

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2020

11:00am - 12:30pm AKDT; 12:00-1:30pm PDT; 1:00-2:30pm MDT; 2:00-3:30pm CDT; 3:00-4:30pm EDT

MINUTES

Members Present:

Kristin Anderson, Audrey Barbakoff, Stephanie Barnaby, Latrice Booker, Jeremy Brett, Ellie Diaz, Pat Dunn, Michael Furlong, Martin Garnar, Johanna Genett, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, Wanda Huffaker, Trish Hull, Charles Kratz, Rebecca Moorman, Steve Norman, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Shane Roopnarine, Jennifer Steele, Karen Tierney, Amanda Vasquez, Ma'Lis Wendt.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Barbakoff called the meeting to order 2:06pm CDT. A quorum was established.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

We introduced ourselves over Zoom. In addition to Executive Board members, we welcomed two IFRT members to the meeting.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Garnar moved to approve the agenda and Anderson 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 September 16, 2020. [-?-] seconded. The motion carried, and the committee voted to approve the minutes.

V. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. Treasurer: Steve Norman

i. Just took over as Treasurer; nothing to report at this time.

- B. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
 - i. Updated the meeting agenda template with a reminder to send any content for IFRT social media and newsletters to [Amanda Vazquez](#), Chair of the Publications and Communications Committee.

- C. Director at Large: Stephanie Barnaby
 - i. IFC met on October 6, 2020. Minutes are available in the [Connect library](#).
 - ii. A large chunk of the discussion featured talk about the intersection of the values of intellectual freedom and social justice.
 - iii. [Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping](#)... a small task force crafted a statement for ALA's executive board.
 - iv. 4 Working groups provided updates: Facial Recognition Working Group (Jim DelRosso, Ann Crewdson); Digital Resources & Services Q&A Working Group (Ray James); Programming Working Group (Peter Coyl); "Resolution Condemning U.S. Media Corporations' Abridgement of Free Speech. Steph is sure that if you're looking to volunteer, it would be appreciated!
 - v. Drop a note to forwardtogether@ala.org about a seventh standing committee for Professional Values!
 - vi. There will be a November meeting... the poll is out now!

- D. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
 - i. Not to steal Johanna's thunder, but the Membership Committee will meet tomorrow (10/29) to discuss the results of the membership survey.

VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Martin Garnar

- A. Garnar has been attending [Forward Together](#) information sessions on restructuring ALA governance; four have been held so far, two more to come. They are discussing round table standardization for dues, bylaws structure, etc. A big area of contention: round tables must have membership equal to 1% of ALA membership. IFRT has higher numbers than that (although 2020 numbers are not yet available), but some of the smaller round tables could fold if this item stands. We have around 1,250 members, which is a strong position. The Forward Together working group is taking Council through these discussions and recording feedback (through [email](#) or [form](#)). If there is overwhelming agreement, they will modify their recommendations based on feedback.

- B. A special ALA Council meeting regarding Forward Together was rescheduled, and Garnar will be unable to attend. Barbakoff will monitor the meeting for any IFRT issues.

VII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. New issue of [Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy](#) will be out soon.
 - i. Will include an advertisement for IFRT.
 - ii. In return, all IFRT members are eligible for a reduced subscription price (for themselves or their institutions).
 - iii. Jennifer Steele, chair of the Program Committee, has an article in the issue: *History of Censorship in the United States*.
- B. Banned Books Week was a big success! This was the first virtual event, and Ellie Diaz will be releasing a detailed report.
- C. A reminder that ALA staff will be on furlough December 20-26, and not available to support the committee that week.
- D. The tenth edition of the [Intellectual Freedom Manual](#) is available for preorders now (editor Martin Garnar gave us a sneak peek at the galleys!).
- E. [Virtual Midwinter](#) IFRT Meeting will be held Sunday January 24, 2021 2:30-3:30pm CST. The meeting will be in Zoom (not the conference platform), and it is strongly encouraged that anyone attending the meeting be registered for the conference.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Bylaws Committee: Trish Hull
 - i. Trish asked for some clarification about her charge from the last meeting (and Connect conversation), as well as the procedure for updating bylaws. She will update the handbook to reflect that the Executive Committee agreed that the Publications & Communications Committee has the authority to co-sponsor a program without asking for permission first.
 - ii. We agreed that an Executive Board vote is not necessary to initiate bylaw changes. The Bylaws Committee will make the changes discussed by the board (changing the Education Committee from Ad Hoc to Standing), the Executive Board will vote on that changed bylaw, then the membership will vote on the bylaw change in the next election. February 6, 2021 is the deadline to send final proposed bylaw changes to be included on the ballot.

