

**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

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, Michael Blackwell, Johana Orellana Cabrera, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Peter Coyl, Rhonda Evans, Johannah Genett, Kristin Green, Wanda Huffaker, Ray James, Michael Kirby, Angela Ocaña, Kristin Pekoll, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez, Senaida Velazquez.

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

Evans called the meeting to order at 2:30pm CST. A quorum was established.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves using the Zoom chat feature.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Evans noted two updates to the agenda are needed: Jeremy Brett won't be here, so the Reading in prisons discussion is tabled, and a report from Director at Large Johana Orellana Cabrera is missing from the agenda. Coyl moved to approve the amended agenda. Vazquez seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [October 27, 2021](#). Huffaker moved to approve the minutes. Steele seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

A. Chair: Rhonda Evans

- i. Evans announced that we have a new Emerging Leader for 2022, Jung Soo Bae. Soo is a librarian at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and this [member spotlight](#) provides a nice introduction to her. Welcome, Soo!
- ii. Working with Barnaby on Chair's Program at ALA. Steph will talk about this during her report.
- iii. Kudos on the nice Merritt Fund [video](#) that came out.

- B. Chair-Elect: Angela Ocaña
  - i. Nothing to report.
- C. Treasurer: Jennifer Steele
  - i. Steele shared the IFRT's [4th quarter financial report](#) in Connect, which shows the complete 2021 fiscal year. We brought in over \$15,000 in revenue, and had a total of \$9,270 in expenses, so we are strongly in the black. Revenue coming in from membership dues and donations were lower than projected, but expenses were also lower than projected.
  - ii. She also shared the [FY 2022 Budget](#). The final column shows adjustments made by ALA to the approved budget; our expenses and revenues were reduced from \$19,100 to \$13,100. These types of reductions were implemented across the organization. Pekoll added that this is an unusual step, but part of an effort to balance ALA's budget and reduce spending overall. None of the round table's FY22 plans should be affected by this budget adjustment.
- D. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson
  - i. Nothing to report.
- E. Director at Large: Amanda Vazquez
  - i. Nothing to report.
- F. Director at Large: Johana Orellana Cabrera
  - i. Nothing to report.

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

- A. No Council updates yet, but Coyl suspects in the coming weeks we'll have more. The council meetings will be in the days before and after LibLearnX. The [Council Meeting Calendar](#) has their detailed meeting schedule.

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

- A. The office has been incredibly busy and short-handed, and Pekoll appreciates everybody's pitching in and helping, especially when it comes to committee work. As a reminder, if you're able to send out your own doodle polls that's a big help.
- B. ALA put out a [statement on book censorship](#) and there's a corresponding [clearinghouse to fight censorship](#). We're trying to get everyone's censorship reports by the end of the year, because we want to get as robust a set of data as we can, for the 2021 Most Challenged Books report.
- C. If you see people talking about book challenges on social media, please post a [link to the report form](#). That will help the office immensely. Pekoll discussed what kinds of situations are considered challenges, and what kinds of assistance the OIF can provide.

[This blog post](#) and [this one](#) give more details about what constitutes a challenge, and the best ways to respond.

