

# IFRT Executive Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, February 16, 2022

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, Steph Barnaby, Michael Blackwell, Jeremy Brett, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Peter Coyl, Rhonda Evans, Kristin Green, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Ray James, Michael Kirby, Trina McCowan, Rebecca Moorman, Angela Ocaña, Brooky Parks, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez.

### I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Evans called the meeting to order at 2:32pm CST. A quorum was established. She noted that she has a time conflict today, and will leave the meeting after 30 minutes. Huffaker will take over, and moderate the remainder of the meeting.

### II. INTRODUCTIONS

Members introduced themselves using the Zoom chat feature.

### III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [January 12, 2022](#). Huffaker moved to approve the minutes. Coyl seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

### V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

#### A. Chair: Rhonda Evans

- i. Chair's Program is set for ALA Annual: In Conversation with George Johnson, author of the bestseller *All boys aren't blue* and *We aren't broken*. He has been very outspoken about the challenges against his books, and Evans hopes those of us going to the conference will attend the session.
- ii. The 2022 Emerging Leaders class has begun their work. There are some exciting projects underway.

- iii. Informal poll: are board members going to be at ALA in person? Should we meet in person? At least 11 members will be attending in person, and the consensus is we would like to hold a meeting in person.
  - iv. Coyl asked about next month's IFRT meeting, which conflicts with the Public Library Association conference. Evans will check with our scheduled guest, Kelvin Watson, about his availability, and Moorman will set up a Doodle poll after that to reschedule our meeting.
- B. Chair-Elect: Angela Ocaña
  - i. Emerging Leaders seem really fantastic. As someone who came through the EL program, Ocaña wants to reiterate the importance of IFRT supporting the Emerging Leaders Program. Kirby reported that the group is in the early stages of identifying resources to draw on. Group will be meeting next Saturday. Please contact Kirby if you know how to make an online map that's clickable, to display challenges by geography.
- C. Treasurer: Jennifer Steele
  - i. Nothing to report until next meeting.
- D. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson
  - i. Please let her know if you'd like anything posted to Facebook.
- E. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
  - i. Learned something useful this month: if you nominate a candidate for an award, you need to recuse yourself from voting. In case anyone wants to avoid work and still participate, keep this in mind. </sarcasm>
- F. Director at Large: Amanda Vazquez
  - i. Nothing to report.
- G. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
  - i. Nothing to report.

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

- A. ALA Council was held virtually in January. Lots of things were pushed, lots of discussion was held on the TAG [Transforming ALA Governance] Working Group. In the end, a second special council meeting was scheduled, to have a fuller, more robust discussion about the TAG report. There is a lot of work to be done if Council is going to continue to meet virtually. A lot of voices are lost. Honorary memberships were awarded to Jim Neal and Maureen Sullivan, both former ALA presidents and long-time volunteers. Eli Mina, long-time ALA parliamentarian,

announced his retirement. The only substantive action that was taken was to schedule an extra Council meeting on March 10, 2022, since three two-hour meetings at LibLearnX were not enough to cover all business. Coyl also submitted a [written report](#) on the activities of ALA Council at LibLearnX.

Evans left the meeting, and (figuratively) handed the gavel to Huffaker at 2:58pm CST.

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

- A. Getting ready for Annual Conference, also getting ready for National Library Week (April 3-9). The office is preparing the list of 2021's most frequently challenged books, and Pekoll told us to expect a big announcement about the unprecedented, record-breaking number of challenges in the past year.
- B. Caldwell-Stone reported that OIF is working with PPA [ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy office] about legislative challenges. She also pointed out that Pekoll has been doing a great job working with libraries going through challenges. OIF will give an update at the ALA Virtual Membership Meeting on March 17th. They are also starting interviews to fill the FTRF program coordinator position.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT: Sam Helmick**

