

**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 29, 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, Stephanie Barnaby, Michael Blackwell, Johana Orellana Cabrera, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Peter Coyl, Molly Dettmann, Rhonda Evans, Johannah Genett, Kristin Green, Wanda Huffaker, Ray James, Michael Kirby, Rebecca Moorman, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez, Senaida Velazquez.

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

Evans called the meeting to order at 2:34pm CDT. A quorum was established.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

We introduced ourselves using the Zoom chat feature.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [August 25, 2021](#). Coyl requested a correction, as his name was misspelled in one instance. Blackwell moved to approve the minutes as amended. Huffaker seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

A. Chair: Rhonda Evans

- i. Polled the membership on potential emerging leader projects. Proposal One is the *Intellectual Freedom Syllabus*, and Proposal Two is *Finding Silent Censorship*. 30 members completed the poll; Proposal One got 50% of the votes, Proposal Two got 46.7%, and 3.3% said “Start with Proposal Two and then fold into Proposal One.” Evans will submit the *Intellectual Freedom Syllabus* as this year’s project, and maybe next year will submit Proposal Two.
- ii. Update on ALA annual program proposals from the Joint Professional Values Programming Subgroup, which includes the Intellectual Freedom Committee, the IFC Privacy Subcommittee, the Committee on Professional Ethics, the IFRT,

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and the Freedom to Read Foundation. This group is submitting six program proposals to ALA, covering all areas of intellectual freedom, plus we were approached by the Rainbow Round Table to work on a program about challenges to LGBT+IA materials.

- iii. Liaison request: the Committee on Library Advocacy is looking for a liaison from IFRT, as is the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE). Cabrera, chair of COPE, described the responsibilities: attend virtual meetings and provide your voice and those priorities that are part of IFRT, and share updates with the IFRT board at our meetings. Cabrera can give anyone more information.
  - iv. Evans was able to meet with every committee chair, and talk about what's coming up for the year and what she can do to support them. She's excited to hear everyone's reports today.
- B. Treasurer: Jennifer Steele
    - i. Nothing to report.
  - C. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson
    - i. Nothing to report for Director at Large, but she has been promoting the Immroth Award and working with Pub Comm on some member spotlights.
  - D. Director at Large: Johana Orellana Cabrera
    - i. Nothing to report.
  - E. Director at Large: Amanda Vazquez
    - i. Nothing to report.
  - F. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
    - i. Nothing to report.

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

- A. Everyone has probably heard that LibLearnX will be virtual and not in San Antonio in January 2022. The statement from the Executive Board did include a brief mention that the location was one of the reasons for cancelling the in-person meeting.
- B. No updates on the new working group on reorganizing ALA, and the next Council meeting has not been scheduled.
- C. Coyl encourages everyone to submit program proposals for ALA Annual.

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

- A. Update on [Banned Books Week events](#): we've had some really high quality, incredibly engaging events. If you get a chance, go back and watch any of the recordings of Gene Yang, Jason Reynolds, the children's book censorship panel, and others. Twitter chats coming up with Laurie Halse Anderson and Alex Gino, lots of social media engagement. So far over 300 different news outlets have published articles about Banned Books Week, so that's great coverage.
- B. Still looking for an IFRT liaison to the EDI Assembly, whose quarterly meeting will be held October 4 if you're interested. Please contact Pekoll for meeting information; she'll be working with Valerie Bell of the Committee on Diversity to facilitate a breakout room on intellectual freedom and social justice, and some of the critical race theory challenges that we're seeing. There will be three other breakout rooms at the meeting as well.
- C. Coyl put in a plug for Alex Gino, who is an excellent speaker on banned books. He also said everyone setting up Banned Books week programming are rock stars!

