

**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

11:00am - 12:30pm AKST; 12:00-1:30pm PST; 1:00-2:30pm MST; 2:00-3:30pm CST; 3:00-4:30pm EST

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Kristin Anderson, Audrey Barbakoff, Stephanie Barnaby, Latrice Booker, Jeremy Brett, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Peter Coyl, Ellie Diaz, Michael Furlong, Martin Garnar, Johanna Genett, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, Wanda Huffaker, Trish Hull, Ray James, Charles Kratz, Rebecca Moorman, Steve Norman, Angela Ocaña, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Shane Roopnarine, Crystal Schimpf, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez, Ma'Lis Wendt.

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

Huffaker called the meeting to order 2:04pm CST. A quorum was established.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

We introduced ourselves over Zoom.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Hull moved to approve the agenda and Barnaby seconded. The motion carried, and the committee voted to approve the agenda.

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Hull moved to approve the [meeting minutes](#) from October 28, 2020. Barnaby seconded. The motion carried, and the committee voted to approve the minutes.

**V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

A. Chair: Wanda Huffaker

- i. Reminder: [IFRT Virtual Happy Hour](#) this Friday 12/11 at 5:00pm CST. Everyone is invited to a casual chat about intellectual freedom issues. Wanda wants to get people chatting informally in a setting where we are not voting or under pressure to figure out what the answers are.

- ii. Representing IFRT on a Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) task force on Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice. Please [email](#) Huffaker if you would like to contribute to the discussion.
- B. Treasurer: Steve Norman
  - i. Can't yet provide a detailed report, because of the delay in ALA's financial reporting (our financial reports are current only through March 2020). IFRT is solidly in the black, and our only recent expense has been about \$1,200 for awards.
  - ii. Norman will meet with Huffaker and Helmick in the next month to discuss FY22 budget priorities, and prepare a draft budget for the January IFRT Executive Committee meeting. The budget is due to Deborah Caldwell-Stone by February 2021.
- C. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson
  - i. Working on member profiles with the Publications Committee. Vasquez will report on later in the meeting.
- D. Director at Large: Stephanie Barnaby
  - i. Council's Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) met on November 16, 2020, and Barnaby's report is available in [Connect](#).
  - ii. The Forward Together Working Group is still collecting feedback (through [email](#) or [form](#)).
  - iii. The [Intellectual Freedom blog](#) and the [Voices for Privacy blog](#) are seeking bloggers. Please help out!
- E. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
  - i. The first IFRT Virtual Salon was a success. On November 13 we had a discussion on Civic Literacy. Prompts included What are libraries' roles? How can IFRT support these efforts?
- F. Director at Large: Angela Ocaña
  - i. Nothing to report.
- G. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
  - i. Nothing to report.

**VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR:** Martin Garnar

- A. ALA Council has finished its six [Forward Together](#) information sessions on restructuring ALA governance. Last week Council held a special election to approve a new timeline for the effort, which passed. The Forward Together Working Group will submit their report and disband. A new working group will begin to make recommendations on what changes we will actually see, as we adopt Forward Together plans which incorporate stakeholder feedback.
- B. No resolutions have been submitted to Council yet for Midwinter. When IFC has any resolutions ready to share, Garnar will coordinate with Barnaby to get them to this group.

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

- A. A reminder that ALA staff will be on furlough December 20-26. No blog posts or social media will be going out that week. Pekoll will confirm whether PubComm may post on social media that week. ALA Connect will be up and running, but ALA staff will not be available for support or to facilitate conversations.
- B. Be sure to preorder the tenth edition of the [Intellectual Freedom Manual](#).
- C. Registration for [Virtual Midwinter](#) closes on January 15. The IFRT Meeting will be held Sunday January 24, 2021 2:30-3:30pm CST in Zoom.
- D. The [Intellectual Freedom Blog](#) is looking for new bloggers, and has shifted to a quarterly recruitment system. The application is open, and the next deadline is February 16.
- E. Be sure to share the [Report Censorship Toolkit](#) widely.
- F. [Humble Bundle](#) is doing a campaign to benefit ALA, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and the Spectrum Scholarship. Over \$800 of ebooks and audiobooks that feature and highlight PoC authors, creators, and characters are available, and content can be accessed for a donation as small as \$1. The bigger the donation, the more books you can access. The campaign runs through February 8, 2021.
- G. Pekoll shared new [IFRT membership data](#) showing various statistics about IFRT members (member types, years of continuous membership, etc.). As of November we have 1,136 members. Barnaby asked why there is a 2% margin of error. Pekoll suspected it is related to reporting delays, and will confirm. We discussed sending a special thank you letter to IFRT members with over 25 years of continuous membership (123 people have been IFRT members for 20-36 years!).

