

IFRT Proposed Bylaws Changes 2024 Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) Ballot

Voting Instructions:

The following amendments to the IFRT Bylaws have been approved by the IFRT Executive Committee for referral to the membership of IFRT for ratification.

Please Vote Yes or No on the Bylaws Amendments

Background: When ALA's new Bylaws were approved in 2023, edits to IFRT's Bylaws were required to conform with the changes in ALA's Bylaws. Other operational changes within ALA (for instance, replacing the Midwinter Conference with LibLearnX) required corresponding revisions in IFRT's Bylaws. As IFRT's Bylaws were examined closely for this necessary significant revision, other desirable changes were identified.

APPROVAL OF IFRT BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Text to be deleted appears in brackets under "Current Bylaw" section. Replacement text to be approved is bold and underscored in the "Proposed" section below.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE I: Name

CURRENT BYLAW:

The name of this organization [shall be] the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of the American Library Association (ALA).

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

The name of this organization is the Intellectual Freedom Round Table **(IFRT), a round table and internal unit** of the American Library Association (ALA).

RATIONALE: Introduces IFRT as a short name for the Round Table. Allows consistency throughout bylaws. Round Table referred to as IFRT throughout document.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE II: Purposes

CURRENT BYLAW:

The purposes of [this organization] shall be [(1) to] provid[e] a forum for the discussion of activities, programs, and problems in intellectual freedom of libraries and librarians [(2) to] serv[e] as a channel of communications on intellectual freedom matters; [(3) to] promot[e] a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of the ALA in defense of intellectual freedom; [(4) to promote] a greater [feeling] of responsibility in the implementation of ALA policies on intellectual freedom. [The Round Table shall not commit the ALA by any declaration of policy.]

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

The purposes of **IFRT** shall be **to lead and inspire library workers at all levels of expertise in their defense of intellectual freedom through community, education, and advocacy by**

- **providing** a forum for the discussion of activities, programs, and problems in intellectual freedom of libraries and librarians;
- **servi**ng** as a channel of communications on intellectual freedom matters;**
- **promoting** a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of the ALA in defense of intellectual freedom;
- **encouraging** a greater **sense** of responsibility in the implementation of ALA policies on intellectual freedom.

RATIONALE: Clarified statement of purpose.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE III: Membership, Sec. 2.

CURRENT BYLAW:

Section 1. Any [personal] member of ALA who is interested in the purposes of [this Round Table shall be eligible for personal membership] upon payment of annual dues. [A personal member shall have the right to vote and shall act in accordance with the stated purposes of the Round Table.]

[**Section 2.** Any organization member of ALA may become an organization member of the Round Table upon payment of annual dues of \$20. Organization members shall be non-voting members.]

Section [3]. [The dues of the Round Table shall be \$15 for regular, personal ALA members, payable annually; \$5 for regular, student ALA members, payable annually. Personal] members shall be voting members.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

Section 1. Any member of ALA who is interested in the purposes of **IFRT may become a member** upon payment of **their** annual dues **in the amount set by the ALA Council and Executive Board.**

Section 2. Organization members shall be **non**-voting members.

RATIONALE: Align with the new ALA Bylaws around round table membership and standardized dues that were implemented September 1, 2023.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE IV: Officers and Duties, Sec. 7(i) and 7(iv).

CURRENT BYLAWS:

7(i) [If a vacancy occurs in the office of chair, the chair-elect shall succeed him or her.]

7(iv) [If a member of the Executive Committee is unable to or does not fulfill the responsibilities of his or her office as defined in the bylaws, or if a member of the Executive Committee is unable to serve his or her full term of office, that director's office may be declared vacant by majority vote of the Executive Committee.]

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

7(i) If the office of chair becomes vacant, the chair-elect shall become chair and shall continue to fulfill the duties of the chair-elect.

7(iv) If a member of the Executive Committee is unable to or does not fulfill the responsibilities of office as defined in the bylaws, or if a member of the Executive Committee is unable to fulfill the full term of office, the Executive Committee may declare a director's office vacant by majority vote.

RATIONALE: Changed to use gender neutral language.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE V: Meetings, Sec. 2.

CURRENT BYLAW:

[**Section 2.** Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee and shall be called upon a written request of twenty members of the Round Table. One month's notice shall be required for any special meeting.]

RATIONALE: Section 2 is deleted. This rule for special meetings is archaic and simply does not apply with the current scheduling of Executive Committee meetings.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE VI: The Executive Committee, Sec. 1.

