

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 25, 2022

9:00am - 10:00am EDT

2022 Conference, Washington, D.C.

MINUTES

Members and Guests Present:

Jung Soo Bae, Rebecca Ballard, Steph Barnaby, Michael Blackwell, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Chaz Carey, Peter Coyl, Rhonda Evans, Johannah Genett, Mark Hudson, Wanda Huffaker, Ray James, Lesliediana Jones, Crystal Joyce, Michael Kirby, Thomas Maxheimer, Rebecca Moorman, Steve Norman, Angela Ocaña, Rachel Patton, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Deb Sica, Amanda Vazquez, Julia Warga.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Evans called the meeting to order at 9:04am. A quorum was established.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Members introduced themselves and noted their roles within the committee.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Blackwell moved to approve the agenda. Vazquez seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [May 25, 2022](#). Barnaby moved to approve the minutes. Ocaña seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. Chair: Rhonda Evans

- i. Departing words: Evans was supposed to be chair elect, but stepped in a year early to fill a vacancy. She had so many guiding lights: Kristin, Wanda, and so many more. She acknowledged such a great group of volunteers. Our Emerging Leaders are energetically helping promote Intellectual Freedom. Thanks everyone for your hard work and support!

- B. Chair-Elect: Angela Ocaña
 - i. Evans leaves big shoes to fill. Ocaña wants to tell the Emerging Leaders that it took three years for her to feel comfortable on the IFRT executive committee, but she got there. She's so happy to work with the Emerging Leaders, an intensive 6-month program. Kirby chimed in to describe this year's project, an Intellectual Freedom Syllabus that the group hopes will be implemented by library schools. Ocaña plans to continue engaging with the Emerging Leaders program in the future.
- C. Director at Large: Amanda Vazquez
 - i. Vazquez is stepping out of her Director-at-Large position after being elected as Chair Elect, and when she asked for volunteers, she learned that Michael Blackwell has already agreed to step in as a Director-at-Large to complete her term.
- D. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
 - i. The training wheels are off! After almost two years of preparing meeting minutes from a Zoom recording, today Moorman is taking minutes in real time. If these minutes look less detailed than usual, you know why.

VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Peter Coyl

- A. Council has not yet met at this conference. Council I will this afternoon from 2:30-5:00pm, Council II will be Sunday, 9:00-11:30am, and Council III will be Monday, 9:00-11:30am.
- B. The TAG group (Transforming ALA Governance) will be presenting a [report](#) with action items. Coyl suspects that will be a lengthy discussion. ALA needs to address the scheduling of Council meetings, since meetings routinely go overtime, and there is not enough time scheduled to cover all the Council business. He also clarified that any Council action has to go back to ALA membership for a vote.
- C. Several resolutions have been brought forward so far: One on student loan cancellation, a couple more in email. Most of Council meeting will be reports.

VII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. Caldwell-Stone has submitted a [report to the Executive Board](#). The OIF has received over 300 challenges in a 3 month period, and they provided personal support for well over 200 of them.
- B. [Unite Against Book Bans](#) is a public campaign aimed at non-librarians, giving talking points and providing other resources for action at the grass roots level. Please share with family and friends, to gain the support of people who aren't

necessarily in the education and library industries and might not understand the issues like we do.

