

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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 and Guests Present:

Kristin Anderson, Audrey Barbakoff, Stephanie Barnaby, Latrice Booker, Deborah Caldwell-Stone and Midnight, Katie Chamberlain, Ellie Diaz, Ginny Edwards, Martin Garnar, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Trish Hull, Ray James, Rebecca Moorman, Steve Norman, Kristin Pekoll, Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Shane Roopnarine, Crystal Schimpf, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez, Ma'Lis Wendt.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Huffaker called the meeting to order at 1:01pm CST. A quorum was established.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

We introduced ourselves using the Zoom chat feature.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Norman moved to approve the agenda. Hull seconded. The motion carried, and the committee voted to approve the agenda with no objections.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [January 24, 2021](#). Hull moved to approve the minutes. Anderson seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

B. IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [February 8, 2021](#). Roopnarine moved to approve the minutes. Vazquez seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

V. LESSA PELAYO-LOZADA, Candidate for ALA President

Lessa is the Adult Services Assistant Manager at the Palos Verdes Library District, in Southern California, and a [candidate for ALA President](#). She asked to meet with us to introduce herself and her platform.

Lessa is honored to have worked with some IFRT members while chairing SCOE [ALA's Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness] the last two years. She acknowledged the work IFRT members have done, and how our steadfast support for free expression

Page 1 of 6 Minutes

demonstrates our commitment to our core values. IFRT's webinars and programs provide excellent opportunities for ALA members, including Lessa, to learn more about these important topics. She thanked us for our support of the Merritt Fund, and she appreciates our support for library workers who faced financial challenges for either who they are, or for their support of intellectual freedom.

ALA is in a period of great transition. Changing expectations for member engagement, financial stability, and the call to become a truly equitable institution are all areas that Lessa intends to address as our next ALA president. She brings 14 years of member leader experience; serving on ALA's Executive Board, three terms on ALA Council, SCOE Chair, and President and current Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA). She also brings her whole self, as a mixed race native Hawaiian woman and children's librarian and now a middle manager, to the position of ALA President, a role typically held by administrators. She sees herself as an ALA president representing the hands-on work so many of our members do every day.

As she asks for our vote, Lessa hopes that we will join her ([website](#), [twitter](#), [facebook](#), [instagram](#), or [email](#)), and dig deeper into her vision for ALA as an association that practices and models racial equity, inclusion, and antiracism, models organizational excellence and sustainability, and commits to our core values through partnerships that amplify our ideals in conjunction with strong advocacy work like we all do on members' behalf.

Q&A:

Garnar: What is your vision for how the conversations about social justice and intellectual freedom might continue, or what sorts of initiatives might you take in those areas?

Pelayo-Lozada: I'm excited about the task forces that are being developed with the Freedom to Read Foundation and the Intellectual Freedom Committee. If I become president I'm committed to continuing this conversation. As an association we really need to come to some agreement and to come together for a path forward, and I see them as two things that intersect very well and really enhance one another, so by having these conversations it will allow us to move forward as the association that I know we can be.

[Unknown]: What's your favorite banned book?

Pelayo-Lozada: I really love the graphic novel *Drama*. I will tell you my library did a series of YouTube videos a couple of years ago where staff all did a little pitch on their favorite banned books, which was pretty fun.

Huffaker: I don't know if this is a question or a comment. Since Garnar is going off Council, and he's done such a great job of representing our opinions, I have a lot of concerns about who represents the voices of round tables in council.

Pelayo-Lozada: As we all know Forward Together is in the hands of Council right now, and I see round tables having a continued voice and seat at the table in ALA's governance structure. We're not sure what this structure will look like yet, but we know that round tables are beloved by the membership and it's where a lot of folks find homes within the association. So

I want to make sure that round tables continue to have a voice and continue to have the support that they need to do their great work.

VI. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

- A. Chair: Wanda Huffaker
 - i. A quick happy birthday to Kristin Pekoll!
 - ii. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the outstanding workshop last week [[Frosty Windows, Frosty Mirrors: Representation, Labeling, Discoverability and the Chilling Effect](#)].
 - iii. A big thank you to the people on every committee this year. I'm so amazed to be able to work with such smart people. Thank you all for being so wonderful.
- B. Chair-Elect: Sam Helmick
 - i. Want to echo that it's been very inspiring to see all of your hard work, and looking forward to next year.
- C. Treasurer: Steve Norman
 - i. Nothing to report, except we do seem to be solvent still.
- D. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson
 - i. Nothing to report, just committee work. Membership spotlight.
- E. Director at Large: Stephanie Barnaby
 - i. We got in touch with [Henry Reichman](#), so the next IFRT Reads will be the 2020 Oboler winning title, [the Future of Academic Freedom](#).
- F. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
 - i. Nothing to report, except to agree with Wanda's assessment of the Frosty Windows panel. It was excellent, and the two colleagues I pulled in to attend with me were planning to join IFRT by the end of the webinar.

VII. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Martin Garnar

- A. Is on the Forward Together working group, will be attending biweekly meetings between now and ALA Annual, sometimes having to leave this meeting early. He will be on the working group that is writing a statement or resolution related to the core values. Other working groups will focus on committees, executive board, round tables, leadership assemblies, and changes to council.

