



## OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

Meeting Agenda Packet    Sep 17 2021, 9:30 AM PT

**Time:** Sep 17, 2021 09:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Place:** Virtual meeting (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82022391820?pwd=eUFtdE9tT0ZobGtkaXAvbHlZY1NSQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 2239 1820

Passcode: 751170

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,82022391820# US (San Jose)    +12532158782,,82022391820# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

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**Facilitator(s):** Perry Stokes & Emily O'Neal (Co-Chairs)

**Note taker:** Kat Temple

**Members:** Perry Stokes, Emily O'Neal, Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney, Miranda Doyle, Ellie Avis, Lori Moore, Steve Silver, Erin Sims, Katlyn Temple, Tamara Ottum (Ex-officio, SLO rep).

**Present:** Steve, Kat, Perry, Erin, Miranda, Emily,

## AGENDA

- I.      **Welcome and call for agenda items**
- II.     **Outgoing Chair Recognition / Membership review**
- III.    **Announcements and/or updates on intellectual freedom issues**
- IV.    **Recent challenges in Oregon**
- V.      **Legislative Committee Update**
- VI.     **OIF State of the States**
- VII.    **Conference Planning / Intellectual Freedom Champion Award**
- VIII.   **Partnership Proposal - PLD Quarterly Training Session**
- IX.     **Display Challenge Toolkit**
- X.      **Banned Books Week 2021 Promotion**
- XI.     **IFC Fundraiser Idea – Intellectual Freedom Fighter T-shirts**
- XII.    **Rotating tasks and Tuesday Topics**
- XIII.   **Wrap-up**



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| AGENDA ITEM   | ACTION ITEM                         |
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| <p><b>I. Welcome and call for agenda items</b></p> <p>Happy Constitution Day!</p> <p>Book recommendation: <a href="#">“The Cult of the Constitution”</a> by Mary Anne Franks<br/>“Lost amid the clamor of academic and judicial battles over how to interpret the Constitution is its effect on the most vulnerable....Mary Anne Franks finds that effect by exploring the constitutional fundamentalism underlying much of constitutional law.” -- <i>Harvard Law Review</i></p>   |                                     |
| <p><b>II. Outgoing Chair Recognition / Membership review</b></p> <p>a. Three banzai cheers/<a href="#">visual applause sign</a> for outgoing Chair Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney! With much gratitude for the excellent leadership.</p> <p>b. Review &amp; update of IFC Membership roster<br/><a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/16D4gU6wTEBOwfX8KrxNKt4PoS5L92Bhi/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=110538357701766400626&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/document/d/16D4gU6wTEBOwfX8KrxNKt4PoS5L92Bhi/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=110538357701766400626&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true</a></p>  |                                     |
| <p><b>III. Announcements and/or updates on intellectual freedom issues</b></p> <p>Open forum. All are invited to share.</p> <p>a. Tamara has finished this year’s <a href="#">annual report on challenges in Oregon</a>. It was sent out on Libs-OR and the IF-News liststervs in the last week of August. Likely an undercount. IFC might consider a survey about reporting hesitancy.</p> <p>b. The ALA’s Intellectual Freedom Round Table has announced that, beginning in 2022, the Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award will be given annually. The award will now honor journal articles in even-numbered years (2022, 2024...) and books in odd-numbered years (2023, 2025...). The Oboler committee is now seeking nominations for the 2022 journal article award.</p> <p>The Oboler award honors a literary work or series of works in the area of intellectual freedom. This can include matters of ethical, political, or social concerns related to intellectual freedom. The article may be stand-alone or a series of thematically connected articles published on the local, state, or national level in English or English translation.</p> <p>The articles submitted for the 2022 award should be dated either 2020 or 2021. Submission deadline is December 1. The award is \$500 and a certificate and is presented at the ALA Annual Conference each year.</p> <p>The award was named for <a href="#">Eli M. Oboler, the extensively published Idaho State University librarian known as a “champion of intellectual freedom who demanded the dismantling of all barriers to freedom of expression.”</a> The award was given first at the 1986 Annual Conference in New York.</p> | <p><b>Perry - create survey</b></p> |



