

**American Library Association
Intellectual Freedom Round Table
Executive Committee
2016 Midwinter Meeting Boston, Massachusetts**

Saturday January 9, 2016

1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Boston Convention Center room 259A

Officers Present:

Laura Koltutsky, Chairperson; Pamela Sieving, Secretary; Cyndi Robinson, Chairperson-Elect; Audrey Barbakoff, Director-at-Large; Scott Bonner, Director-at-Large; Julia Warga, Director-at-Large; Martin Garner, IFRT Councilor

Committee Chairpersons/Liaisons:

Wanda Huffaker, Coalition Building Committee; Steven Norman, Membership Committee; Ray James, ASCLA Liaison

Members/Others:

James LaRue, OIF Director; Michael Robinson, IFC Privacy Committee; Doug Archer; S. Hildert; Candace Mirgo; Stephanie Barnaby; Carrie Cullen; Michael Wright; Laura Jenkins; Chelsea Couillard-Smith; Carolina Cooney; Ian Hughes; Shawn Hill; Margaret Spires; Hansie Grignon; Janice Tsai; Jim Teliha; Carolyn Caywood;

Staff:

Shumeca Pickett

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Laura Koltutsky called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Attendees introduced themselves

AGENDA: Steve Norman moved to approve the agenda as distributed; Martin Garner seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

MINUTES: Wanda Huffaker moved to approve the minutes of the 2015 annual conference meeting of the IFRT Executive Committee; Julia Warga seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

New Director of the Office of Intellectual Freedom, Jamie LaRue, reported on his plans for the Office.

REPORTS:

Nominating Committee: David Trudeau, Chairperson, submitted a written report, which was summarized by IFRT Chairperson Laura Koltutsky. The slate is not complete, but will be by the January 28 deadline. The online form received some expressions of interest.

Treasurer's Report: Justin Briggs, Treasurer, was not present. Shumeca Pickett had circulated the budget to the Executive Committee before the meeting; it does not differ significantly from that of previous years. Action on

the budget was postponed to IFRT II. Cyndi Robinson will attend Planning & Budget Assembly in Justin's place.

There was discussion on membership recruitment and promotion. Webinars on intellectual freedom issues are being identified and promoted. An ad hoc T-shirt Group was formed: Julia Warga (head), Steve Norman, Cyndi Robinson, Audrey Barbakoff, and Stephanie Barnaby. The IFRT listserv is being used less than it should be; we also discussed use of social media tools.

Council: Martin Garner, IFRT Councilor, reported on resolutions coming to Council, including issues of restoring civil liberties and opposing mass surveillance; accessibility of conferences and meetings; and LC subject headings related to undocumented immigrants.

We reviewed Executive Board 'talking points,' which had been distributed by email, including membership, meeting registration, and the Libraries Transform campaign.

Bylaws: in the absence of a chair, work has not progressed.

Membership: Steve Norman reported on the committee's initiatives, including new member welcome and orientation, the T-shirt committee, working with the ALA task force on membership, and programs at conference.

Carolyn Caywood reported on her liaison work with the GLBT Round table, and as Freedom to Read Foundation liaison. In late November, a joint Webinar on intellectual freedom in children's collections was attended by nearly 40 participants. FTRF is involved in several litigation matters, as well as tracking areas of concern such as intellectual freedom on college campuses and services to diverse populations.

Publications and Communications Committee: Eric Johnson submitted a written report, which Cyndi Robinson summarized. Goals include increases use of the ALA Engage Website and making the IFRT Website more useful. The committee will prepare a formal report by Conference.

Oboler Award Committee: Nominations were received late, and the committee has requested an extension.

Bylaws Committee: Wanda Huffaker and Julia Warga volunteered to be on the committee, which Cyndi Robinson will chair. Stephanie Barnaby also indicated an interested in participating on this. There was a bylaws revision a few years ago; changes are not reflected in the bylaws currently on the IFRT Web site.

Coalition Building Committee: Wanda Huffaker will distribute their report by email, including revised criteria

for the Hodges award. Awards are distributed at the IFRT reception at Conference each year.