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Membership Committee: Johannah Genett
  - i. We discussed and expressed support for [three committee proposals](#).

- I. Holding an online gathering for all IFRT members in Q1 or Q2 of 2021. Barnaby expressed concern about time commitments; we don't want this to be too close to Midwinter. Sometime between Midwinter and Annual might work best.
  - II. Starting an active member list to identify those members who can be tapped for other opportunities (new member highlights or nominations to committees). This would be an opt-in list, and we could recruit Salon attendees, and new or continuing members through the welcome letter.
  - III. Reducing or eliminating membership fees in 2021 for students. The committee would like to meet with the treasurer to explore this idea, and Norman is happy to oblige. A bylaws change isn't necessary, since this would be a one-time offer.
- B. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Charles Kratz
- i. In October, we voted that the Oboler Award be changed to an annual award that honors in every other year books, in one year, and articles in the other year; we agreed to make the appropriate changes to the bylaws or handbook as needed, with a timeline as recommended by the Oboler Committee. Kratz reported that the committee has moved on this plan, and established a timeline to honor an article in 2022 and a book in 2023.
- C. Bylaws Committee: Trish Hull
- i. Proposing a larger [change to the bylaws](#), in the section about committees. In article VII, section 4, listing what the standing committees are, and removing items 1 through 9 that describe each committee. Adding "changes to the charge of standing committees must be approved by the Executive Committee." That way we don't have to wait a whole year to vote on a bylaws change to make changes in a committee. This level of detail does not have to be in the bylaws, and it can more reasonably live in the handbook. Hull moved that we forward this bylaws change to the membership for the spring election. Barnaby seconded. The motion passed with no objections or abstentions.
  - ii. Also proposing a special working group to look at the Education Special Advisory Committee and the Program Committee, and whether they should be combined or changed (e.g., the special committee change to a standing committee). The working group will be composed of the Bylaws Committee, Education Special Advisory Committee Chair, Program Committee Chair, IFRT President, and IFRT President-Elect. Barnaby also volunteered. The group will meet the second week of January and bring a plan to our meeting at Midwinter.

- D. Coalition Building Committee: Shane Roopnarine
- i. The deadline for the [Hodges Award](#) is January 4, 2021. It's been promoted over social media and at the SIFNet meeting last week. No submissions yet. Let Roopnarine know of worthy candidates and he'll send a letter encouraging submission.
- E. Education Special Advisory Committee: Sarah Hartman-Caverly
- i. Submitted a [report](#) on Connect about the committee's contributions, including the first IFRT Salon and the IFRT Reads book club.
  - ii. Save the date and call for panelists! In observance of Freedom to Read Week (Canada), IFRT-EASC will host a webinar on Friday, February 26, 2021, from 1-2:30pm CST: *Frosty Windows, Frosty Mirrors: Representation, Labeling, Discoverability, and the Chilling Effect*. More details are in Hartman-Caverly's [report](#).
  - iii. Looking forward to the special meeting in January. The Education Special Advisory Committee and the Program Committee are already working closely, so she anticipates a smooth transition to a new structure.
- F. Nominating Committee: Angela Ocaña (for Audrey Barbakoff)
- i. Presented [slate of candidates](#) for office. Garnar moved that we accept the slate of nominees for IFRT leadership positions in the spring election. Ocaña seconded. The motion passed with 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.
- G. Program Committee: Jennifer Steele
- i. IFRT is co-sponsoring three programs for Annual with the Intellectual Freedom Committee: Social Justice Requires Broadband Access; Can I Wear or Say That?: Free Speech in the Workplace; and Freedom of the Press, Assembly, and Speech: First Amendment Issues Today.
  - ii. For the Chair's Program the submission portal hasn't opened yet. The theme is diversity & inclusion, and the topic is Doing a diversity audit of your library collection.
- H. Publications and Communications Committee: Amanda Vazquez
- i. Have been promoting awards on social media. Scheduled to be shared one or two more times before the deadlines.
  - ii. Twitter chats have been going on. The next one is scheduled December 17.
  - iii. The committee is working on a checklist for promoting events (when to promote, how to distill announcements for Twitter, etc.).

- iv. Remember to contact Amanda to publicize anything, particularly awards. You can reach her by [email](#) or in Connect.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Huffaker thanked all of us for our enthusiastic hard work and contributions to the IFRT and ALA. She is so amazed and grateful. She adjourned the meeting at 3:27pm CDT.

### **Nominees for 2021**

#### President:

Stephanie Barnaby  
Steve Norman

#### Treasurer:

Jennifer Steele  
Crystal Schimpf

#### Director at Large (x2)

Rhonda Evans  
Kristen Green  
Johana Orellana  
Amanda Vazquez  
Sarah Hartman-Caverly

#### IFRT Councilor

Peter Coyl