

**American Library Association
Intellectual Freedom Round Table
Executive Committee
2017 Midwinter Meeting
Pre-Conference Virtual Meeting**

Tuesday, January 10

Attending:

Cyndi Robinson (Chair); Scott Bonner (Director at Large); Sheila Bonnard (Director at Large); Charles Kratz (Chair-Elect); Laura Koltutsky; Julia Warga (Director at Large); Steve Norman (Treasurer); Doug Archer; Eldon Ray James; Martin Garnar (Councilor); Mack Freeman (Director at Large); Ian Hughes; Ma'lis Wendt; Wanda Mae Huffaker; Kristin Pekoll (ALA-OIF staff); Ellie Diaz (ALA-OIF staff); Ashley J. Brown (Secretary)

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. (CST) by Chair Cyndi Robinson.

Moved (Freeman) and seconded (Koltutsky) to approve the draft **agenda:**
Unanimously approved.

Minutes of Annual Conference meeting not received in time for approval at pre-conference virtual meeting.

OIF Executive Director James LaRue will report at Midwinter Business Meeting II on Monday, Jan. 23 at 8:30 a.m.

Nominating committee reported on by Laura Koltutsky

- Good slate of nominations
- Current Treasurer, Steve Norman, is eligible for another term in accordance with bylaws.
- Ballot deadline is Thursday, Jan. 26. This is a hard deadline as ALA contracts an outside service for elections. (Via Pekoll)

Budget update reported on by Steve Norman, Treasurer:

- IFRT budget is solidly in the black with healthy surplus

—Kratz raised question about the funding of the Oboler award as a concern was raised at Annual about its funding level. He also indicated that he would be willing to fundraise during his term as chair. Robinson gave her support for fundraising and offered to help begin collaborating to fundraise this year. Koltutsky suggested forming an ad hoc committee for fundraising. It was agreed that the discussion would be tabled until the board could meet in person at Midwinter on Jan. 23.

Report of Officers:

Cyndi Robinson, Chair:

—One goal as IFRT Chair is to complete a handbook and timeline for IFRT year to maintain institutional knowledge and to assist future IFRT Boards work with the work of IFRT.

Charles Kratz, Chair-Elect:

—would like to fundraise

—is exploring topics for the 2018 Annual program and is considering privacy and is open to suggestions.

Sheila Bonnard, Director at Large:

—first meeting and looks forward to working with IFRT

Scott Bonner, Director at Large:

—Intellectual Freedom Fighters Facebook page is live and active. Activity largely depends on group members posting.

Mack Freeman, Director at Large:

—encouraged everyone to check out the Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy

Ashley J. Brown, Secretary:

—Twitter account @intellectualff to assist with Intellectual Freedom Fighters with help of Scott Bonner.

Martin Garner, Councilor:

—Explains new resolution to drop the requirement for ALA Executive Directors to have an MLS or NCTE accredited degree for school librarians. Several boards have

taken positions one way or another. There was discussion about whether or not MLS informs intellectual freedom.

<http://connect.ala.org/node/261265>

Scott Bonner made a motion to support retaining the requirement for candidates to have an MLS because it is a crucial experience to forming intellectual freedom issues and core values. Steve Norman seconded. The motion passed.

Resolution to add Family Status as a protected class for parents and caregivers.

Resolution to add 4th strategic direction- Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity.

Gun Violence resolution- a compromise resolution- in its current form has what could be agreed upon.

Garner- IFRT is not required to endorse any resolution.

Could possibly vote on Tuesday morning giving the board an opportunity to discuss this resolution at the Monday meeting.

Committee Reports:

Bylaws and Organization Committee- Robinson- revised Bylaws will be on the ballot in the spring election.

Membership- Norman- new email “in-forms” will be able to pull from IMAS directly. New way will allow new way to engage membership. IFRT membership is slightly up. Considering writing former members to encourage rejoining IFRT.

Publications & Communications Committee- Johnson not in attendance. Robinson reported that Pekoll had worked on the website and it looked great.

Coalition Building- Huffaker developed an online submission form for the Hodges award to enable OIF to refer units who may be eligible.

<http://www.ala.org/ifrt/gerald-hodges>

A nomination was received for the Hodges Award.

Discussion about reaching other groups to receive nominations for units who qualify. The need to help people realize the importance of their work— some suggestions were posting a video of an awards reception and a blog post from recipients.

Merritt Fund Promotion Committee- Wendt will share information at Monday, Jan. 23 meeting.

John Phillip Immroth Award- Furlong not in attendance. Robinson reported that several nominations were received.

Eli M. Oboler Award Committee- Robinson reported that the chair was open. Laura Koltutsky agreed to serve as chair. Award will be presented in 2018.

2017 Annual Conference Program- Ian Ross Hughes shared a program summary Intellectual Freedom and Open Access: Working Toward a Common Goal- where do intellectual freedom and open access internet? Panel of 3 people, Jamie LaRue, Margarite Avery, and open spot. Hughes will also submit a poster for poster session in addition to the program.

New business

Kristin- Conference will be re-designed and will be smaller including centralized scheduling in 2018 (New Orleans). This will impact when IFRT has executive its meetings. Trying to get as many meetings as possible off of Saturday. Discussion as to whether or not IFRT will have a program slot with centralized scheduling. President's programs will not be juried, and whether or not round tables are eligible for a president's program will be clarified. Members expressed concern that Intellectual Freedom and Core Values need to be represented in the programming offered at the ALA Annual conference and could be lost if not guaranteed a programming spot at Annual.

<http://connect.ala.org/node/261458>

Discussion as to how to get a budget that more accurately reflects how IFRT budgets works each year.

Meeting recessed by Chairperson Robinson until Monday, January 23 at 8:30 a.m. (EST) at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta, GA at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley J. Brown, IFRT Secretary