

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

11am - 12:30pm AKDT; 12pm-1:30pm PDT; 1pm-2:30pm MDT; 2pm-3:30pm CDT; 3pm-4:30pm EDT

MINUTES

Members Present:

Kristin Anderson, Audrey Barbakoff, Stephanie Barnaby, Latrice Booker, Jeremy Brett, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Ellie Diaz, Michael Furlong, Martin Garnar, Johannah Genett, Steven Greechie, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Trish Hull, Charles Kratz, Rebecca Moorman, 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 at 2:04pm CDT. A quorum was established.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

We introduced ourselves and talked about what is going on in our libraries now.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Barbakoff moved to approve the agenda. Hull 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 July 15, 2020](#). Hartman-Caverly seconded. The motion carried, and the committee voted to approve the minutes.

V. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. Chair: Wanda Huffaker

- i. IFRT's Treasurer, Ashley Brown, has found it necessary to resign her position. The bylaws state that the chair can appoint a replacement with board approval. Huffaker has appointed Steve Norman to

complete Ashley's term. Barnaby moved that the board approve this appointment, Kratz seconded. The motion passed.

- ii. Huffaker reminded us to review the [Executive Committee section of the IFRT Handbook](#), especially about how to formally endorse resolutions. This will be more important as we approach ALA Midwinter, but it's good for us to understand the protocols and help her do things right.
 - iii. Huffaker has been participating in the Round Table Coordinating Assembly task force, which came out of the SCOE process. The group is working on a template for standardized round table bylaws, and Huffaker has asked Trish Hull and the bylaws committee to take over that effort for IFRT.
 - iv. Our Round Table membership has dipped below 1,000 members, and Huffaker is looking for more ideas to engage members. Ideas that came out of a joint meeting of the Membership and Education committees include holding a regular IFRT Salon; a monthly Zoom get-together on a Saturday. This would be a casual chat ("speakeasy") about issues of importance to intellectual freedom. Another idea is Friday Happy Hours, a super casual start to the weekend with no agenda, just a social to get people together.
- B. Director at Large: Stephanie Barnaby
- i. Set up a spreadsheet of Fridays for Happy Hour coverage. A long conversation ensued about the Friday/Saturday Zoom events. Hartman-Caverly noted that the Scary Stories watch party is envisioned as the first of these IFRT events. Vasquez will work with Huffaker and Barnaby to develop questions, and will poll Scary Stories participants via Twitter about their interest in future events. Pekoll will share the [meeting minutes](#), so we can continue this conversation online.
- C. Director at Large: Angela Ocaña
- i. Likes the idea of the Salon or Happy Hour as a way to engage new members. She is hearing from members that ALA feels more accessible now that conferences are online and more affordable. Our efforts can help engage this audience of younger librarians.
- D. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
- i. Nothing to report, but agrees with Angela.

VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Martin Garnar

- A. ALA Council has held two of [six meetings with a Forward Together working group](#), focusing on how the proposed recommendations would play out.
- B. Garnar mentioned his [Connect post](#) about adding a seventh standing committee for professional values, which is where IFRT would likely live. If the Forward Together working group gets enough feedback from enough people, they may add that committee to their recommendation. The group is still collecting and considering [feedback](#), if you'd like to add your support for this idea, or make any other comments.
- C. About 70 of 100 councilors have been attending these meetings, so conversation is not as robust as Garnar expected. There are concerns about diversity (geographic, library type, etc.) in new structure. Council is meeting much more frequently than ever, now that they're meeting remotely. Budget discussions are on the agenda for the next meeting.

VII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. Banned Books Week is coming up in less than two weeks (Sept. 27-Oct. 3). If you visit the [IFRT Facebook page](#), Ellie did a series of posts about book challenges as a countdown to the week. There are a lot of program ideas and events on ALA's [Banned & Challenged Books](#) page, and the OIF is involved in the Scary Stories documentary watch party, Dear Banned Author letter writing campaign, and the video premiere of [Books on the Chopping Block](#), a series of dramatic readings from Chicago's CityLit Theater.
- B. [ALA Connect Live](#) is a monthly ALA-wide membership event, hosted by president Julius Jefferson. On Thursday September 24th, 1pm CDT, Jefferson will be joined by ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair, Martin L. Garnar, and Freedom to Read Foundation President, Barbara Stripling for this program, scheduled the week prior to Banned Books Week.
- C. Pekoll asked how we want OIF staff to keep us up to date on meeting dates. Would a master calendar be beneficial? Vasquez expressed some interest, and we said we'd discuss over Connect. Please comment on the [draft](#).

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Bylaws Committee: Trish Hull
 - i. They will hold their first meeting in October, and will be comparing existing bylaws to the new Forward Together template.

- B. Coalition Building Committee: Shane Roopnarine
 - i. They have done introductions and will schedule a meeting soon.

- C. Education Special Advisory Committee: Sarah Hartman-Caverly
 - i. The committee has been really busy preparing for Banned Books Week. More details are in their [committee report](#). As a highlight, they put together a virtual [escape room](#) adventure and will have lots of prizes. Please share and promote on social media!

- D. Immroth Committee: Cyndi Robinson
 - i. Their first meeting is scheduled for October 1.

- E. Membership Committee: Johanna Genett
 - i. nothing to report

- F. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Ma'Lis Wendt
 - i. Wondering about the awards ceremony we had been planning for Midwinter. Do we want to do something virtual in January? Huffaker said a discussion is still on the table, since we have multiple rounds of awards to handle. Discussion to be continued.

- G. Nominating Committee: Audrey Barbakoff
 - i. Meeting tomorrow (Sept. 17).

- H. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Charles Kratz
 - i. First meeting will be in October.

- I. Program Committee: Jennifer Steele
 - i. First meeting will be Friday Sept. 18, and they'll be discussing the Chair's Program for ALA.

J. Publications and Communications Committee: Amanda Vasquez

- i. The committee has met twice, and will meet again during Banned Books Week. They created five [Zoom backgrounds](#) (one for each day of Banned Books Week) and updated the Banned Authors Calendar. Amanda noted that Sarah is a Twitter rock star. Please contact her if you need anything promoted.

IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE

Huffaker wondered what all the Banned Books Week webinars are coming up. Hartman-Caverly shared a list, and OIF will put out a [press release](#). They will be every day at noon CDT during Banned Books Week.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Huffaker adjourned the meeting at 3:13pm CDT.