**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

11:30pm-1pm AKT; 12:30pm-2pm PST; 1:30pm-3pm MST; 2:30pm-4pm CST; 3:30pm-5pm EST

Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Steph Barnaby, Rita Ennen, Jennifer Griswold, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Steve Norman, Kristin Pekoll, Edward Remus, Jennifer Steele, Aimee Strittmatter, Amanda Vazquez

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

Vazquez called the meeting to order at 2:35pm CDT. A quorum was established.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves and noted their positions in Chat.

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

Norman moved to approve the agenda. Barnaby seconded. Motion passed.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Huffaker moved to approve the minutes. Barnaby seconded. Motion passed.

1. **REPORT OF OFFICERS**
   1. Chair: Amanda Vazquez
      1. Meeting held to assist treasurer transition.
      2. Proposals for Emerging Leaders projects are due October 1st. Will propose continuing work on the underreporting project.
   2. Chair-Elect: Jennifer Griswold
      1. IFC meeting report. Their proposal for LibLearnX will be on privacy.
      2. The Freedom to Read Foundation task force will have 5 listening sessions this fall. <https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2023/09/ala-announces-listening-sessions-revising-freedom-read-statement>
      3. Banned Books Week will begin October 1st. Penguin Random House will be joining in a day of action on October 7th. The calendar of events is available at [bannedbooksweek.org](http://bannedbooksweek.org).
      4. State and local update from Debra Caldwell Stone. They're involved in litigation in Texas and Arkansas. Initial pleadings concluded with a preliminary injunction in Arkansas, ordering books back on the shelf**.**
      5. State Intellectual Freedom chairs meetings have been moved from quarterly to monthly due to the current situation.
      6. American Library Association Releases Preliminary Data on 2023 Book Challenges <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2023/09/american-library-association-releases-preliminary-data-2023-book-challenges>.
      7. There is a lot of interest in training for handling book challenges. Joyce Macintosh has asked anyone interested to please join the Speakers Bureau**.** <https://airtable.com/shrJEOMafo2pB6Qdf>
      8. On December 26th the office of Civil rights workshop will have representatives from the Department of Education and will be participating in training on concerns over book banning.
   3. Kristen Pekoll
      1. Participated in poll for bylaws committee. Responded to Sam Jack regarding social media policies and provided both current and last working copy of the policies.
      2. Updated on situation in Illinois. Shared link to Emily Knox’s testimony to Congress in the chat. [https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/book-bans-examining-how-censorship-limits-liberty-and-literature](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/book-bans-examining-how-censorship-limits-liberty-and-literature" \t "_blank" \o "https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/book-bans-examining-how-censorship-limits-liberty-and-literature).
2. **REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM:**  Aimee Strittmatter
   1. Announced Levar Burton will be Honorary Chair for Banned Books Week. <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2023/09/levar-burton-lead-2023-banned-books-week-honorary-chair>
   2. Preliminary 2023 challenge data was released today. <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/book-ban-data>
3. **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT:** Sam Helmick
   1. The Executive Board will have their fall meetings October 14-16. Please email intellectual freedom related items for the agenda.
   2. Working on finishing the agenda for the Intellectual Freedom summit.
4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. Bylaws Committee: Steve Norman
      1. First committee meeting is scheduled for September 28.
   2. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Steph Barnaby
      1. Committee will be meeting October 2nd.
      2. The Submission deadline is February 1. Articles may be submitted digitally via the online form. <https://www.ala.org/rt/ifrt/oboler>
   3. Publications and Communications Committee: Edward Remus
      1. Committee has submitted three confirmed program proposals for ALA Annual with a fourth proposal still possible in the works.
         1. First proposal titled “It takes a village understanding the Ala Intellectual Freedom Community.” The idea is to have representation from the IFRT, the IFC, the OIF, and the Freedom to Read Foundation.
         2. The second proposal was titled “Current trends, current events and trends in intellectual freedom”.
         3. I have submitted a proposal on intellectual freedom issues in higher education to include one speaker each from the American Association of University Professors, the Foundation for individual rights and expression, Heterodox Academy and the Academic Freedom alliance.
         4. Fourth proposal planned on how to handle intellectual freedom challenges that come from within the library with the intention of protecting marginalized communities**.**
5. **ADJOURNMENT**
   1. Vazquez adjourned the meeting at 3:21 pm CDT.