

**American Library Association
Intellectual Freedom Round Table
Executive Committee
2016 Annual Conference Orlando, Florida**

Friday, June 24, 2016

Attending:

Ashley J. Brown (incoming Secretary); Scott Bonner (Director at Large); Audrey Barbakoff (Director at Large); Bob Holley; Charles Kratz; Bryan Cooper; Laura Koltutsky (Chairperson); Cyndi Robinson (Chairperson Elect); Jess Alexander; Barbara Pickell; Carolyn Caywood; Julia Warga (Director at Large); Katie Kritikos; Bryan Williams; Wanda Mae Huffaker; Hilary Albert; Steve Norman; Bill Marden; Eldon Ray James (ASCLA Liaison); Martin Garnar (Councilor); Steph Barnaby Michael Pulay; M. Alan Thomas II; Deborah Stone; Mack Freeman; Carole Nowick; Laura Jenkins; Jo Rolfe; Elizabeth Marshall; Pamela C. Sieving (Secretary); Shumeca Pickett (Staff liaison)

The meeting was **called to order** by chairperson Laura Koltutsky at 1:35 p.m.

Moved (Pickell) and seconded (Robinson) to approve the draft **agenda: Unanimously approved.**

Moved (Huffaker) and seconded (Robinson) to approve the Midwinter 2016 **minutes: Unanimously approved.**

Introductions of all in attendance.

Reports of officers:

Laura Koltutsky, chairperson:

--Thanked Martin Garnar for his work on the IFRT program; he will speak at the program, scheduled for Saturday, 1-2:30, as well.

--Noted the IFRT awards reception and member social Saturday evening

--Noted that opportunities to be active in the round table do not always depend on travel to conferences.

--Noted the importance of the OIF partnership with the IFRT, something most round tables do not have.

Cyndi Robinson, incoming chairperson:

--She is working on committee appointments; volunteers should contact her immediately.

--She attended the round tables coordinating assembly earlier in the conference. She reported on MAGRT's emerging leaders project and upcoming changes to ALA's Adobe Connect; it will launch in late fall 2016, with a training session planned for Midwinter 2017.

Jamie LaRue, Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom:

-- The most-challenged books now are on diversity issues. There is a lack of truly diverse content in publishing industry, though more diversity in small press publishing. He is suggesting a partnership between libraries and small presses, and at same time attention to quality issues of particular concern to libraries. ? Is there a need now for a new 'pipeline' to bring libraries and small presses together.

--He noted a new journal: Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy. Authors and content are needed as the journal grows; it will have a 1-year embargo on content for subscribers, at a current subscription rate of \$50/year (4 issues), then it will be open access.

--the OIF has a new relational database of challenges to books.

Joy Trish, publisher at a small press in Chicago:

--She spoke about the challenges she faces in getting her books into libraries, and the value of diverse materials for all readers, not just those which reflect the readers.

Reports of Directors at Large:

Audrey Barbakoff:

--Of concern is the issue of labeling and rating systems.

Scott Bonner:

--Reported on the "Intellectual Freedom Fighters", founded at Midwinter 2016 to spur conversation in the wider library community on intellectual freedom topics. There is a Facebook page, with information, plus a place for discussions. Project has involved a lot of work, but is not yet open, though it is very close to being finished. He asked if the board believes this to be a truly viable project that we should continue. Ray James described a suggested structure to solve issues re sustainability. An option would be a committee. Bonner will continue with the project and get the page open soon; working with him is Barbakoff, Steve Norman, James; additional volunteers are welcome to join.

The IFRT Facebook page is up and ready for visitors.

Julie Warga:

--T-shirt contest idea did not become active; she and Norman were the committee. Norman noted that Unshelved has given permission to use the Intellectual Freedom Fighters name, on condition that the logo be used. This eliminates the need for the contest; shirts will be available soon.

--She asked if there is an FTRF liaison: there has been an informal arrangement, as she is a FTRF member. Martin Garnar is the new FTRF president, and will take care of the liaison issue with IFRT. She noted that gun and bathroom regulations are two current issues being addressed by the Foundation.

Treasurer's Report:

Deborah Stone reported on the final 2015 budget and the proposed 2016 for review and approval. The treasurers of round tables within ALA no longer have direct access to financial files. OIF can mediate this for IFRT. There are new requirements for the budget approval process and timetable. She noted that the budget needs to be examined and updated; it has tended to be static year to year, and expenses such as those for awards should be looked at carefully since some of the funds are not sustainable. The Oboler award fund is nearly empty, and likely does not meet current standards for new award funds.

Martin Garnar, Councilor:

- Five current resolutions have some intellectual freedom content.
- Moved (Huffaker) and seconded (Warga) to support the resolution for equity for the school library community in principle; **Unanimously approved.**
- Discussion on support for the Spectrum Scholarship program; this will go to BARC, as it has financial implications.
- A resolution to thank legislators for support of school libraries: not controversial, and has IFRT support.
- Moved (Huffaker) and seconded (Sieving) to support coverage of transgender medical care in library health insurance coverage. As the motion may be revised or withdrawn, the consensus was to discuss further by email.
- A 6th resolution is expected, on gun violence, from the Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and it may go to the Membership meeting; action by the IFRT board was deferred.

