

**American Library Association
Intellectual Freedom Round Table
Executive Committee
2018 Midwinter Meeting
IFRT Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018
3 p.m.**

Chairperson Charles Kratz called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Introductions- Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Chairperson Kratz asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Garnar moved to approve the agenda.

Robinson seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously. Agenda approved.

Chairperson Kratz moved to approve the minutes of the IFRT Virtual meeting of Dec. 13, 2017.

Chairperson-elect Freeman noticed this attendance was missing from the minutes. Secretary Brown noted the needed change.

Freeman moved to approve pending the discussed change.

Bonnard seconded the motion.

Motion was approved unanimously. Minutes approved pending discussed revision.

Trevor Dawes- IFRT Executive Board Liaison- discussed ALA Board initiatives

He asked for feedback on the ALA Connect site changes.

MLS/MLIS requirement is on ballot for the ALA Executive Director search.

A dues increase is on ballot this spring. Registration for Midwinter is down, but membership numbers are up.

There was some discussion about the dues increased and the rationale behind it. Dawes explained that the increase was a small percentage, and that no category of membership would increase by more than \$3.00. The revenue would be used to keep up with increased costs for basic operations. The increase will be on the ballot for the upcoming election to begin on March 12 and to close on April 4. Results will be available on April 11.

IFRT renewed its sponsorship of an Emerging Leader. This year's Emerging Leader is Angela Ocana. She will be at Annual Conference and has expressed interest in becoming active in IFRT. Her project is Defending Intellectual Freedom: LGBTQ materials in school libraries. She will also work on promoting the IFRT Breakfast.

OIF- Kristin Pekoll reported challenges are up this year. She has made an effort to work with state intellectual freedom chairs. Censorship beyond books- displays, programs, exhibits, etc. is also up. There has been increased in internal censorship involving administrators.

Banned Books Week- working closer with the Banned Books Weeks- sponsored by several groups and OIF is working together- downloadable graphics. The Field Report is only available in a pack of 50.

The Choose Privacy Week theme is Big Data is Watching You.

OIF has completed 11 Boot Camps with Office for Library Advocacy.

OIF has been working on promoting your library as a community place and is collecting data on hate crimes in libraries. A new hate speech document is available online. There is also a FAQ document.

Intellectual Freedom News and Blog has 1836 subscribers and 12,000 blog views.

Peter Hepburn candidate for ALA President visited the meeting to speak with everyone. Hepburn is an IFRT member as well as a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation. He spoke about his commitment to Net Neutrality and how he would like for members to make more connections and form more partnerships with one another. He also fielded a question about speakers at ALA skewing to the left of the political spectrum. Hepburn responded calling on his experience on the program committee and sharing that most speakers are suggested by and sponsored by publishers. The program committee chooses from the speakers available to them.

Treasurer Norman gave a financial review for the meeting. He spoke about how ALA is considering a redesign to make it more affordable to run, and the round tables are net contributors to the budget.

IFRT is doing well financially. The budget is in the black and projections are good. Currently, IFRT is fundraising for awards. The IFRT ending balance is \$92,000, and this carryover is quite large. IFRT should consider how to spend this carryover.

The proposed budget will include a \$2,000.00 expenditure to OIF for free OIF webinars for all IFRT members. IFRT will also continue to support an Emerging Leader.

There is no proposed action at this time. The Board will vote on this budget at ALA Annual.

Norman and OIF are working on a way to streamline some of the processes and looking at designating a time to pay bills each year.

There was some discussion as to whether round tables could do travel grants.

The IFRT Program will be Saturday, June 23 at 1-2 p.m., and will be on the topic Big Data is Watching. It will consider the increased use of analytics in libraries and the increased pressure to

make use of software designed to capture patron data. Speakers will include Aaron Burman and Peter Brantley.

Kratz reported on the IFRT Fundraiser. The IFRT Awards Breakfast will raise money for the IFRT Awards. The breakfast will feature John Pope who covered Katrina extensively. This is the first fundraising breakfast, but there is a need to build up the award funds to make the awards more sustainable in future years. The IFRT Awards Breakfast will be Saturday, June 23 at 7:30 a.m.

New ALA connect will be launched on April 25.

Chair-elect Freeman encouraged members to go ahead and indicate their interest in serving on a committee for the next appointment cycle.

Sarah Houghton shared that the privacy subcommittee has been working with education subcommittee will develop a series of webinars.

Shelia Bonnard- No updates.

Cyndi Robinson reported for the Bylaws and Organization Committee is working on an IFRT Handbook, if you are currently a chair or have been a recent chair, please watch for a survey to help with the creation of the handbook by sharing your knowledge of dates and tasks that need to be completed.

Robinson as Chair of the Nominating committee also announced the slate of candidates.

Wanda Huffaker of - Membership Promotion Committee shared that because there is so much turnover that it is hard to share ideas and get information. She is working to encourage membership in the round table. She encouraged the members present to also recruit new members. She also shared the importance of working with state chapters and the New Members Round Table.

Eric Johnson of the Publications Committee is really excited to appoint Stephanie Barnaby and Keith Weimer as Social Media Chairs.

Stephanie Barnaby discussed several ways to improve IFRT social media and was hoping to recruit members to post. She had shared several ideas as well as how she was currently posting.

Kratz moved that we renaming Publications committee to the communications committee- Publications and Communications Committee- this is the name. To change the name has to be presented to membership. Or it could be done at annual. Ask Eric.

Larissa Gordon reported for Coalition Building that the Nebraska IFC has won the Hodges Award.

Michael Furlong shared that the Immroth Award winner was not announced at meeting as no winner had been determined.

Laura Koltutsky shared information about the Oboler Award. The winner had been determined, but was not announced at meeting. Koltutsky was awaiting confirmation from the winner's acceptance to announce. She also thanked all of the members of the Oboler Committee for their work on selecting a winner.

Martin Garnar gave the Councilor's Report.

Things in the pipeline:

- Diversity in library administration.
- Socially responsible funds, and a yearly accounting of how funds are invested.

There will be a discussion of organizational effectiveness at Council 2 at this discussion members are allowed to talk.

IFC asked from an endorsement of its Net Neutrality statement.

Norman moved to endorse. Freeman seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

IFRT asked to support- Visual and Performing Arts in Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

After some discussion, Robinson moved to endorse in principle, and Bonnard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Kratz mentioned the need for IFRT to discuss strategic directions for IFRT, and there was some beginning discussion about what those could be. None were decided.

Kratz wanted to say, "Thank you!" to the OIF Staff, Kristin Pekoll and Ellie Diaz, specifically, for all of their terrific work over the past year.

Kratz asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Robinson made a motion to adjourn.

Houghton seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley J. Brown, IFRT Secretary