CURRENT BYLAW:

Section 1. The officers of the Round Table and the chairs of the Bylaws and Organization, Coalition Building, John Phillip Immroth Award, Membership Promotion, Merritt Fund [Support], Nominating, Eli Oboler Award, Program, and Publications and Communications Committees shall constitute the Executive Committee. Liaisons shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

Section 1. The officers of the Round Table and the chairs of the Bylaws and Organization, Coalition Building, John Phillip Immroth Award, Membership Promotion, Merritt Fund **Promotion**, Nominating, Eli Oboler Award, Program, and Publications and Communications Committees shall constitute the Executive Committee. Liaisons shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

RATIONALE: To establish consistent naming of committees.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE VI: The Executive Committee, Sec 3.

CURRENT BYLAW:

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall meet at the annual meeting of the American Library Association [and the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association]. Special meetings may be called by the chair and shall be called upon request of three members of the Executive Committee.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice annually, with a meeting held at the annual meeting of the American Library Association. Special meetings may be called by the chair and shall be called upon request of three members of the Executive Committee. Meetings may be virtual or have a virtual component if necessary.

RATIONALE: Aligns with the changes to ALA's former Midwinter meeting. Also accommodates virtual meetings.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE VII: Committees, Sec. 3.

CURRENT BYLAW:

Section 3. Committee chairs shall serve one year as chair, and may be appointed to a second one-year term at the pleasure of the Round Table chair. No person shall serve as chair of one standing committee more than two successive years. [If a] member of a committee is appointed to chair that committee[, s/he] shall serve the full two-year term as a committee member, regardless of service as chair.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

Section 3. Committee chairs shall serve one year as chair, and may be appointed to a second one-year term at the pleasure of the Round Table chair. No person shall serve as chair of one standing committee more than two successive years. A member of a committee who is appointed to chair that committee shall serve the full two-year term as a committee member, regardless of service as chair.

RATIONALE: Changed to use gender neutral language.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE VIII: Liaisons, Sec. 2 & 3.

CURRENT BYLAW:

Section 2. Liaisons shall serve as conduits for two-way communication between the Round Table and the other organization. They shall report on the activities of the group to which they are liaison at [the Midwinter and Annual meetings]. Liaisons shall be expected to attend the regularly scheduled open meetings of the organization to which they are the Round Table's representative.

Section 3. Liaisons shall serve a two-year term, and may be reappointed to a second term. No liaison shall serve more than two consecutive terms. [However, upon adoption of this section of the Bylaws, the named liaisons shall draw lots to determine which two shall serve one-year terms.]

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

Section 2. Liaisons shall serve as conduits for two-way communication between the Round Table and the other organization. They shall report on the activities of the group to which they are liaison at meetings of the Executive Committee. Liaisons shall be expected to attend the regularly scheduled open meetings of the organization to which they are the Round Table's representative.

Section 3. Liaisons shall serve a two-year term, and may be reappointed to a second term. No liaison shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

RATIONALE: Change to Section 2 aligns with schedule of Executive Committee meetings and with changes to ALA's former Midwinter meeting. Sentence deleted in Section 3 remains from a previous revision and no longer applies.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE XI: Amendments to the Bylaws, Sec. 2.

CURRENT BYLAW:

Section 2. These Bylaws shall at all times be consistent with [Article VII of] the Bylaws of the ALA as from time to time amended.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

Section 2. These Bylaws shall at all times be consistent with the Bylaws of the ALA as from time to time amended.

RATIONALE: Statement is sufficient without specifying article number. Avoids potential future conflicts if Articles in ALA's Bylaws are re-numbered.

IFRT Bylaws ARTICLE XII: Affiliates.

CURRENT BYLAW:

[Section 1. Any persons concerned with intellectual freedom issues may form a regional, state, or local group which is encouraged to associate with the Round Table as an Affiliate. Affiliate status shall entitle the group to receive the publications of the Round Table and to report its activities to the Round Table; it shall not entitle members of the group who are not personal members of the Round Table to vote or hold office in the Round Table. An Affiliate can ask for advice or support or other appropriate action from the Round Table. Affiliates shall not pay dues, but shall be urged to contribute voluntarily to the financial support of the Round Table.

Section 2. Affiliates may be units of existing regional, state, or local library associations if they so choose. Affiliates determine their own organization, financial structure, policies, and programs, which are not subject to veto by the Round Table. Affiliates may act in the name of the Round Table only when authorized to do so by the Round Table membership, and shall not commit the Round Table by any declaration of policy.

Section 3. A group requesting Affiliate status shall submit a short statement of its membership, purpose, goals, and duration of operations to the secretary of the Round Table. Affiliates shall report their ongoing activities to the secretary of the Round Table at least once a year. If an Affiliate disbands, it shall report this action to the secretary of the Round Table.]

RATIONALE: Delete this section. These rules for Affiliates are for an organizational practice that has not existed for a long time within IFRT.