- A. A touch of history was made at the meeting this week, when the Board asked for the Office of Accreditation to officially consider EDI curriculum as its criteria for accreditation. This is a really good time to give the Board feedback, such as Coyl's observation that not enough time was scheduled for the Council meetings at LibLearnX.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Bylaws Committee: Kristin Green
  - i. Vote for new [proposed language](#) of the Bylaws & Organization Committee description. Moorman moved that we accept the updated charge of the Bylaws & Organization Committee. Barnaby seconded. The motion passed with no objections.
  - ii. Vote for new [proposed language](#) of the Coalition Building Committee description. Blackwell moved that we accept these changes. Steele seconded. The motion passed with no objections. Coyl suggested that the description is not specific enough to explain the duties of the committee. The group agreed to the current updated wording, and Green will discuss further refining the description with the Coalition Building Committee. She also mentioned that the handbook contains detailed committee charges.

- iii. Vote for new proposed language of the Merritt Fund Support Committee description. Barnaby moved that we accept these changes. Coyl seconded. The motion passed with no objections.
- iv. Please look at the following proposed language of the IFRT Executive Board and give any comments to Green by March 7.

“To provide a forum for the discussion of activities, programs and problems in intellectual freedom of libraries and librarians; to serve as a channel of communications on intellectual freedom matters; to promote a greater opportunity for involvement among the members of the ALA in defense of intellectual freedom; to promote a greater feeling of responsibility in the implementation of ALA policies on intellectual freedom.”

- B. Coalition Building Committee: Jennifer Steele for Ray James
  - i. The committee has three strong nominees for the Hodges award, and will soon be making their selection.
- C. Immroth Committee: Kristin Anderson for Johannah Genett
  - i. They have selected their winner, and the press release will be out soon.
- D. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Cyndi Robinson
  - i. A previous Merritt Fund recipient has agreed to share their story, which will help promote fundraising. Looking forward to an in-person event at ALA Annual. Huffaker noted that she loves seeing all the publicity for the Merritt Fund.
- E. Nominating Committee: Wanda Huffaker
  - i. Anyone standing for election, we wish everyone the best! We hope to have a Meet the Candidates event, and remember to vote.
- F. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Michael Blackwell
  - i. The group received 9 submissions, and have chosen a winner. Blackwell apologized for delays, citing his health and the AAP lawsuit against the state of Maryland over its ebook law, which was Blackwell’s idea. He has been even busier than usual lately. Within the next two weeks, all nominees will be notified, and the winner will be announced.
- G. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby
  - i. Apologies for never submitting a written report last month. The All-IFRT Membership gathering will be May 1, and there will be a Get out the Vote event too. More information to come. The tentatively titled “Freedom to Read Celebration” will be in-person at ALA Annual, right after the exhibit hall closes on Friday.

H. Publications and Communications Committee: Michael Kirby

- i. No updates. Be sure to contact Kirby if you want anything promoted!

## **X. LIAISON UPDATES**

A. Jennifer Steele: Planning and Budget Assembly

Attended PBA meeting on January 19. Steele shared some information about ALA's overall budget. Moving forward, indirect costs/overhead will be moved out of the round table budgets. This change will not eliminate the services covered by these charges (which include the Office for Intellectual Freedom); it's part of an attempt to reduce silos and simplify the overall ALA budget.

## **XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- A. Next [Executive Committee Meeting](#) has been rescheduled for March 16, 11:00-12:30pm CDT.

## **XII. OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE**

- A. Huffaker reported that the big gala joint awards ceremony is being planned for ALA Annual. IFRT and FTRF will give awards, and there will be excellent opportunities for people to give to the Merritt Fund. Everyone who is anyone (authors?) will want to be at this event. Plan on attending Friday, June 24, at 7:00pm in D.C.
- B. One IF promotion idea: have ALA attendees take selfies around D.C. with Flat Stanley-like laminated card. Caldwell-Stone cautioned that taking such an item into a national monument can be considered a protest sign, and you might be ushered out unceremoniously.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Huffaker adjourned the meeting at 3:44pm CST.