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Bylaws Committee: Kristin Green
  - i. Committee will meet next week, and they're planning to discuss responses from chairs of standing committees, about updating committee charges in all published locations. Chairs who can't make the October 1 deadline for answering questions please contact Green.
- B. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James
  - i. James hasn't gotten committee together yet, although he has attended state of the state meetings to learn what states are doing. The Transforming ALA Governance Task Force is meeting every two weeks, and doing intensive writing right now. This complex and difficult task has taken most of James's time. The group is looking at two models: incremental change or transformational (originally called "radical") change. They will probably need to update the Coalition Building Committee charge in bylaws.
- C. Immroth Committee: Johannah Genett
  - i. Getting ready to send out a press release to increase nominations.
- D. Membership Committee: Molly Dettmann
  - i. Working on launching mentor/mentee program.
  - ii. Sent out Zoom links of all IFRT committee meetings to student members, encouraging them to visit and shadow meetings. Chairs, please be welcoming and give an overview of what your group does. Also follow up with Molly and Rhonda about who has joined meetings, so they are aware of who is involved.

- iii. Working on Fall membership gathering, October 22, 4:00-5:00 pm CDT. Keeping it casual with a virtual trivia game and Banned Books Week show and tell. Working with Pub Comm on promoting the event.

E. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Cyndi Robinson

- i. Excited to let us know that the Merritt Fund Support Committee is getting some work done. We're planning to host an event at LibLearnX, and we are planning to write an article on the fund and profile a recent recipient. Robinson met with Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Joyce Hagen-McIntosh, and Sarah Dallas (Merritt trustee) and they were receptive to the idea, and in October we hope to have a meeting with staff, the committee members, and some of the trustees. Will have more to share at our next meeting.

F. Nominating Committee: Wanda Huffaker

- i. Seeking nominations for executive committee positions Chair-Elect, two Directors at Large, and Secretary. Huffaker encourages us to consider running for a position, since the experience of people who have already served on the executive committee is valuable. Everyone has something unique to bring to the table, and she found that running and serving in office was a great experience. There were so many people around to support her, and she enjoyed working with all of them. If you have interest in running for office, please email Huffaker by Oct. 15. The Executive Committee needs to approve the slate of candidates at our next meeting, and according to bylaws, we need two candidates for each of those four positions. Oct. 27 is our only meeting between now and when the candidate bio forms are due (Dec. 3).

Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Amanda Vazquez

- i. The Oboler committee is accepting nominations of journal articles or collections of journal articles, due December 1. The group has met, and the nomination has been shared widely, including in [Publishers Weekly](#), various ALA Connect groups, through social media, etc. Please let the group know about any publications from the last year that we should consider.

G. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby

- i. The committee will meet next Thursday, and we came up with a quarterly theme based on an item from the Intellectual Freedom News: [When education standards stereotype and marginalize indigenous peoples](#), by Jamie Gregory. The group plans to do an IFRT Reads on this short, two-page piece. We also would like to have a live event, and will be looking for speakers. Themes for upcoming quarters: Social Justice and Intellectual Freedom; Privacy.
- ii. The Joint Professional Values Programming Subgroup that Rhonda mentioned has submitted six programs for ALA Annual: Critical Race Theory challenges; Problematic authors; "What would you do?" skits; "That got out of hand fast"

about de-escalation and trauma-informed responses from libraries; Privacy Survey of public libraries; and Privacy Field Guides.

- H. Publications and Communications Committee: Michael Kirby
  - i. We updated our charge at the last meeting, not sure if someone else needs to look at that. We're almost done with the October newsletter, and the next meeting will be October 13, 2:30 EDT.
  - ii. Pekoll gave a shout out to the Pub Comm -- great job on social media lately!

## IX. LIAISON UPDATES

- A. James: Intellectual Freedom Committee met last week, and he's compiling a report to the committee.
- B. Moorman: Attended a meeting of the IFC Privacy Subcommittee, and the group is reviewing the privacy section of the ALA website. The group is also reviewing a School Library Workers Privacy Training, a good tool since many school library workers don't have an MLIS degree and haven't learned about patron privacy rights and issues.
- C. Pekoll: Freedom to Read Foundation update. The group signed onto a letter from the National Coalition Against Censorship, about a public art show in Coral Gables, Florida. She hopes that the FTRF will be putting this information on their website, to showcase the kinds of amicus briefs they support.

## X. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- A. IFRT [All Member Gathering](#) will be October 22, 4:00-5:00pm CDT.
- B. Next [Executive Committee Meeting](#) is October 27, 2:30-4:00pm CDT.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Barnaby moved that we end the meeting, and Vazquez seconded. Evans adjourned the meeting at 3:25pm CDT.