- C. Quarterly call for bloggers: Pekoll is looking for volunteers to write for the [Intellectual Freedom Blog](#). It is a one year commitment, and posts are widely read. It's a great place for aspiring writers to get some exposure.
- D. Pekoll and Caldwell-Stone have given over 25 presentations this year.
- E. Pekoll reminded us of all the great [intellectual freedom events at ALA Annual](#) this year.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James
 - i. James was pleased to award the [Hodges Award](#) last night, to the Tennessee Library Association and the Tennessee School Librarians Association. They were most appreciative and made some great comments about the challenges they're facing. James will be chairing the committee again, and he has ambitious goals. He'd like to find ten nominees for the award.
- B. Immroth Committee: Johannah Genett
 - i. Last night we gave the [Immroth Award](#) to Terri Lesley, a librarian from Wyoming. She traveled here on her own time and her own finances, since townspeople caught wind of her award and made sure county finances weren't used. Coyl suggested we might address this issue in the future; it doesn't seem fair that people have to pay to receive an award. We will discuss at a future meeting.
- C. Membership Committee
 - i. We need a new Membership Chair. Barnaby said, "Hey, don't we have like three people here who need a committee role?" Chaz Carey just volunteered. Our Emerging Leaders are the best!
- D. Merritt Fund Committee: Cyndi Robinson
 - i. \$2,451 was raised last night at the [Freedom to Read Celebration](#). Penguin Random House paid for the food, so we raised even more money. Skip Dye, one of their vice presidents, is a great intellectual freedom ally. Please share the word about Merritt Fund! If you donate, you can become a member and vote on future trustees. These funds can be life saving; it's some of the best work we do. This fund helps members pay rent, buy groceries, hire attorneys, whatever support they need when facing intellectual freedom challenges. Ocaña mentioned the classic cocktail that was available at the celebration if you donated \$40 to the fund: the "Are you there god, it's me

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Margarita.” Huffaker suggested we challenge each other to donate frequently to the fund. Incoming chair Deb Sica is charged up and ready to promote the fund.

E. Nominating Committee: Wanda Huffaker

- i. We have great people in place, so our work is done! Huffaker also announced that the [Downs Intellectual Freedom Award](#) will honor OIF staff Kristin Pekoll and Deborah Caldwell Stone. The event will be at the Courtyard Marriott Shaw Ballroom at 5:30pm tonight. The Texas educators and librarians who started [#Freedom Fighters](#) are also award recipients. The event is sponsored by Sage (they have the best food!).

F. Oboler Committee: Michael Blackwell

- i. The [Oboler Memorial Award](#) was awarded to Jamie Gregory last night. Gregory is an Intellectual Freedom blogger, a South Carolina school librarian, and to make her contributions even more amazing, she doesn't have local support. She was named School Librarian of the Year by School Library Journal, despite criticism by a state legislator. Sadly, she was unable to attend the celebration.

G. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby

- i. We have programs throughout the year, many have been mentioned. Barnaby thinks having a robust Programming and Events Committee with enthusiastic volunteers helps us put together excellent, well-attended programs.

H. Publications and Communications Committee: Michael Kirby

- i. The [IFRT Annual Report](#) is out. Please pick up a copy and be proud of your accomplishments. Evans thanked him for all the great social media activity this year.

IX. LIAISON UPDATES

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

Green was unable to attend, so she posted a [report](#) on Connect.

B. Rebecca Moorman: IFC Privacy Subcommittee

Be sure to check out the new Privacy Field Guides; find them [online](#) or at the table in the exhibit hall.

C. Ray James: Intellectual Freedom Committee

The committee is working on several resolutions, and the incoming IFC chair Lesliediana Jones, is here at this meeting. James will continue as IFRT Liaison to IFC, and as an IFC member, we will get robust reports over the next year.

X. OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE

A. Honoring people terming off (Pekoll)

We want to recognize Cyndi Robinson, Jeremy Brett, and Kristin Anderson, whose terms on the Executive Committee are ending. Rhonda Evans was given a new copy of her favorite banned book, *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, signed by all of us. Evans was thrilled, and said her mother used to hide the book to make her go to sleep.

B. Social Responsibilities Round Table resolution (Mark Hudson)

A [Resolution in Defense of the Right to Engage in Political Boycotts](#) will be introduced at the general Membership Meeting, and the framers are hoping for IFRT support. We previously had a discussion on Connect about the resolution, but not a formal vote. Blackwell moved that we support the resolution, and James seconded. 9 voted to support the resolution, 0 were opposed, and 1 abstained. The motion passed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A. Barnaby moved that we end the meeting, and Vazquez seconded. Evans adjourned the meeting at 9:59am.