- B. Coalition Building Committee: Shane Roopnarine
- i. Press release will be out next week, and they will meet next week too. They're looking to promote the [Hodges Award](#) widely.
- C. Education Special Advisory Committee: Sarah Hartman-Caverly
- i. The first Virtual Banned Books Week was a success. They partnered with the Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table to co-promote their webinar series, and Hartman-Caverly hosted one of the webinars. They had about 400 people register, and about 200 attended (normal attrition rate). Partnering again for Freedom to Read Week in February.
 - ii. The committee's contribution was a virtual escape room, which had 47 completions (45 graphical and 2 text).
 - iii. November Virtual Salon theme will be Civic Literacy. A virtual event, moderated by Johannah Genett, on Friday, November 13. Partnering with the Membership Committee to guide the event discussion.
 - iv. Next IFRT Reading Experience will be *Beyond Banned Books*, written by Kristin Pekoll. A virtual discussion first, followed by a live event later.
- D. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Charles Kratz
- i. We had a lengthy discussion about the award's timetable, which has historically been a biannual award. If we change Oboler to an annual award, it would mean a change to the bylaws and the handbook. If the budget can support it, an annual award is a good way to showcase intellectual freedom.
 - ii. Martin Garnar moved 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, and we make the appropriate changes to the bylaws or handbook as needed, with a timeline as recommended by the Oboler Committee. Kratz seconded. Huffaker [who has taken over as chair of the meeting] asked for discussion. The motion carried.
- E. Immroth Committee: Cyndi Robinson
- i. [Nominations](#) are open for the Immroth Award. They have extended the submission deadline to December 31, so there's an extra month to submit. Please contact Robinson if you have suggestions for a good nominee.
- F. Membership Committee: Johannah Genett

- i. The group met September 21, primarily to review the team’s mission. They are meeting tomorrow (10/29), and analyzing past surveys about why members join IFRT.

- G. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Ma’Lis Wendt
 - i. Nothing to report

- H. Nominating Committee: Audrey Barbakoff
 - i. They were hoping to have a slate of candidates by this meeting, but they do not. They have had a hard time finding candidates this year; please let Barbakoff know if you are interested in running for Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Director at Large (2 positions), or IFRT Councilor, or if you can suggest someone else who would be a good candidate.

- I. Program Committee: Jennifer Steele
 - i. The committee met September 18 and came up with a plan for the Chair’s Program for Annual. The theme is diversity and inclusion, and their program is about how to do a diversity audit of your collection. The deadline for submitting chair committee programs hasn’t been announced.
 - ii. They are also co-sponsoring three programs with the Intellectual Freedom Committee: Social Justice Requires Broadband Access; Can I Wear or Say That?: Free Speech in the Workplace; and Freedom of Press, Assembly, and Speech: First Amendment Issues Today.

- J. Publications and Communications Committee: Amanda Vazquez
 - i. Monthly meeting held on 10/26. Vasquez discussed social media statistics. Gained 65 new followers on Twitter in the last three months, up to 1,765. Facebook impressions and engagements nearly doubled last year’s numbers (nearly 4,000 + 230), 1,721 followers. Most popular topics are banned books, especially the Zoom backgrounds. The [newsletter](#) went out yesterday.
 - ii. Remember to contact Amanda to publicize anything, particularly awards. You can reach her by [email](#) or in Connect.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Huffaker adjourned the meeting at 3:27pm CDT.