Merritt Fund: Audrey Barbakoff reviewed this fund, which supports librarians denied employment rights in defense of intellectual freedom or who are subject to discrimination. Awards are confidential, which contributes to the lack of recognition of the importance of this award.

Imroth Award: No report received.

Oboler Award: Steven Greechie submitted a written report. Six nominations have been received, but a decision has not yet been reached.

IFC Liaison, Ray James: Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights are being worked on, including those relating to creative content, makerspaces, etc., and the e-rate. James is also ASCLA liaison, and is working on the resolution to Council regarding accessibility at meetings as well as a review of guidelines for correctional libraries.

The meeting was recessed at 2.33 p.m. until 11 a.m. on Monday, January 11.

Monday, January 11, 2016

8:30 – 10 a.m., Boston Convention Center room 208

Officers Present:

Laura Koltutsky, Chairperson; Pamela Sieving, Secretary; Cyndi Robinson, Chairperson-Elect; Audrey Barbakoff, Director-at-Large; Scott Bonner, Director-at-Large; Julia Warga, Director-at-Large; Martin Garner, IFRT Councilor

Committee Chairpersons/Liaisons:

Wanda Huffaker, Coalition Building Committee; Steven Norman, Membership Committee; Ray James, ASCLA Liaison

Members/Others:

Michael Robinson, IFC Privacy Committee; Doug Archer; S. Hildert; Candace Mirgo; Stephanie Barnaby; Margaret Spires; Cindy Gibbon, PLA IFC Chairperson; Pamela Klipsch, IFC Chairperson; Ian Hughes; Melora Ranney Norman; Bruce Farrar. ALA officer candidates: James Neal, Christine Lind Hage, and Susan Hildreth

Staff:

Shumeca Pickett

CALL TO ORDER: President Laura Koltutsky called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Members and visitors introduced themselves.

Budget: We discussed the conditions under which the \$1500 line for speaker travel expenses could be used. Steve Norman moved to accept the budget as presented; Julia Warga seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Council: Martin Garner reported that a new resolution against Islamophobia had passed; the latest versions of the resolutions dealing with accessibility of conferences and meetings, and of subject headings for materials on undocumented immigrants, were distributed by email. He moved that IFRT endorse the 'illegal aliens' resolution; Cyndi Robinson seconded the motion, which passed. Discussion concerned instructions to our councilor on how he should cast his vote; it was noted that he can make a statement to Council expressing the actions of the IFRT executive committee. Steve Norman moved that we allow our councilor to vote his conscience on the accessibility resolution when it is finalized; Julia Warga seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The resolution on national security issues was discussed; it was moved [my notes do not include by whom; let me know if you know!] seconded by Scott Bonner and unanimously passed that our councilor endorse the draft resolution on restoring civil liberties. Intellectual Freedom Manual interpretations: Pam Klipsch summarized current work on the topic of user-generated content.

Candidates for ALA office addressed the Executive Committee: Jim Neal; Christine Lind Hage; Susan Hildreth

Chairperson's Report: Laura is working on the 2016 program, which is to include speakers on workplace speed and academic ethics and intellectual freedom. The IFC program will focus on school libraries, ours on academic libraries. She noted concerns about the number of active ALA members unable to attend the midwinter meeting, and the need to explore virtual meetings and other ways to involve members without requiring travel.

Shumeca Pickett noted that OIF hosts update sessions, jointly sponsored by IF-related groups, at both annual meetings; these could be used to enhance member knowledge of and involvement in intellectual freedom issues. Ian Hughes will work with Steve Norman on this.

Vice-chairperson's Report: Cyndi Robinson noted that Ian Hughes will chair the 2017 IFRT program committee. She attended the membership promotion task force meeting, and reported on ideas being considered, including an IFRT field trip during conferences. She also attended the Planning and Budget Assembly. ALA is moving to a new program for online transactions, and a new program for ALA Connect, though the name will stay the same.

Cyndi Robinson assumed the chair at 9:45 a.m. in the absence of the chairperson, who had to leave for a Council session.

Scott Bonner reported on ideas he and Audrey have been working on for the future of the round table, including increased use of social media. Cyndi Robinson moved that we establish a working group to develop an active social media presence for IFRT; Steve Norman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Cyndi Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting; Julia Warga seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela C. Sieving, Secretary

