**American Library Association**

Intellectual Freedom Round Table

Executive Committee Meeting

2019 Midwinter Conference, Washington State Convention Center, Room 3B

Seattle, WA

Sunday, January 27, 2019

3 p.m. PST

The following members of the Executive Board were present:

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| John Mack Freeman  | IFRT Chair |
| Audrey Barbakoff | IFRT Chair – Elect  |
| Isabel Gordon Klein | IFRT Secretary  |
| Steve R. Norman | IFRT Treasurer  |
| Sarah Houghton | IFRT Director – at – Large |
| Wanda Mae Huffaker | IFRT Director – at – Large |
| Eldon “Ray” James | IFRT Director – at – Large |
| Eleanor Diaz | IFRT Staff Liaison |
| Kristin Pekoll | IFRT Staff Liaison  |
| Deborah Caldwell-Stone | IFRT Staff Liaison |
| Martin Garnar | IFRT Councilor |

The following IFRT Committee Chairs were present:

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| Cyndi Robinson | Bylaws Committee Chair, Past IFRT Chair |
| Ashley Brown | Oboler Award Committee Chair |

The following IFRT guests were present:

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| Chris Corrigan  |  |
| Howard Besser |  |
| Katie Spires |  |
| Cyndi Hamann |  |
| Leslie Purdie |  |

Absent:

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| Charles E. Kratz, Jr. | Executive Board, Nominating Committee, Past IFRT Chair |
| Kristin Anderson | Executive Board, Director – at – Large |
| Trevor Dawes | Executive Board, ALA Executive Board Liaison |
| Shenise McGhee | IFRT Coalition Building Committee Chair |
| Rebecca Moorman | Immroth Award Committee Chair |
| Samantha Helmick | Membership Committee Chair |
| Jeremy Brett | Program Committee Chair |
| Stephanie Barnaby | Publication Committee Chair |

Mack Freeman, IFRT Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. PST.

The meeting began with three candidates running for ALA Office spoke to the Board. Julius Jefferson, candidate for ALA President, spoke on his hope for better communication and collaboration as well as his IFRT membership. Andrew Pace, candidate for ALA Treasurer, discussed his excitement regarding the growth of ALA round tables, his leadership experience, and desire to invest in socially conscious funds. Lace Werner, candidate for ALA President, spoke of how his background as Chair of Michigan’s Library Association, work as an attorney, and lobbyist has prepared him for ALA Office. Mr. Werner is not a current member of IFRT, but said he has supported IF issues throughout his career by supporting access to all ideas.

After the candidates for ALA Office addressed the Board, IFRT meeting attendees introduced themselves to each other and for the record. The first action item was a review and approval of the day’s agenda. Ray James, IFRT Director – at – Large, moved to approve the agenda. Wanda Mae Huffaker, IFRT Director – at – Large, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The second action item was a review and approval of past IFRT meeting minutes. Steve Norman, IFRT Treasurer, moved to approve the past minutes. Sarah Houghton, IFRT Director – at – Large, seconded the motion. Past meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Deborah Caldwell Stone, OIF Interim Director, offered a report from the Office of Intellectual Freedom. In early February, OIF will be launching a search for a new OIF Director. The hope is to have the new Director on board by ALA Annual 2019. Caldwell Stone is sitting on the search committee. In other OIF news, progress is being made on the 10th edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual. OIF will be sponsoring eLearning opportunities in the coming year.

Steve Norman, IFRT Treasurer, provided a financial and budget report. IFRT budgeted for a deficit in 2018, but ended with a budget surplus. Overall, IFRT is in good shape with increase in memberships and dues. Looking forward, IFRT is budgeting for a deficit of $5,900 for 2020. The proposed budget will include support for an Emerging Leader and free OIF webinars to members. Approval for the proposed budget will take place at ALA Annual 2019. A proposed budget of $2,000 for continued support of the Merritt Fund in 2019. ALA Annual’s DC wine & cheese event should cost $2,000. Cyndi Robinson and Steve Norman will be helping to plan the event. In addition, Mr. Norman proposed a Merritt Award budget increase by $2,000 for 2020.

Audrey Barbakoff, IFRT Chair – Elect, inquired about creating an endowment, which the Executive Board has previously discussed. Interim Director, Caldwell Stone, replied by encouraging the IFRT Board to hold off as ALA will be issuing new endowment rules.

Mr. James moved to renew commitment to the Merritt Fund. Mr. Norman seconded the motion to renew commitment and increase support for 2020 by an additional $2,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Corrigan, Programming Committee, shared that programming initiatives are underway related to Drag Queen Storytime.

Chair Freeman provided several updates and reminders: first, IFRT Board and members should keep an eye out for changes to ALA Midwinter. Upcoming virtual meeting to occur in February.

Chair – Elect Barbakoff updated attendees on a recent panel dedicated to privacy and of an inclusive privacy week. Barbakoff encouraged fellow IFRT members to volunteer for committees.

Past-Chair Charles Kratz wrote that the fundraising task force was going well. ALA Annual’s IFRT breakfast and Capitol Steps events will serve as fundraisers. The Merritt Social has now merged with IFRT Breakfast.

Director – at – Large James encouraged members to post on Facebook’s IF Fighters page; for example, prison censorship and books. Director – at – Large Huffaker reported that the Strategic Planning Task Force is going well. Secretary Klein did not have any news to report.

The next action item on the agenda was the IFRT Councilor Report. Councilor Garnar provided updates from ALA Council. The ALA Awards Committee proposed a name change to the Lemony Snicket Award. A resolution was passed for an online voting task force. In addition, ALA Council passed the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship. Council proposed adoption of the definition of sex under Title IX and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. In addition, a Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting for ALA Council was proposed.

The following interpretations were also discussed: Copyright (COPE); Meeting Rooms (IFC); Prisoners Right to Read (IFC); Diversity in Collection Development (IFC); Challenged Resources (IFC).

Additional changes are underway to the Library Bill of Rights Article VII (IFC) as privacy is not explicitly mentioned. Within the Policy Manual, ALA Council passed changes to B.8.10 "Library Services to the Poor" Policy, which addresses poverty.

IFRT Director – at – Large Houghton moved to endorse ALA Council’s Principle of Eliminating Library Fines. Director – at – Large James seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IFRT Councilor Garnar concluded by sharing upcoming ALA Council meeting will include discussion/recrafting of the following documents: Interpretations on Meeting Rooms and Prisoners’ Rights to Read.

Director – at – Large James moved to endorse block voting. Director – at – Large Huffaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trevor Dawes, ALA Executive Board Liaison, uploaded his report to ALA Connect.

Emerging Leader IFRT project has been selected and work being done regarding prisoners’ rights.

Chair Freeman provided an update on the Strategic Planning Committee. The key takeaway is that the process is ongoing. Potential impact on draft budget as IFRT cannot have a return on investment without investment.

Staff Liaison, Kristin Pekoll, provided several updates. First, IFRT Handbook Feedback is ongoing with work still to be done on conference procedures and responsibilities. The role of Directors – at – Large have been underutilized. Responsibilities should be more evenly distributed related to IFRT projects/tasks.

IFRT Chair – Elect Barbakoff ended the meeting with a reminder of the FRF 50th Anniversary Celebration at Annual 2019.

IFRT Councilor Garnar motioned to adjourn the meeting. IFRT Director – at – Large Houghton seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m. PST.

Sincerely,

Isabel Gordon Klein, MLS, CA

Secretary, IFRT