

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

11:30am - 1:00pm AKT; 12:30-2:00pm PT; 1:30-3:00pm MT; 2:30-4:00pm CT; 3:30-5:00pm ET

MINUTES

Members Present:

Kristin Anderson, Steph Barnaby, Michael Blackwell, Jeremy Brett, Rhonda Evans, Johannah Genett, Kristin Green, Wanda Huffaker, Ray James, Rebecca Moorman, Angela Ocaña, Kristin Pekoll, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Evans called the meeting to order at 2:32pm 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. Blackwell seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. Chair: Rhonda Evans

- i. Evans and Ocaña have been checking in with the Emerging Leaders group, and Evans will send out a formal invitation to their ALA poster session on the IFRT project. The session will be June 24 at 2:30pm.
- ii. Evans has been working with Steph and Kristin and Michael to prepare the programming and awards ceremony for ALA.
- iii. Evans extended her personal congratulations to everyone who won, as well as everyone who agreed to run for office.

- B. Chair-Elect: Angela Ocaña
 - i. Nothing to report except the slow, creeping dread of becoming chair. 😊
- C. Treasurer: Jennifer Steele
 - i. Nothing to report.
- D. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson
 - i. Nothing to report.
- E. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
 - i. Nothing to report.
- F. Director at Large: Amanda Vazquez
 - i. Nothing to report.
- G. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
 - i. Nothing to report.

VI. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. [Unite Against Book Bans](#) campaign was released. Please share widely! Pekoll has been pleasantly surprised at the broad expressions of support.
- B. A group of citizens in Llano County, Texas, are suing Llano County Public Library for violation of their first and 14th amendment rights. The Freedom To Read Foundation is helping them with the [lawsuit](#), getting expert witnesses from the library world, gathering background defense materials, and providing declarations to the judge. It's a crash course in how to file a first amendment lawsuit. We believe this will be a powerful tool to convince administrators that it's not in their best interest to ban books. Pekoll had a great meeting with Leila Green Little, a plaintiff in the case, as well as [Suzette Baker](#), who was fired from the library.
- C. Ocaña will be recruiting committee volunteers, so be thinking about which members of your committees have been especially valuable. Let Angela know, or encourage them to volunteer again. There are no term limits, so people can continue to serve. She will also be recruiting committee chairs; please let her know about good people to recruit. Personal invitations are a fantastic way to get new members.
- D. We're doing lots of planning for conference. The IFRT meeting will be Saturday morning, and the scheduler is updated with all the programming. Still working on the awards ceremony planning. Michael Kirby is working on the IFRT Annual Report, which will be published before the conference. He will be contacting

everyone for committee reports. Think broadly about IF activities and achievements, such as emerging leader projects.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James
 - i. We had three nominations for the Gerald Hodges Award, and the committee (Jennifer Steele, Isabel Klein, and Ray James) concluded that the Tennessee Library Association and the Tennessee Association of School Librarians should share the award. They work in a coalition together on a number of projects. They prevented some bad state legislation, and they do a great deal of training webinars. The non-winner was as qualified as the others, and in any other year probably would have won.
- B. Bylaws Committee: Kristin Green
 - i. We are making more progress on our initiative with the committee charges, and we have one to vote on today; the [proposed language](#) of the Immroth Committee's charge description. James moved that we accept the updated language. Huffaker seconded. The motion was passed with no objections.
 - ii. We solicited feedback from the executive committee to update the charge of this committee. Green will post a draft in Connect this week; please respond in the next two weeks if you have comments.
- C. Immroth Committee: Johannah Genett
 - i. A [press release](#) went out on the Immroth Memorial Award winner, Terri Lesley of Gillette, Wyoming.
- D. Nominating Committee: Wanda Huffaker
 - i. Would like to thank everyone who stood for election, and congratulate the winners, Amanda Vazquez, Michael Kirby, Rebecca Moorman, and Rita Ennen. For all of those who did stand for election, thank you for being involved in IFRT.
 - ii. Banned Books Week [grant application](#) from the Freedom to Read Foundation just went live, so share widely and apply! Banned Books Week is important every year, and this year is no exception.
- E. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby
 - i. Hope to see everyone on Sunday at the all-member gathering of IFRT.

F. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Michael Blackwell

- i. To Jeremy: strength to all the librarians in Texas. You might be the only state who's glad about what's happening in Kentucky, because you're not winning the race to the bottom anymore. That is really frightening.
- ii. The winner of the Oboler Award this year is Jamie Gregory, who blogs for ALA. Her work is very wide ranging, interviewing people on the front lines. All eight nominees would have made excellent winners, but Jamie won unanimously.
- iii. Pekoll reminded us that nominations for awards can be made at any time, then saved for the next round. She also let us know that Jamie Gregory has been under a lot of fire by a state legislator in South Carolina, who wanted the South Carolina Library Association to rescind its Librarian of the Year Award they'd awarded her (they did not rescind the award).

VIII. LIAISON UPDATES

A. Kristin Green: Round Table Coordinating Assembly Standardization Task Force

The task force met for the first time in early April, and we started by reviewing the charge and the timeline. We are expected to make recommendations by June. We're discussing standardization of bylaws and dues. We have until December to implement changes in time for a spring 2023 vote by all membership. Most conversation was around dues, and a \$15 or \$20 dues amount is most popular. There was also a lot of support for a lower student fee (e.g., \$5), or free membership for students. Barnaby and Ocaña both support removing barriers to involvement. A lengthy discussion ensued. Pekoll mentioned that ALA has a "member plus" category for members of three or more divisions. This model could potentially be copied for members of three or more round tables.

B. Rebecca Moorman: IFC Privacy Subcommittee

Not sure if people have heard about this. In March, Follett Destiny announced a new module to provide parents with tools to manage their students' borrowing, including letting them see what the kids check out or giving them the ability to block certain titles, or certain categories. Erin Berman contacted the vendor and invited them to an IFC Privacy meeting in April. On March 30 Follett sent out an email and social media posts announcing a web chat on the new module on April 4, and then on April 1 they canceled the web chat and the plans for the new module. So that was exciting! The library community really came out against this functionality, and the vendor listened.

C. Ray James: Intellectual Freedom Committee (posted to Connect)

The Intellectual Freedom Committee met on April 19, 2022. Martin Garner, chair, called the meeting to order at 2 p.m., established a quorum, and asked everyone to introduce themselves in the chat. The agenda was approved.

First up was a report from Privacy Sub-committee chair Erin Berman. She reported the Privacy Field Guides were completed and distributed to libraries around the country. Next was a discussion of Library Privacy Guidelines for Library Management Systems, a part of a review the sub-committee is doing of all Guidelines and Checklists. This proved to be the only topic discussed as it took the rest of the hour. The sticking point proved to be this paragraph in the Collection and Retention of User Data Section:

Libraries should minimize the amount of personal data they collect. They should limit that amount to only the information required to provide a service or meet a specific operational need. Library policies about personal data should also cover the use of any free-text note fields associated with the user's record. Libraries should consider and assess direct operational need before collecting high risk sensitive personal data such as:

- Government or organization issued identification numbers (e.g. Social Security Numbers, Student ID, Driver's License Numbers)

- Library use history or behavior

- Demographic information (e.g. gender identity, race/ethnicity, employment)

The debate centered around the topic of operational needs.

The IFC will schedule a second meeting in May to complete the agenda.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE

A. Reading in prisons (Jeremy Brett)

An article I read last year -- [The American Prison System's War on Reading](#) -- got me thinking about the problems prisoners are having getting the books that they want to read. At ALA Annual there will be a number of sessions on the topic, including a day long fact-finding session on Thursday (search for 'incarcerated' in [conference scheduler](#)). It's worth the time and effort of the IFRT to think about how we can advocate for prisoners' rights to read. If the round table wants to take this on, maybe we can brainstorm ideas, or start a subcommittee. Evans remembers reading about an initiative recently, and a number of members expressed interest in working on the topic. There may be other ALA groups to coordinate with, and perhaps this can be a topic under Angela's administration.

B. Casual get-together in D.C. (Wanda Huffaker)

After reading old IFRT minutes and documents, Huffaker was interested to learn that when John Phillip Immroth started the round table, he pictured it as a forum for conversation on intellectual freedom issues. In the early days, there were 8 or 9 hours

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of discussion at the ALA conference, which Huffaker pictured as the “Woodstock of Intellectual Freedom.” She would love to do an all day event, but more realistically, maybe we can have a happy hour/casual conversation before annual or at annual, to discuss IF issues. Putting the idea out there for us to think about. There were a lot of nods and approval in the chat. Evans suggested karaoke.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Blackwell moved that we end the meeting, and Steele seconded. Evans adjourned the meeting at 3:40pm CDT.