**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**

**Sunday, June 25, 2023**

1pm CST

McCormick Place, W475a

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Steph Barnaby, Michael Blackwell, Peter Coyl, Rita Ennen, Karen Gianni, Johanna Genett, Wanda Huffaker, Ray James, Steve Norman, Angela Ocana, Deborah Caldwell Stone, Eric Stroshane, Amanda Vazquez

1. **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

Ocana called the meeting to order at 1:07pm CDT. A quorum was established.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and guests introduced themselves.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA,**

Blackwell moved to approve the agenda. Coyl seconded.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Huffaker moved to approve the minutes as presented. Barnaby seconded.

1. **REPORT OF OFFICERS**
   1. Chair: Angela Ocana
      1. Ocana invited the emerging leaders, Sarah Colbert and Bergamasco, to discuss their project to update methodologies for collecting accurate statistics regarding unreported challenges. A survey was sent to the states to collect information about current practice and ideas for improvement. Replies were received from 36 states. Emerging leaders make the following recommendations.
         1. The IFRT Office should create guidance on what to report.
         2. Procedures should be established to get information back to the states.
         3. Define what constitutes a challenge and who can report.
      2. Thank you to everyone who created the IFRT. It was awesome to celebrate 50 years!
   2. Chair-Elect: Amanda Rene Vazquez
      1. Buttons with qr codes are available.
      2. A survey to gather information for updating the Intellectual Freedom Manual has been created. Postcards to solicit participation were distributed.
      3. Continues to work lining up committee chairs and members.
   3. Director at Large: Michael Blackwell
      1. Offers kudos to the speakers at the Thursday evening awards program.
2. **REPORT FROM COUNCILOR:** Peter Coyl
   1. Council I meeting was largely spent reaffirming ALA positions.
   2. At Council II, a resolution was affirmed protecting library workers.
   3. Council III is tomorrow. The IFRT Anniversary resolution will be considered.
   4. IFLA conference for July 2024 is scheduled to be held in Dubai. Concerns have been raised regarding banning of LGBT programs including IFLA groups.
3. **REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM:**  Deborah Caldwell Stone
   1. Two full-time, permanent staff positions have been filled by Betsy Gomez and Eric Stroshane.
   2. The Office of Intellectual Freedom will be hosting a national summit on book banning. It will be held in Washington, D.C. on the Wednesday after LibLearnX.
   3. Still looking for a new deputy director. Interviews will be next month.
4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**
   1. Bylaws Committee: Steve Norman
      1. The committee conducted a thorough review of the bylaws to ensure they conform with ALA. The revised bylaws will go on next year’s ballot.
   2. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James
      1. This year there were lots! of good applicants for the Hodges Award. Thanks to committee members for their hard work.
      2. ALA Council unanimously passed the Library Standards for services for the incarcerated and detained.
   3. Immroth Committee: Wanda Huffaker
      1. Recognized Immroth as the founder of IFRT.
      2. Enjoyed reviewing the award applications.
   4. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Angela Ocana updated for Deb Sica
      1. There were 70 attendees at the baseball game fundraiser for the Merritt Fund.
   5. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Steph Barnaby
      1. There were six nominations. The committee members read each of the books and selected The 7 Foundations of Intellectual Freedom by Emily Knox.
   6. Programming and Events Committee: Johannah Genett
      1. The committee sponsored two special programs this year. The most recent program was Campuses Don’t Have a Wokeness Problem and had 67 attendees.
5. **OTHER BUSINESS**
   1. Caldwell Stone announced that June 25 was the 70th anniversary of the Freedom to Read Statement.
   2. Vazquez presented a signed banned book to Ocana in thanks for her service as IFRT President.
6. **ADJOURNMENT**
   1. Blackwell moved to adjourn the meeting. James seconded. Ocana adjourned the meeting.