

**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

8:00am - 9:30pm AKT; 9:00-10:30pm PT; 10:00-11:30pm MT; 11:00-12:30pm CT; 12:00-1:30pm ET

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Steph Barnaby, Jeremy Brett, Johana Orellana Cabrera, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Peter Coyl, Molly Dettmann, Rhonda Evans, Johannah Genett, Brandi Hodges, Wanda Huffaker, Rebecca Moorman, Angela Ocaña, Kristin Pekoll, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez, Kelvin Watson.

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

Evans called the meeting to order at 11:03am CDT. A quorum was established.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves using the Zoom chat feature.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vazquez moved to approve the agenda. Coyl seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [February 16, 2022](#). Huffaker moved to approve the minutes. Barnaby seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**V. UPDATE FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Deborah Caldwell-Stone**

Caldwell-Stone briefed the Executive Committee on an initiative they've been working on at ALA. They are engaged with consultants on developing a public-facing campaign to address the raft of censorship attempts that are going on across the United States in school and public libraries. The intent of this campaign is to disrupt and defeat the organized groups who are waging this set effort to censor library materials, including challenges and outright bans of books. The campaign will address policy initiatives that are popping up at the local and state level that impair access to materials or punish librarians and educators for providing information to minors, particularly LGBTQ+ materials and materials wrongly labeled as critical race theory, that deal with the history of racism and slavery in the U.S., or with the experiences of black persons.

The intent of this campaign will be to reframe the narrative about libraries and refocus on libraries and school libraries as central public institutions. The goal is to move libraries and ALA out of the political fray and focus on our core values. Initial survey results are looking promising, and a major [press release](#) and [roll-out](#) will happen at the Public Library Association conference later in March. The campaign contemplates an immediate call to action for those interested in fighting censorship, asking them to join the campaign. The OIF asks for our assistance and support promoting the campaign, engaging with our local constituencies, and so on. Please watch and listen for more information.

## **VI. KELVIN WATSON, Candidate for ALA President**

Watson thanked Evans for the invitation, and thanked Caldwell-Stone for the update on the censorship campaign. He shared his [website](#) and introduced himself to us: Kelvin is a transformative library servant leader, operator, innovative implementer. He has worked in and led public libraries for over twenty years, has served as BCLA president, and has served on many ALA committees and task forces. His innovative efforts in bridging the digital divide include a cell phone lending program for students experiencing homelessness. He was the first Spectrum Scholar to stand for this office, which stands as a testament to ALA's diversity efforts. Watson proposes a relocation fund for library workers who can't afford to move for a job, and he has lined up pledges if he is elected. He supports intellectual freedom and has successfully navigated challenges to library materials.

## **VII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **A. Chair: Rhonda Evans**

- i. Trying to find a time for Emily Drabinski, the other candidate for ALA president, to meet with us.
- ii. ALA conference programming is coming along. Be on the lookout for schedule details soon.
- iii. The Round Table Coordinating Assembly Standardization Task Force is looking for members from each round table. Pekoll clarified that Kristin Green has volunteered to represent IFRT.
- iv. The Emerging Leaders project is coming along well, and Angela and Rhonda will be meeting with them on Saturday.

### **B. Chair-Elect: Angela Ocaña**

- i. Nothing to report.

### **C. Treasurer: Jennifer Steele**

- i. Steele shared the [IFRT FY22 1stQ Financial Report](#). We are in a good financial position so far this year.

- D. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
  - i. Nothing to report.
- E. Director at Large: Johana Orellana Cabrera
  - i. Nothing to report.
- F. Director at Large: Amanda Vazquez
  - i. Nothing to report.
- G. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
  - i. Nothing to report.

