

**American Library Association
Intellectual Freedom Round Table
Executive Committee
2015 Annual Conference
San Francisco, California
Minutes**

Friday, June 26, 2015

Business Meeting I Marriott Marquis San Francisco, Pacific Suite H

Call to Order

President David Trudeau called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Officers Present

David Trudeau, Chairperson

Pamela Sieving, Secretary

Cyndi Robinson, Treasurer

Laura Koltutsky, Chairperson-elect

Audrey Barbakoff, Director

Charles Kratz, Director

Committees/Liaisons:

Ray James, ASCLA Liaison

Steven Norman, John Phillip Imroth Memorial Award Committee

Julia Warga, Merritt Fund Promotion Committee

Robert Holley, Councilor

Carolyn Caywood

Sharon McCaslin, Education Assembly representative

Eric Suess, Nominating Committee

Wanda Huffaker, Coalition Building Committee

Members/Others:

Barbara Jones; Susan Pober; Alice Mitchell; Barbara Stripling; M. Alan Thomas II, Savanna Nolan; Gene Hayworth; Ma'lis Wende; Mike Robinson (IFC Privacy Subcommittee); Gretchen LeCheminant (Conable Scholar); Johanna Alison; Joel Bowlin; JJ Yuan

Staff:

Shumeca Pickett

Agenda:

The agenda was approved as distributed, with a correction of the IFRT program date from June 27 to June 26.

Minutes:

Minutes for the January 2015 midwinter meeting were approved as distributed.

Budget:

Cyndi Robinson, treasurer, reported that we have ended the year with a surplus; the budget for the next fiscal year is consistent with past income and expenses. The budget for the 2016 program is \$6000. **Robinson moved to approve the budget as distributed; Bob Holley seconded the motion, and the budget was approved as presented.**

Reports by Officers:

David Trudeau, chairperson: David welcomed board members and guests to the meeting, and acknowledged the work and effort of attending IFRT meetings. He also acknowledged other groups with which we share partnership, such as the Office of Intellectual Freedom, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and various committees working on intellectual freedom issues; Shumeca Pickett, who organizes and manages the background work of the IFRT, and Bradley Compton, who creates weekly summaries on IF issues. He noted shared advocacy work with the GLBT Round Table and the Defense Fund, and the re-energization of activity around these issues via the use of social media. He thanked Cyndi Robinson for work on the new Web site; highlighted the IF Report; the IF 101 session; and a recent Webcast for the IF Manual, which has just come out.

Laura Koltutsky, chairperson-elect: Laura noted she is looking for help with the 216 program, which will deal with academic freedom issues, such as trigger warnings and challenges to course content. She published Handbook of Intellectual Freedom in 2014; she is working on organizing an IF conference, and will send out further information as it becomes available. She discussed new bills in Canada which have impacts on privacy and surveillance.

Barbara Jones: Barbara announced that she is retiring from her position as head of the Office of Intellectual Freedom at the end of 2015. At present the requirements for her replacement do not include that the incumbent must be a librarian or someone with library experience.

Barbara Stripling, Liaison from Executive Board:

Conference registration and vendor sales of exhibit booths for this conference are both strong, up from the 2014 conference in Las Vegas. Declining membership, in part due to a 26% decrease in library school enrollment since 2010, is a concern; this may reflect decreasing job openings, particularly in school libraries. 2100 public library trustee board members will be added to the membership of the United for Libraries division; ALA has made an agreement to offer a discounted membership rate for trustee board members, but they will not have individual voting rights. She reported that the ALA budget is being realigned to support specific strategic objectives. 2% salary increases for staff included are included in the budget. She noted that the Strategic Directions document, which was distributed at Council I, provides flexibility in implementation, but that the overall goals stay the same. There are three action areas: advocacy, information policy which includes intellectual freedom, and professional and leadership development. Conference attendees have opportunities at sessions on June 27 and 29 to participate in discussion on the plan. On June 30 the new Libraries Transform initiative will be launched, with a focus on transformations in libraries and their communities. She reported on the Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, formed under her presidency. The IFRT Board discussed with her issues relating to cities in which ALA holds conferences: how do we make a difference, uphold our principles, support the communities in which we are meeting. Contracts with convention centers and hotels include our principles of equity diversity, but it is more difficult to handle these concerns in the broader community, including hospitals, restaurants, etc. ALA has a new CFO since January, 2015; a search is under way for Barbara Jones' OIF position vacancy; ALA is conducting interviews for directors of diversity, literacy and outreach services, for a new director of public awareness, and for director of the development office. A letter has been sent to President Obama re hiring a librarian as head of the Library of Congress; there was a suggestion that the same should be done for the National Library of Medicine.

