**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 23, 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, Deborah Caldwell Stone, Cynthia Dudenhoffer, Rita Ennen, Karen Gianni, Jennifer Griswold, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Sam Jack, Michael Kirby, Molly Meisenhheimer, Rebecca Moorman, Jim Neal, Steve Norman, Angela Ocana, Kristin Pekoll, Edward Remus, Jennifer Steele, Aimee Strittmatter, Matthew Sylvain, Amanda Vazquez

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

Ocana called the meeting to order at 1:30pm CDT. A quorum was established.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves and noted their positions.

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

Remus moved to approve the agenda. Pekoll seconded.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Pekoll noted correction to June 25, 2023, minutes to note that OIF office is searching for a new deputy director not the executive director. Huffaker moved to approve the minutes as amended. Barnaby seconded.

1. **REPORT OF OFFICERS**
   1. Chair: Amanda Vazquez
      1. Thanks to everyone for agreeing to serve. All committee positions have been filled.
      2. Meetings will typically be on the fourth Wednesday of the month. September meeting may need to be moved to the 20th.
      3. Looking for a liaison to the Intellectual Freedom Committee. Jennifer Griswold agrees to serve. Wanda Huffaker volunteered to be liaison to the Professional Ethics Committee.
      4. Proposals for Emerging Leaders projects are due October 1st. Will begin a connect discussion regarding the possibilities including continuing work on the underreporting project, the help lines project, and updating the Hateful Conduct resource.
   2. Chair-Elect: Jennifer Griswold
      1. Met with Amanda, Angela, and Betsy for orientation to her position.
   3. Treasurer: Jim Neal
      1. Received information through the end of June. It looks like we will end the year with a positive balance.
      2. Planning to meet with Jennifer and Betsy for position orientation.
   4. Director at Large:
      1. Rebecca Moorman
         1. We sold 95 tickets to the baseball game fundraiser for the Merritt Fund. We should be receiving a check for $722.
2. **REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM:**  Deborah Caldwell Stone
   1. It is time to submit proposals for ALA Annual next year.
   2. Chair for Banned Books Week will be announced soon.
   3. Rebuilding the office staff continues. Full-time assistant directors are Betsy Gomez and Eric Stroshane. Aimee Strittmater has joined the office as a project manager and staff liaison to member groups.
   4. The office continues to receive reports of rising numbers of book bans. Support is also being provided to ongoing litigation regarding bans.
3. **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT:** Sam Helmick
   1. We've been working with Ala staff as members of the steering committee to guide the next Intellectual Freedom Summit, which has been tentatively named Free People Read Freely a national summit on democracy, intellectual freedom and book censorship in the 20 first century. Deborah Caldwell Stone shares that they hope the summit will reach out to other entities that support freedom to read such as publishers, booksellers, etc.
   2. The Chapter Relations Office has also been dealing with Freedom Caucus calls to urge chapters to disavow and sever connections with ALA.
4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**
   1. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Steph Barnaby
      1. Be thinking about and watching for articles being published that should be nominated for this award.
   2. Programming and Events Committee: Edward Remus
      1. Suggestions for IFRT sanctioned event proposals for next year would be appreciated. The deadline to submit proposals is September 18.
   3. Publications and Communications Committee: Sam Jack
      1. Volunteers have been working to keep social media channels updated.
      2. Will be working to convene the committee and plan for newsletters and social media update rotation of duties.
      3. Please share ideas for the October Newsletter.
5. **LIAISON UPDATES**
   1. Privacy subcommittee report: Wanda Huffaker
      1. Be sure to report any privacy issues and concerns. This committee can provide assistance.
      2. A proposal for a program has been submitted for LibLearnX.
6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE**
   1. Jim Neal shares that planning has begun for ALA’s 150th anniversary in 2026. Plans are being made for a capital campaign. IFRT could look for opportunities to do its own campaign under that umbrella.
7. **ADJOURNMENT**
   1. Vazquez adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm CDT.