**VIII. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Peter Coyl**

- A. The special ALA Council meeting to cover unfinished business happened. Council voted on [several resolutions](#). *Resolution to Support School and Youth Services Librarians Facing Increased Intellectual Freedom Challenges* was passed. *Resolution to Promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Efforts in AASL While Addressing Historical Effects of Racism* was passed. *Resolution Calling on the US Executive Branch to Drop ESPIONAGE ACT Charges Against Julian Assange* was defeated. There was much disagreement about the role of Council, including whether their role should include telling the U.S. government not to prosecute someone. The resolution on transforming ALA governance (TAG), was about 50-50, advisory or governing. The *Action Item 3, Revised, that the TAG Task Force's mandate be extended until the ALA Council determines that its work has been completed...*, was passed. [[detailed resolutions](#)] Council has asked TAG to have a plan to discuss at ALA Annual. It's time to let TAG do their work, and Council needs to stop micromanaging their progress.
- B. Any ALA member can submit a resolution, and two members submitted a resolution calling on ALA to support cancelling student loans. Coyl has not yet read the resolution, so he doesn't know the details. The [General Membership Meeting](#) is Thursday, March 17 (tomorrow) and this topic will be on the agenda.

**IX. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll**

- A. Challenges are still coming into the office at lightning speed.
- B. OIF has started a speakers bureau (including Peter Coyl, Martin Garnar, Barbara Stripling) to assist with all their invitations to speak on intellectual freedom at state library conferences and library school classes.
- C. Currently working on the Field Report. In the past it was a comprehensive report of all the public challenges in one calendar year. This year they are focusing on the

top 25 challenged titles, along with some unique and distinctive cases that represent those book challenges.

- D. All of the Banned Books Week materials will be out in National Library Week (April 4-10): the infographics, the [top ten challenged books of the year](#), and a couple weeks later the honorary chair for Banned Books Week. One of the things they are considering is having co-chairs: a challenged author and a student representative who has challenged censorship in their school district.
- E. Working with Kristin Green to update bylaws changes in the handbook and the volunteer form. Working with Evans to update the volunteer form for the next session. Ocaña (as chair-elect) will be appointing committee members and chairs.

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James
  - i. James apologized for delays, and assured us the Hodges Award winner will be chosen within the next week. They have some great nominees.
- B. Immroth Committee: Johannah Genett
  - i. The committee has proudly selected Library Director Terri Lesley to win the 2022 Immroth Award. Director Lesley has led the staff and library board of Campbell County Public Library in Gillette, Wyoming through an onslaught of challenged materials, protests and threats of prosecution. Director Lesley has been informed of her win and is excited to receive the award at ALA annual. Immroth Committee member Lynda Poling has created a [press release](#) that she has forwarded to Publications & Communications, so Genett hopes to see more publicity on this in the coming months.
- C. Membership Promotion Committee: Molly Dettmann
  - i. Gearing up for the May 1 [All Member Gathering of IFRT](#). We'll have breakout rooms and chill conversations. We picked the day based on feedback from the earlier meetings. We'll see how the Sunday session goes.
- D. Nominating Committee: Wanda Huffaker
  - i. Update on "Flat Stanley with a Banned Book" planning. We want anyone and everyone attending the conference to pose around D.C. with frequently challenged books. Huffaker shared a list of detailed restrictions about photography at public monuments. Now that we know these rules, we can go forward with more planning. Coyl suggested we try to get Dr. Carla Hayden on board to pose with a book in the Library of Congress.

E. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby

- i. March 31, [IFRT Election: Meet the Candidates 2022](#) event. Barnaby made Zoom backgrounds for candidates and members.
- ii. May 1, [All Member Gathering of IFRT](#) event. 6:00-7:00pm CDT.
- iii. Pekoll added that at conference there will be an IFRT meeting, IFRT Chair's program, a Critical Race Theory program (organized by Rhonda), an Intellectual Freedom Awards Ceremony, which will be Friday, June 24, 7:00pm, and which will also be a Merritt Fundraiser.

**XI. LIAISON UPDATES**

- A. Ray James: There was an IFC meeting in February, but without a quorum they just discussed stuff. I was asked to join the IFC for another term, so I would be glad to continue as liaison. If someone else would rather take it, that's fine too.

**XII. OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE**

- A. Pekoll announced that the Freedom to Read Foundation will be announcing their Roll of Honor awardee is Ray James. He will be honored at the IFRT / Freedom to Read Foundation Awards Ceremony. The event is not a ticketed ALA event, but will be donation-suggested. More details will be forthcoming. Everyone is hoping for a great turnout, members, vendors, authors. It will be the social event of the season.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Barnaby moved that we end the meeting, and Steele seconded. Evans adjourned the meeting at 12:28pm CDT.