Moved (Warga) and seconded (Barbakoff) to extend the meeting by 5 minutes. **Unanimously approved.**

The meeting was **adjourned** at 3 p.m.

Monday, June 27, 2016

Attending:

Mack Freeman; Ashley J. Brown (incoming Secretary); Cathay Keough; Laura Jenkins; Eric Johnson; Pamela C. Sieving (Secretary); Laura Koltutsky (Chairperson); Cyndi Robinson (Chairperson-elect); Mike Marlin; Pam Klipsch; Shumeca Pickett (Staff Liaison); Charles Krug; Wanda Mae Huffaker; Steve Norman; Steph Barnaby; Julia Warga (Director at Large); Eldon Ray James (ASCLA Liaison); Shane Roopnarine; Peggy Nuhn; Peter Mueller; Ma'lis Wendt; Mike Robinson

The meeting was **called to order** by Chairperson Koltutsky at 8:30 a.m.

Koltutsky introduced Chairperson-elect Robinson, and thanked attendees at these board meetings and at the program on Saturday.

Executive Board Liaison Mike Marlin:

Report: He had distributed the Executive Board talking points earlier. He noted the quick response of ALA in putting together a memorial service after the Pulse shootings. Carla Hayden's approval still waits for Senate approval; he urged members to support her approval by writing to our senators. The most urgent issue is that of consideration of LC subject headings action in the House of Representatives. Council is on record as supporting the Library of Congress position. As of end of Saturday, registration stood at 13,000 plus down from the previous two conferences. Membership is about 60,000.

Koltutsky gave a report on behalf **councilor Martin Garnar**:

A resolution on the deaf culture digital library will come to Council 3.

The resolution on diverse communities passed.

The resolution supporting the Library of Congress position on subject headings passed.

The resolution on chapters was referred to Council II; there is a new draft of the resolution.

Another resolution is expected re the United Nations depository library system; ALA is urging the UN to ensure that long-term equitable access to its products is provided.

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bylaws and Organization Committee: Cynthia Robinson reported. The proposed revisions reflect current procedures and operations.

Additional comments and suggestions:

IV section 5: change to 'inform members' and do not specify technology.

V section 1: replace Shall w May.

VII. section 4.: Committee rosters: all standing committees should specify a minimum of 3 members.

IX. Substitute the appropriate edition of Robert's rules of order for Sturgis, as this is a change for the Association.

XI. section 1: The language should reflect the current practice of online balloting.

Moved (Norman) and seconded (Huffaker) that we adopt the bylaws revision as presented and submit them to membership for adoption:
Unanimously approved.

Membership Promotion Committee: Steve Norman reported.

Our membership is now down slightly at 1123, down 1.9% as of May 2016. The committee is working to set up the electronic system to welcome new members and lead them to involvement in the RT, with links to express interest in committees. The system will also thank renewing members, and encourage those not renewing to do so. They are working on a timetable for sending these messages. He also reported on the Intellectual Freedom Fighters website, and asked for a budget of up to \$200 to develop a graphic to use on the Facebook page for the round table. Pickett is currently working with ALA graphics on a separately budgeted project, and believes that budget will cover both; \$500 is in current budget for promotion and not otherwise allocated.

Moved (Norman) and seconded (Huffaker) to authorize the membership promotion committee to spend up to \$500 to develop a graphic for the Intellectual Freedom Fighters page: **Unanimously approved.**

Publications and Communications Committee: Eric Johnson reported.

The committee has reorganized the Website; it is now easier to navigate and use. This was a team effort, and he thanked his team for their work. The committee also produced an IFRT report, which is available on the Website; he thanked the team for that work as well. Comments on the use of the Website should be sent to him, as well as any information to go onto the site. More managers are needed for the Website, so that work could be distributed and the page could be updated quickly in response to news, changes, etc. Volunteers are also needed to manage a Twitter feed for the round table.

Coalition Building Committee: Wanda Huffaker reported.

There is no Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations award this year, since no nominations were received. OIF may be in a better position to identify candidates for this award; Huffaker will follow up with this.

Merritt Fund Promotion Committee: No report as Barbakoff was attending a Council session.

John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award Committee: no representative of the committee reported.

Eli M. Oboler Award committee: no representative of the committee reported.

New Business

Pam Klipsch proposed an **interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights** to draw attention to principles of diversity, inclusion and equity. She is looking for volunteers for a working group; the timetable is likely at least two years. The group will work virtually between now and Midwinter 2017 to draft a preliminary outline.

Moved (Warga) and seconded (Norman) to adjourn:

Unanimously approved.

The meeting **adjourned** at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela C. Sieving
Secretary