

**American Library Association
Intellectual Freedom Round Table
Executive Committee
2017 Annual Conference
IFRT Meeting I
Friday, June 23, 2017
3 p.m.**

Attending:

Cyndi Robinson (Chair), Charles Kratz, Jr. (Chair-elect), Steve Norman (Treasurer), Mack Freeman (Director-at-large), Julia Warga (Director-at-large), Martin Garner (Councilor), Wanda Huffaker (Coalition Building Committee Chair), Michael Furlong (Immroth Award Committee), Mary Elizabeth Wendt (Merritt Fund Committee Chair), Laura Koltutsky (Oboler Award Chair), Ian Ross Hughes (Program Committee Chair), Eric Johnson (Publications), Jamie LaRue (OIF Director), Ellie Diaz (Staff Liaison), Kristin Pekoll (Staff Liaison), Ashley Janet Brown (Secretary), Sarah Houghton, Candice May, Steph Barnaby, Eldon James, Kristin Joy Anderson, David Hurley, Gwyneth Kelly, Julian Helmer, Keith Weiner, Nann Hilyard, Abigail Cahill, Joyce Hagen-McIntosh, Laura Jenkins, Sukrit Goswami, Allison Randall, Sharon McCaslin, Jim Teliha, Kate Davis, J. Linda Williams, Karen Downing.

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Introductions- attendees introduced themselves. During the introductions, IFRT Councilor Martin Garner requested to be moved on the agenda. The agenda had not yet been approved and the change in order was made.

Moved (Johnson) and seconded (Freeman) to approve the draft agenda.
Unanimously approved.

Moved (Norman) and seconded (Freeman) to approve the minutes from Midwinter meeting. Unanimously approved.

Mack Freeman was elected as Chair-elect of IFRT thereby vacating his Director-at-large seat. Chairperson Robinson moved that the Director-at-large seat be filled Kristin Joy Anderson. Freeman seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

Report from OIF Director- Jamie LaRue-

- discussed 50 year anniversary of the Office of Intellectual Freedom.
- reported changes to the Challenge reporting form which made the form easier to use.
- discussed recent challenges to the book *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher.
- discussed disinvited speakers at colleges and universities.
- discussed challenges in schools- textbooks- Collier County, FL- remove “dirty” books and a new proposed law to allow the general public in Florida to challenge books in schools.
- reported that 18 hate crimes in libraries had been reported to OIF this year.
- discussed OIF’s Sponsorship of a boot camp for advocacy and IF citing the need to change the way we talk about advocacy and IF.
- discussed tension between social justice and IF.
- discussed an increase in challenges to diverse content.
- discussed explosion in small press diverse content and suggestions for increasing access to diverse content, specifically OIF’s - #ourvoiceschicago diversity.
- promoted the #standfortheban video booth available at Annual Conference to support banned books.

Martin Garner- Councilor

ALA statement on Global Climate Change Resolution- IFRT comments. Norman moved to endorse in principle. Koltutsky seconded. Passed.

Safe Space resolution- in draft- Responsible Spaces- discussion only.

Steve Norman- Budget- discussed at Midwinter-

- Reported that the budget needs to be approved.
- Reported that revenue expected to be about the same as the past.
- Reported that total expenses- budgeting for a loss of 1900.00.
- Discussion of moving award expenses into its own category to better track them.

- Reported that expenses are same for the awards are the same or similar in amount.
- Reported that the Oboler Award is in the red.
- reported that the carryover is enough to cushion a deficit.
- Reported on the spending to support an emerging leader- for meetings and conferences expenses.

Moved (Freeman) to approve the budget and seconded (Kratz). Budget passed unanimously.

Karen Downing- ALA Board Member-

- Reported President Trump's budget eliminated all funding to federal libraries.
- Reported- ALA has been busy has been asking members to contact congresspersons and so far has had 42,000 emails to congresspersons.
- Reported that corporate vendors are working advocate for libraries and their economic impact including Gale- Cengage.
- Reported the Annual conference registration numbers were very good- over 21,000 as of yesterday (June 22, 2017).
- Reported membership numbers are down- 56,600 members- 4 percent lower than last year shirking population within the profession- lower number of LIS students are becoming members of ALA.
- Reported 16 round tables have increased membership numbers.
- Reported ALA budget is good; expenses are a little higher than budgeted for.
- Reported on the Executive director search- senior associate Mary Gikas- appointed interim director.
- Reported that they expected to have a new executive director in place by Midwinter 2018.

Recess until Monday, June 25 at 8:30 a.m.

**American Library Association
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Monday, June 25, 2017
8:30 a.m.**

Cyndi Robinson (Chair), Charles Kratz, Jr. (Chair-elect), Steve Norman (Treasurer), Mack Freeman (Director-at-large), Julia Warga (Director-at-large), Wanda Huffaker (Coalition Building Committee Chair), Mary Elizabeth Wendt (Merritt Fund Committee Chair), Ian Ross Hughes (Program Committee Chair), Eric Johnson (Publications), Ellie Diaz (Staff Liaison), Kristin Pekoll (Staff Liaison), Ashley Janet Brown (Secretary), Sarah Houghton, Candice May, Steph Barnaby, Eldon James, Keith Weiner, Laura Jenkins, Sukrit Goswami, Sharon McCaslin, Jim Teliha, Kate Davis, J. Linda Williams, Janelle Peck, Pam Klipsch, Daniel Abussu, Mike Robinson, Andrew Sanderbeck, Katie Spires.

Chairperson Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Chairperson Cyndi Robinson

- Reported on the IFRT officer nominees for the next election. There are 5 slots open- Chair elect, 2 directors at large, secretary, and councilor.

Chair- elect Charles Kratz-

- Reported that committee chairs in place for next year.
- Reported that he would focus on fundraising in his upcoming term as chair.
- Reported that Privacy- theme for next year and program for next year. Making sure that the round tables are on the committee.
- Reported at the Annual Conference in New Orleans- he is planning a ticketed event for fundraising for awards.
- Expressed his thanks to Cyndi Robinson for all of the help this year!

Director- at – Large- Mack Freeman

- Shared a draft social media policy. The policy included excluded vendor advertising, but this would not include vendor sponsorship of IFRT events.

Johnson moved to approve the Social Media Policy, and Kratz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary- Ashley J. Brown-

- Reported on speaking at the Library Congress on Intellectual Freedom to PLA's Inclusive Internship Initiative participants.

Standing committee reports

Bylaws- Bylaws reflect ALA policy and are updated. Bylaws committee will work on a handbook for IFRT to ensure continuity in the future. The committee hopes to have a draft by Midwinter 2018.

Coalition Building- The committee would like to promote the awards more and create a way for future chairs to have a roadmap for success as the coalition-building chair.

Kristin Pekoll reported for the Immroth Award. There were 6 nominations, and the award ceremony went well.

Merritt Fund- Wendt reported that \$1140.00 was raised for the Merritt fund at the IFRT Awards Ceremony.

Oboler Award- Koltutsky is working with Kratz on ideas for fundraising to get the award out of the red.

Communications- Eric Johnson is working to get old IFRT reports and publications digitized and online. IFRT has been in existence for 44 years, and the IFRT newsletter has come out somewhat irregularly during that time.

- Intellectual Freedom Fighters- not being maintained and the possibility of creating a social media manager for IFRT was discussed.

Membership committee- Steven Norman reported that membership is up and there was discussion of a variety of ways of reaching out to lapsed members with an email. IFRT members now have access to OIF webinars as a part of their membership.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.