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| <p>For more information on criteria of the award, past recipients or to submit a nomination please visit the <a href="#">Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award website</a>.</p> <p>Source: <a href="#">Publishers Weekly</a>, 20210903</p> <p>c. See IF News on ALA OIF BLOG <a href="https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/">https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/</a></p>   |  |
| <p><b>IV. Recent challenges in Oregon</b></p> <p>Open forum report.</p> <p>a. <b>Oakland Public Library</b> - Pride flag display controversy. On 6/11/21, the ALA OIF shared that they had a report of a written challenge to Pride flags up at OPL. OPL staff Rachael Grindberg also shared the incident on Libs-OR and received several excellent responses, including from Emily on behalf of OLA IFC. The City Manager backed off of an initial proposal to require only state and federal flags to be displayed.</p> <p>b. <b>Chetco/Curry Public Library</b> - On 9/11/21, the IFC was notified of a possible burgeoning "Anti CRT" protest movement about the library's sponsorship of Jason Reynolds for an upcoming author virtual event. Perry replied on behalf of IFC with some public relations ideas on how the library could position itself for a media controversy and be supportive of staff. CPL Director Jeremy Skinner reported on 9/14/21 that the complaints appeared to be from a small out-of-area group. No further complaints had been submitted but library staff were prepared with talking-points.</p> <p>c. <a href="#">Newberg School Board bans Pride flag and Black Lives Matter</a> (not specifically libraries, but First Amendment related issue)</p> <p>In August, Newberg School Board had voted 4-3 to ban "political symbols" including Black Lives Matter and Pride flags. The ban includes symbols on clothing but makes an exception for the American and Oregon state flags.</p> <p>9/14/21 Update:</p> <p>"Leaders of the Oregon School Boards Association recently admonished school board members across the state to uphold their oaths of office and follow all laws, even those they disagree with.</p> <p>They conveyed that message in an open letter - signed by the association's executive director, president and the head of its board members of color caucus - that took clear aim at the notable number of school board members who have directed school employees to defy mask mandates intended to keep children safe from COVID-19. It also called out, without naming them, the four members of the Newberg School Board who directed their superintendent to ban displays of Pride and Black Lives Matter symbols in Newberg schools.</p> <p>...Friday's letter left no room to interpret it as anything but an assertion that all board members are obliged legally and morally to uphold mask mandates and other COVID-19 safety measures, as well as the First Amendment.</p> <p>"We are sworn to follow the law - whether we like that law or not," the trio of association leaders wrote. "Whether the issue involves court-sanctioned health safeguards during a deadly pandemic or constitutionally protected forms of speech, our oaths bind us. We must do better, even in the face of divided and sometimes hostile communities."</p> |  |



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| <p>Hammond, Betsy. "Oregon school boards warned: Follow the law, like it or not." <i>Bulletin, The (Bend, OR)</i>, sec. A, 14 Sept. 2021, p. 002. <i>NewsBank: America's News</i>, infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&amp;docref=news/185024709A8A47F0 . Accessed 14 Sept. 2021.</p> <p>9/15/21 Update:</p> <p><a href="#">Newberg School board again fails to rescind flag ban</a> [OPB Think Out Loud]</p> <p>d. From Tamara - 'First amendment audit' at Port Orford recently; Buzzy was working with the director.</p> <p>e. Highlights from MultCo IF monthly news digest - "Rights, Responsibilities and Reactions" (Libs-OR, 8/3/21)</p>   |  |
| <p><b>V. Legislative Committee Update</b></p> <p>ALA Virtual Legislative Summit, Saturday 10/16/21 10 AM – 1:30 PM (Pacific)<br/>Perry registered to attend.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>VI. OIF State of the States</b></p> <p>Meeting/met: Sep 16, 2021 12:00 PM Pacific Time.</p> <p><b><a href="#">ALA opposes censorship of programs on racial injustice</a></b><br/>On August 18, the ALA Executive Board <a href="#">issued a statement</a> opposing initiatives to censor information resources, curricula, and programs addressing racial injustice, Black American history, and diversity education....</p> <p>New 10th edition of <a href="#">History of ALA Policy on Intellectual Freedom</a> recommended for academic libraries and any IF History collections. Provides historical context on development of IF policy over decades.</p> <p>Banned Books Week 2021 <a href="#">events across country</a>.<br/>Contests recommended as effective for incentivizing participation.</p> <p>Freedom to Read Foundation - <a href="#">Judith Krug Fund Banned Books Week Event Grants</a> available for \$1,000 or \$2,500. Application deadline in early June.</p> |  |
| <p><b>VII. Conference Planning / Intellectual Freedom Champion Award</b></p> <p>Kirsten contacted Jackie Mills and let her know she was our Champion. Award will be presented at this or future IFC meeting.</p> <p>There will be no 2022 OLA Conference since there is a PLA conference in Portland,</p>  |  |