Charles Kratz, director: Reported that there is support for the topic of the 2016 IFRY program; his campus is discussing trigger warnings. He believes this is part of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Robert Holley, Councilor: Holley reported on issues coming to Council: resolutions on sustainable Libraries, racism, gun control, surveillance and others. Variations in state laws affect policies and resolutions of both libraries and library associations.

Motion to recess: Laura Koltutsky moved to recess the meeting; Cyndi Robinson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Monday, June 29

Business Meeting II Moscone Convention Center, MCC – 121

Call to order: Chairman David Trudeau called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Officers Present

David Trudeau, Chairperson
Pamela Sieving, Secretary
Cyndi Robinson, Treasurer

Laura Koltutsky, Chairperson-elect
Audrey Barbakoff, Director

Committees/Liaisons:

Ray James, ASCLA Liaison

Carolyn Caywood

Steven Norman, John Phillip Imroth Memorial Award Committee

Julia Warga, Merritt Fund Promotion Committee Wanda Huffaker, Coalition Building Committee

Members/Others:

Mike Robinson (IFC Privacy Subcommittee); Pam Klipsch; Fred Stielow; Jim Teliha; Velva Hampson; Katherine Rankin (Nevada Intellectual Freedom)

Staff:

Shumeca Pickett

Standing Committee Reports:

Cyndi Robinson, Membership Promotion: Attendance at the reception was good.

David Moody, Publications and Communications Committee: The IFRT report has been well received, and is being used to promote the Round Table. Cyndi Robinson is updating the Web page; the Facebook page is a growing presence, as well as other social media such as Twitter. The round table coordinators assembly met, and heard that ALA Connect will have new software in the late fall of 2015; that will incorporate new tools such as Webcasts.

Wanda Huffaker, Coalition Building Committee: The Gerald Hodges award went to the Delaware Library Association. Discussion concerned making the nominating process more efficient and promoting the award.

Barbara Pickell: Bylaws and Organization Committee: No progress to report.

Julia Warga: Merritt Fund Promotion Committee: Warga has met with the Fund trustees, and is helping with the redesign of the Merritt Fund Website.

Steve Norman: John Phillip Imroth Memorial Award Committee: The award was presented to Pam Klipsch.

Shumeca Pickett: Reported that the Web page for committee volunteer information and submission is functional, and many submissions have been received, resulting in a pool for appointments. Laura Koltutsky will send out another call for volunteers.

Liaison Reports:

Ray James, ASCLA Liaison: ASCLA is revising standards for correctional institution libraries and librarianship. He recommends endorsement of a discussion forum proposed for the 2016 conference: Intellectual Freedom for Incarcerated Teenagers; IFRT will pay nothing, just endorse the program. Ray will manage the program with the Libraries Serving Youth in Custody members. Other possible endorsers include YALSA.

Barbara Pickell moved that IFRT be a co-sponsor of the Intellectual Freedom for Incarcerated Teenagers program at the 2016 Conference; Steve Norman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The ALA Committee on Archives, Libraries and Museums may sponsor a program on intellectual freedom in archives.

ACRL Liaison: ACRL has a new statement on intellectual freedom.

Pam Klipsch reported on Council, in the absence of Bob Holley: Three revised and one new Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights were sent to Council Forum, and may go to Council for adoption. SRRT is preparing a resolution on national surveillance; REFORMA is working on a project to get materials and services to unaccompanied minors in detention centers.

Shumeca Pickett noted that IFRT sponsored a diversity program on June 28, with another planned for June 29, co-sponsored by the IFC and AAP.

David Trudeau will appoint a task force to work on the IFRT awards for the Round Table, particularly addressing the existence and importance of our awards.

Cyndi Robinson reported on her plans for the Facebook page.

Audrey Barbakoff reported on actions at Council II.

Barbara Pickell moved to adjourn the meeting; Wanda Huffaker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela C. Sieving, Secretary

