.

**Jamie LaRue**, Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom:

- Redo of the way challenge data is collected by OIF, and for the first time ever more challenges were received from school libraries than public library.
- After the 2016 United States Presidential election, hate crimes went up in libraries. OIF and Diversity offices began collecting data regarding hate crimes in libraries including vandalism, destruction of property, and intimidation. This could lead to more IF research.
- Support for IF on college campuses is falling. Support for social justice on college campuses is rising.
- OIF is exploring ways for librarians to easily identify diverse authors.
- Bob Holley donated \$50,000.00 to the Freedom to Read Foundation to cover the membership of all ALA accredited students to the Freedom to Read Foundation.
- Ellie Diaz hired at ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom.
- The challenge form is far easier. Please get the word out to fellow librarians to report challenges when they are received.

**Laura Koltutsky**, Nominating Chair:

- Steve Norman will run as treasurer for a 2-year term.
- 2 Director-at-Large positions open- Sarah Houghton, Kristin Anderson are running. Open to further candidates. Eldon Ray James agreed to run. Other candidates are possible.

**Steve Norman**, IFRT Treasurer:

- Kristen Pekoll and Ellie Diaz have done sensational work gathering all of the numbers and presenting them. IFRT is solidly in the black. The budget has been on autopilot for several years, and the budget hasn't reflected IFRT reality.
- Oboler Award fund is depleted. Money from budget can be carried over. Charles Kratz has committed to fundraising for the Oboler award.
- Hodges Award is healthy at around \$48,000.00.
- Discussion about adding expenditures. \$2,000.00 for membership to attend OIF webinars.
- Adding expenditure- either and/or option- \$1,000.00 to support an Emerging Leader and/or \$2,000.00 scholarship to attend Annual Conference- discussion of pros and cons of each option.

- Kristen could set-up conference call with IFRT Board to determine which option is best if we move to spend the funds to do either/or.

**Bonner moved** to expend the funds for OIF webinars and emerging Leaders and/or conference scholarship. **Warga seconded. Passed Unanimously.**

**Freeman moved** to add to guidelines- IFRT will not pay ALA members to attend annual conference except by vote of members of the board. **Koltutsky seconded. Passed Unanimously.**

**Martin Garner, Councilor:**

- Will express IFRT support for keeping the requirement of MLS for ALA Executive Director.
- Family Status as a protected class- resolution not in final form. IFRT- no action
- Refugees resolution- Working group to look into best practices for serving refugees and displaced persons. IFRT- no action.
- Gun violence resolution- on hold, favorably received.

Accurate Information Resolution- IFC- **Motion to endorse in principal. Bonner moved. Hughes Seconded. Passed.**

Ruth Gordon Memorial Resolution- **Norman moved to endorse. Bonner Seconded. Passed Unanimously.**

**Wanda Huffaker, Hodges Award Chair:**

- One nomination
- **Bonner moved to accept another nomination. No Second.**
- Award deadlines can be extended.
- Awards to do not have to be given.

**Warga moved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Brown seconded. Passed. Unanimously.**

Immroth Award update- 4 nominations- very good candidates. Kristen will do press release.

**Bonner-** IFF Facebook page needs action. Challenged IFRT members to post and respond.

**Wendt-** Merritt Fund- meeting at noon and will have more information after meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Ashley J. Brown, IFRT Secretary