Interested in Serving on an IFRT Committee?

Whether you are a new member looking for a way to become active or a veteran who wants to stay in the fray, the Intellectual Freedom Round Table is interested in hearing from you. Note your specific interests, or that you are willing to serve where needed (we love that!).

Please contact:
Christopher Bowen
Chair-elect IFRT
c/o ALA-OIF
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611.

Support the Freedom to Read

Executive Committee Holds Active Session

William P. Davis, Chair, IFRT

The IFRT Executive Committee met twice at Midwinter to carry out the business of the Round Table. Several topics were discussed:

The Committee discussed proposed wording for the Social Responsibilities Round Table document “Guidelines for Librarians Interacting with South Africa.” Al Kagan and Lorraine Haricombe of SRRT spoke on the evolution of the document and asked for support by the Committee. A wide variety of opinions was expressed, but at the end the Committee voted not to support the guidelines as presently written. The South African question was settled for this meeting but may be revived again this summer.

Membership chair Laureen Drapp reported that IFRT is now the largest Round Table of the American Library Association. Our membership now totals 1,805. The Second Annual Get To Know Intellectual Freedom Reception will be held June 25, 1990 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. It is again anticipated that New Members Round Table will participate and individual state intellectual freedom committees are expected to attend.

The Committee heard more about the 1990 Conference program. The next issue of this newsletter will include substantial information about this program which discusses the thorny question of “Living the Library Bill of Rights.” Emphasis will be on the question of equality of access for all. As librarians, do we believe in equality of access for all? If we do believe in it, is it pragmatically achievable?

Christopher Bowen, Vice-chair/Chair-elect, outlined plans for the Summer ’91 Conference program, tentatively titled “Kids Have Rights Too.” The information presented by Bowen gives promise of another dynamic program that should attract wide attention.

IFRT approved its annual $1000 contribution to the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Several committee chairs reported on the status of their committee activities. Because of problems earlier in 1989, news releases for some of the awards committees had been delayed. The deadline for submitting nominations for the Immroth and State Program awards was extended to March 31, 1990. Press releases were issued announcing those extensions.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates for the next election.

Several other topics were reviewed and standard housekeeping performed before adjournment till June.
**Intellectual Freedom and the American Library Association**

IFRT members are familiar with the Round Table’s activities and have some awareness of the Office for Intellectual Freedom. Many divisions have Intellectual Freedom Committees or committees which have an awareness of intellectual freedom activities as part of their charge. Below is a list of such committees (from the 1989/90 ALA Handbook of Organization), the name of the person chairing the committee, and the committee’s charge.

**ALA Council, Intellectual Freedom Committee**  
Chair: Gordon M. Conable  
To recommend such steps as may be necessary to safeguard the rights of library users, libraries, and librarians, in accordance with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the *Library Bill of Rights* as adopted by ALA Council. To work closely with the OIF and with other units and officers of the Association in matters touching intellectual freedom and censorship.

**AASL, Intellectual Freedom Committee**  
Chair: William A. Murray  
To prepare and gather materials which will advise the school library media specialist of available services and support both in formulating policies of intellectual freedom and for resisting local pressure and community action designed to impair the rights of users.

**ALTA, Intellectual Freedom Committee**  
Chair: Madeleine Grant  
To support the rights of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the ALA Library Bill of Rights.

**ALSC, Intellectual Freedom Committee**  
Chair: Sandra A. Collins  
To serve as a liaison between the division and the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee and all other groups within the association concerned with intellectual freedom. To advise the division on matters before the OIF and their implication for library service to children and to make recommendations to the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee for changes in policies involving library service to children; to promote in-service and continuing education programs in the area of intellectual freedom for those who select library materials for children.

**LAMA, Public Relations Section, Public Affairs Committee**  
Chair: Edward Lee Klee  
To identify trends affecting libraries or developments in public perception of libraries, such as changes in readership patterns, the growth or decline of continuing education, or issues in intellectual freedom. To develop environmental scanning techniques to forecast policy issues affecting library science and to indicate public relations solutions where appropriate.

**PLA, Intellectual Freedom Committee**  
Chair: Brenda Johnson  
To serve as liaison between the PLA and the ALA OIF, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, the Freedom to Read Foundation, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Round Table, and other units with ALA activities related to intellectual freedom; to advise PLA on matters relating to intellectual freedom and their implication for public library service and to make recommendations for action to the PLA Board; and to prepare and gather materials which will advise the public librarian of available services and support both in formulating policies of intellectual freedom and for resisting local pressure and community action designed to impair the rights of users.

**YASD, Intellectual Freedom Committee**  
Chair: Robert C. Small  
To serve as a liaison between the division and the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee and all other groups within the Association concerned with intellectual freedom; to advise the division on matters pertaining to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the ALA Library Bill of Rights and their implication to library service to young adults and to make recommendations to the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee for changes in policy on issues involving library service to young adults; to prepare and gather materials which will advise the young adult librarian of available services and support for resisting local pressure and community action designed to impair the rights of young adult users.