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Bylaws Committee: Kristin Green
  - i. Committee scheduled to meet in January and continuing with the annual review of all the 10 standing committee charges. So far, we have completed three reviews, three we're discussing changes suggested, and we haven't heard from Bylaws, Immroth, or Membership Committees. We're also going to discuss the Executive Committee, and who is responsible for reviewing its charge.
- B. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James
  - i. Pekoll reported that there has been one (maybe two) nominations for the award. Be sure and nominate our state chapters if they are doing good work.
- C. Immroth Committee: Johannah Genett
  - i. The Immroth Committee has gotten 5 nominations so far, and the award nomination form is open until December 31. The group will reconvene at that time.
- D. Membership Committee: Molly Dettmann [written report]
  - i. The virtual all membership fall gathering with spooky IF trivia, banned books week show and tell, and breakout rooms for smaller group discussions was held on Friday, October 22nd. It was well attended and evaluated! The breakout rooms were the most well received.
  - ii. IFRT Mentor/Mentee program is almost ready to launch. I have reached out to PubCom for a marketing push for it.
  - iii. Student committee shadowing will continue and a monthly message of IFRT committee meeting registrations will continue and reports are that some student members have started shadowing them.
  - iv. Membership Promotion Committee will meet in November to begin work on planning the spring membership gathering.
- E. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Michael Kirby for Cyndi Robinson
  - i. We prepared the video mentioned earlier, plus slides you can use in presentations -- particularly at LibLearnX -- to promote the Merritt Fund. All of this is collected in the [Merritt Fund Promotional Toolkit](#).
- F. Nominating Committee: Wanda Huffaker
  - i. Just wanted to say this is such an important time to be involved in intellectual freedom, and Huffaker is so encouraged at how many people in her state are

interested and getting involved. She has worked with library boards and been involved in legal battles, as well as sharing her expertise through triage classes. She thanked us all for the important and vital work we are doing.

- ii. All of our candidates submitted bios, so they will all be on the ALA ballot. We'll probably do another of those "meet the candidates" events later in the year.

G. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Michael Blackwell

- i. We've had eight nominations, and the nomination period is now closed. Blackwell developed a draft rubric and is waiting for committee feedback.

H. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby [written report]

- i. Join [#IFRTReads](#) as we discuss a piece from the Intellectual Freedom Blog titled "When Education Standards Stereotype, Marginalize and Eliminate Indigenous Peoples" moderated by the author Jamie Gregory on Thursday, December 9th at 4PM Central. You can register here: <https://ala-events.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEudOCojgrH9fPegLHjgr4sRTehcIbNbsX...>
- ii. The next meeting of the PEC will be the following day on December 10th at 11AM Central. We'd love to have you, register here: [ala-events.zoom.us/meeting/register/...](https://ala-events.zoom.us/meeting/register/...)
- iii. Rhonda and I were able to get the submission in on time for the Annual Conference 2022 guaranteed program. Edits are due by February 14th, 2022. Here's the very brief description:

"Library workers can use the powerful tools of information and media literacy to empower young adults to recognize misinformation and combat material and resource challenges in the library."
- iv. The Joint Professional Values Programming Subgroup agreed to share Merritt Fund information at the end of presentations at LibLearnX to attendees to help fund raise. The slide would have a link and steps to donating, as well as a short script to accompany it. You can find more information about the Merritt Fund by clicking this link: [www.ala.org/aboutala/affiliates/relatedgroups/...](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/affiliates/relatedgroups/...)

I. Publications and Communications Committee: Michael Kirby

- i. Working on the [January newsletter](#), which has three main components: Merritt Fund, Soo (new Emerging Leader), and the LibLearnX slate of events.

## IX. LIAISON UPDATES

- A. Pekoll mentioned that the EDI Assembly has their next meeting on January 19th. and they're still looking for IFRT involvement. They're doing a lot of good work.

B. Ray James: IFC Liaison [written report]

The Intellectual Freedom Committee met on Dec. 3 and I attended as your liaison. The meeting began with Erin Berman's update of IFC Privacy Subcommittee activities. IFC Chair Martin Garnar shared updates on the work of IFC task forces and working groups: Freedom to Read Statement, Challenges to CRT and Diversity Toolkit, and Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice. All remain ongoing with no final report available until the new year.

OIF Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone discussed the personnel shortages in the Office and asked for volunteers to supplement the staff. Should IFRT considering offering to help?

I updated the IFC on the activities of IFRT for this month with emphasis on the IFRT Reads program on Dec. 9.

**X. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- A. Next [Executive Committee Meeting](#) is January 12, 2:30-4:00pm CST.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Blackwell moved that we end the meeting, and Huffaker seconded. Evans adjourned the meeting at 3:14pm CST.