VIII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. A responsibility of the Bylaws Committee and OIF is to make changes to the IFRT Handbook and report back to the Executive Committee as part of our regular reports. Here are the latest updates.
- B. 2/18/2021 - Updated [Publications and Communications Committee](#)
 - i. added [IFRT blog template](#) (the link will prompt you to make a copy) to “Tools”
 - ii. added “Promote Pub/Com Chair to IFRT Member Community Admin to facilitate creating events and sending emails” to “OIF Responsibilities”
- C. 2/18/2021 - Updated [Secretary](#)
 - i. added “Staff liaison will promote the secretary to IFRT Member Community Admin to facilitate creating events and sending emails.” to “Tasks”
- D. 2/22/2021 - Updated [Membership Committee](#)
 - i. added [Active Member List](#) to “Relevant Websites”
 - ii. added “Forward Active Member forms to committee member responsible for follow up” to “OIF Responsibilities”
- E. Financial reporting update
 - i. Hoping to get the closing figures for FY2020 in May, before our next conference meeting. Pekoll will work with Huffaker, Helmick and Norman to bring that forward. We will receive quarterly budget reports in the future vs. monthly, which should not affect this group, who doesn't spend a lot of money.
- F. ALA furlough in March
 - i. Reminder that ALA is implementing furloughs in March, so ALA employees are not allowed to perform any work duties, including responding to emails or supporting Zoom meetings, from Monday March 15 through Sunday March 21. Please contact them if you need assistance before that time.
 - ii. Emerging Leaders Working Group is looking for a volunteer from IFRT. The group will design the program content to assess applicants and to survey participants. They want to make sure that is a dynamic learning experience and that will continue to adapt and grow. Let Pekoll know if you are interested.
 - iii. ALA Annual Conference is scheduled Jun 23-29, and [registration](#) is open. It will be virtual.
 - iv. ALA is having a large [moving sale](#), as the bookstore is downsizing to a smaller warehouse. Look for goodies!
 - v. Ellie is looking to downsize OIF inventory, so let them know if we need content.

- G. Bylaws Committee: Trish Hull
- i. Waiting for election to happen, to make sure bylaws changes are approved. Will make the agreed upon changes at that time.
- H. Coalition Building Committee: Shane Roopnarine
- i. Nominations have closed for the Hodges Award, and they have two applicants. They are moving forward with evaluating and selecting a nominee.
- I. Education Special Advisory Committee: Sarah Hartman-Caverly
- i. Thanks for the positive reinforcement for the event last month, and thank you especially to all the members in the room who contributed, and to Kristin for being the tech guru! Within the next few days everyone who attended should be receiving a feedback form. They had 423 registrants, and 251 unique logins. The recordings are now available in the [blog post](#).
- J. Membership Committee: Johannah Genett (report read by Rebecca Moorman)
- i. The Membership Committee met Feb 10 and has successfully implemented the [active member list](#). Contact the committee if you are looking for a member who wants to increase their involvement.
 - ii. Submitted a draft press release to Amanda Vazquez for the free student memberships. Working on an emailing list for the press release. Free signup period is approximately March 15 thru April 15. Considering hosting a meet & greet for these new members.
 - iii. Set a tentative date for the 1st annual online gathering of IFRT Members: Fri, Apr 30 3-4pm (Central). Identifying topics and speakers. Submitted a draft press release to Amanda Vazquez.
 - iv. Committee meets again on March 5.
- K. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Ma'Lis Wendt
- i. Happy to work with the Publications Committee on a blog post about the Merritt Fund.
 - ii. Wondered if there had been any discussion about how to do celebrations, now that we are virtual and we still have the 50th anniversary for the Merritt Fund. Huffaker asked that anyone with ideas for a virtual awards ceremony please email her.
- L. Nominating Committee: Audrey Barbakoff
- i. Nothing to report.

Program Committee: Jennifer Steele

- i. We submitted three ALA Annual conference session proposals cosponsored by IFC, and two were accepted: *Social Justice Requires Broadband Access* (recorded), and *Can I Wear or Say that? Free Speech in the Workplace* (live).
- ii. The theme of the Chair's Presentation is diversity and inclusion, and our topic is a diversity audit of your collection. The submission form for chair's presentation will open on March 8 and deadline to submit will be April 12. Program Committee will meet soon to work on that submission. This will be live unless we request otherwise. They'll let us know the session date and time by April 26th.

M. Publications and Communications Committee: Amanda Vazquez

- i. Social media is carrying on, with good engagement and good content on Facebook and Twitter from the community members. Highlighting student memberships in the next week or two, promoting election happy hour.
- ii. Committee will begin working on the End of Year IFRT Report shortly.

IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE

- A. Huffaker introduced Latrice Booker, ALA Executive Board Liaison to IFRT. Booker said if any of us have any questions we'd like to have addressed by the board, please let her know, and she'll get back to us as soon as she can. Barnaby asked what the [executive board](#) does. Booker explained that Council is ALA's governing body, and the board acts for the Council in the administration of established policies and programs. The two bodies work closely, and while the board does not have any governing power, they do have the ability to influence what issues move forward within the organization. All Executive Board [meetings](#) are open (except when they go into executive session, which primarily happens when discussing legal implications for ALA). All the business surrounding the governing of ALA is discussed in public.
- B. Upcoming events: March 8 - [Election Happy Hour](#); March 8 - April 7 - ALA Election; April 7 - IFRT Executive Committee meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Huffaker adjourned the meeting at 2:54pm CST.