**Editor's Remarks**

If you expected an IFRT Report before Mid-Winter, then you will find that we are later than expected. The Report has been getting a face-lift and the Publications Committee did not find itself ready to start 1990 in a timely fashion. We hope that the bright face and excitement of this Report will mitigate its unusual appearance date.

We owe gratitude to those librarians whose copy appears in this issue of the Report, to Anne E. Levinson of the OIF who fearlessly probed the depths of 50 East Huron’s reprographics facilities for answers to our IFRT Report dilemmas, including seeking out a new look for the newsletter, designed by ALA staffer Ellen Scanlon.

It is the intention of the Round Table to get another issue of IFRT Report into your hands before you pack your bags for Chicago. In order to insure that we meet that deadline, we are asking that all material for the next issue be in the editor’s hands by May 1, 1990. It will be a special issue, I think. This is IFRT Report No. 29. This summer, the newsletter will turn thirtysomething.

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Head Slate of Candidates for Round Table Offices

William P. Davis, Chair

A slate of candidates for this year’s IFRT elections was presented to the Executive Committee at ALA’s Mid-Winter Meeting by Nominating Committee Chair Laurence Miller. Miller’s committee made the following nominations and all proposed candidates have agreed to serve if elected.

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Frances McDonald
Library Media Educ. Director
Mankato State University
Mankato, MN

Martha Merrill
Houston Cole Library
Jackson State University
Jacksonville, AL

Secretary
Doug Archer
Reference Department
Hesburgh Library
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN

Sylvia Turchyn
Asst. Head, Cataloging
Indiana University Library
Bloomington, IN

Directors
(2 will be elected to serve)
Anne Marie Allison
Director of Libraries
University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL

Pamela Bonnell
Plano Public Library
Plano, TX

Barbara Jones
Head of Reference
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, MN

John Swan
Crossett Library
Bennington College
Bennington, VT

Each candidate has had extensive experience working in the area of intellectual freedom and we encourage you to consider your candidates carefully.

From the Nuts and Bolts of the Library Bill of Rights to Soapbox Speeches: IFRT Plans an Active Chicago Summer

Round Table members will wish to mark their calendars for these events scheduled for the Annual Conference.

Saturday, June 23, 2–4 p.m.
IFRT/IFC/Divisional IFC’s Joint Program

“Living the Library Bill of Rights”
Article 5 of the Bill reads, “A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.” Eric Moon, past chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, will speak on the practical issues hidden behind the rhetoric and Virginia Cooper and William Jones will respond. Also: the IFRT awards—Oboler, Immroth, and State Intellectual Freedom Program awards will be presented.

Monday, June 25, 9:30–12:30
Membership Meeting and Soapbox Speeches

Find out what is going on around you. IFRT is replacing the Roll Call of the States with an experimental open microphone session, where ALA members can, within set time limits, demonstrate the power of free speech. First the business of the membership—then a chance to hear what the vocal community of librarians has to say on IF issues. Access for minors? AIDS education? Fees for service? English-only libraries? We can’t predict what will be the topics, but we can urge you to come prepared to mount your own soapbox in turn and to listen to those who also speak.

Monday, June 25, 5:30–7:30
Second Annual “Get to Know Intellectual Freedom Reception”

Members of the IFRT, the divisional Intellectual Freedom Committees, ALA’s IFC, and staff from the Office for Intellectual Freedom will be on hand at this reception, co-sponsored by the New Members Round Table. Perhaps you can follow up on Soapbox Speeches, meet someone whose experience in IF can help you, or just talk about how to get active over hors d’oeuvres and cash bar beverages.

This is an irregular publication of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of the American Library Association and is sent to members of the Round Table. Membership information and/or correspondence about your subscription should be addressed to: IFRT, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611. Editorial correspondence should be addressed to: B. B. Rile, Wright Memorial Public Library, 1776 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton (Oakwood), Ohio 45419.
IFRT Seeks Donations to Establish Immroth Endowment

Anne E. Levinson, IFRT Staff Liaison

Each year, the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award honors courageous intellectual freedom fighters. The $500 cash award is funded from the IFRT’s general budget. At the suggestion of Barbara Immroth, the IFRT has set aside an account to receive donations toward the establishment of an endowment to fund the Immroth Award, which would free the IFRT funds for other uses and offer the opportunity to eventually increase the cash amount of this prestigious award. The IFRT’s goal is to raise $10,000 by 1992. Barbara Immroth herself has set the ball rolling by contributing a $100.00 honorarium she received for a speech. Contributions may be sent to ALA-Immroth Endowment Fund, c/o Office for Intellectual Freedom, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Intellectual Freedom Round Table
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FIRST CLASS