**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

11:30pm-1pm AKT; 12:30pm-2pm PST; 1:30pm-3pm MST; 2:30pm-4pm CST; 3:30pm-5pm EST

Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Steph Barnaby, Peter Coyl, Cynthia Dudenhoffer, Rita Ennen, Betsy Gomez, Jennifer Griswold, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Sam Jack, Michael Kirby, Rebecca Moorman, Steve Norman, Kristen Pekoll, Edward Remus, Amanda Sand, Jennifer Steele, Aimee Strittmatter, Matthew Sylvain Guests: Roxanne Pico-Lenz, Ray Pun

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

Sand called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm CDT. A quorum was established.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves and noted their positions in Chat.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Sand added ALA President visit to the agenda. Moorman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Steele seconded. Motion passed.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF Minutes –** December 20, 2023 & January 24, 2024

Moorman moved to approve both sets of minutes. Steele seconded. Motion passed.

1. **ALA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE(S) VISIT**

Candidate Sam Helmick shared their experiences and goals.

1. **REPORT OF OFFICERS**
   1. Chair: Amanda Sand
      1. Emerging leaders’ project is progressing. They have published their new survey. Planning to prepare materials that the states can use such as social media content.
      2. Reminder to submit content for the upcoming newsletter.
      3. Peter Coyl was elected to the ALA Executive board and so can no longer be a candidate for the ALA Councilor for IFRT. A write-in option will be available in addition to the other candidate.
   2. Chair-Elect: Jennifer Griswold
      1. A call for volunteers for next year’s committees went out on Connect and will also be in the newsletter. Please share widely.
   3. Director at Large: Michael Kirby
      1. Newsletter is ready to go except for the LibLearnX recap.
   4. Director at Large: Kristen Pekoll
      1. Anyone interested in helping write trivia questions for a contest during Banned Books Week, please get in touch. Sand shared that she has multiple years’ worth of questions from the Iowa Library Association that she will be glad to share.
2. **REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM:**  Betsy Gomez
   1. Anticipate releasing 2023 banned books data mid-March. The top ten list will be released on Right to Read Day April 8th.
   2. Working on assets for Right to Read Day will be April 8th as well as for the eclipse.
   3. Book Resumes are live. More will be added before National Library Week.
   4. Planning for ALA Annual in progress. Planning to repeat reading banned books in the Big Chair and will be looking for volunteers.
   5. ALA.org’s new website is planned to go live May 1st. Working on updating content for the IFR microsite.
   6. Reviewing theme ideas for Banned Books Week.
3. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. Bylaws Committee: Steve Norman
      1. Bylaws revisions submitted in time for the ballot.
   2. Coalition Building Committee: Matt Sylvain
      1. Eight nominations were received for the Hodges Award. Meeting March 25th to select the winner.
   3. Immroth Committee: Wanda Huffaker
      1. Two nominations received so far for the Immroth Award. Deadline is March 1st.
   4. Membership Promotion Committee: Jennifer Steele
      1. Planning to review emails sent to new and renewing members.
   5. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Rebecca Moorman reporting for Molly Meisenheimer
      1. ALA President Emily Drabinski has offered to host the Merritt Fund fundraiser reception in her suite on Saturday, June 29th from 6:30-8:00pm.
      2. Molly will be promoting the Merritt Fund at PLA.
   6. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Steph Barnaby
      1. Received seventeen nominations. Meeting on March 22nd to choose the winner.
      2. Informal discussion regarding award amount for multi-author winner if chosen.
   7. Programming and Events Committee: Edward Remus
      1. February 27th, we had a very successful author IFRT Reads event. The event was recorded, and recording made available. The two-event model developed of one event to read and discuss the event and the next to hear from the author seems to work well.
   8. Publications and Communications Committee: Sam Jack
      1. The newsletter is close to being finished and should be out soon.
      2. In discussions to do a revamped Annual Report this year. The timing of the report is also being discussed. Barnaby suggested that having the report come out closer to LibLearnX at a time when people are considering possible donations might be helpful. Pekoll suggested that having a different committee tasked with the annual report might help distribute the labor more evenly.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Oboler award amount for multi-author selections – Steph Barnaby. Tabled.
5. **ADJOURNMENT**
   1. Sand adjourned the meeting at 3:57 pm CDT.