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| <p>March 23-25. Early Bird <a href="#">registration</a> through 1/7/22.</p> <p>OLA <b>may</b> have dinner during March 22-26, 2022 to handle business.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>VIII. IF Professional Development Training Events</b></p> <p><b>a. SLO/CSD/OYAN <a href="#">Youth Services Summit</a>, Saturday, Sep 25, 1:30pm - 2:30pm</b></p> <p><b>VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED</b></p> <p>Request from Greta at State Library</p> <p>“We’d like to do a pretty quick, hour long session for library staff who want to practice responding to IF challenges, something like “Intellectual Freedom: How Do I Get Started? Or Someone Just Told Me This Book is Horrible, Now What?”...It would be ideal if we could do a quick overview of intellectual freedom principles, the recent challenges that have been happening in Oregon, and then some concrete strategies and practice opportunities for participants, maybe given them scenarios, or something like that to help practice. I’m setting up the Zoom and we can do breakout rooms, etc. no problem. I am guessing we would have 20 participants max for this.</p> <p>...It would be really awesome...to help point people to the IFC as a resource and it is an opportunity to recruit potential members! 😊 10 people have signed up specifically for this session so far.”</p> <p><b>b. PLD Quarterly Training Session, Friday, Oct 29, 10am - 12pm</b></p> <p><b>VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED</b></p> <p><b>Include IF basics and “Train the Trainer” info.</b></p> <p>Partnership request from PLD organizers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* PLD would like to see if the IFC could focus more on IFC issues: how can public libraries promote and understand intellectual freedom? How do we educate groups/committee members about critical thinking skills, challenges, and overarching values? Could we approach this from an external facing vs internal facing (to support front line staff) direction?</li><li>* IFC issues such as reconsideration of materials, 1st amendment audits, etc.</li><li>* Are there case studies with policies-life cycle of a policy with an IFC challenge, changes to the policy, and how is the policy(s) more supportive with IFC issues? Are there any specific examples of this?</li><li>* Could we create a handout with who to call and how they can help you with an IFC challenge?</li><li>* Specific policy examples</li></ul> | <p>Miranda Doyle &amp; Kat Temple @YSS</p> <p>Emily, Kirsten, Perry</p> |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Does your committee have a contact from ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee? If so, we thought it would be great to see if we can include them in this training topic.</li><li>* We do not want to record this training for future viewing due to the sensitive subject matter.</li><li>* Perhaps end the training with summary of how we are supporting our front line workers with IFC issues</li></ul> <p>Emily &amp; Perry met on 8/27/21 to discuss training plan. Emily has "Intro to IF" PPT that can be adapted for use. Any volunteers?</p> <p>c. <a href="#">OASL Fall Conference</a>, IF Training session, Sat. Oct 9</p> <p>Literacy: Intellectual Freedom: Sensitivity Not Censorship: Miranda Doyle, Kristin Brodbeck-Kenny, Steve Silver &amp; Jean Gritter</p> | <p>Miranda, Steve, Kirsten</p>     |
| <p><b>IX. Display Challenge Toolkit</b></p> <p>This was a Steve Silver suggestion after the 6/12/21 controversy incident about pride display at Oakland Public Library.</p> <p>On behalf of IFC, excellent guidance was provided by Emily O'Neal, which could be a good basis of the toolkit. There were also many other excellent responses on Libs-Or listserv. Oakland library staff Rachel Grindberg shared direct messages she received (about 20) in a follow-up message to Libs-Or on 6/14/21.</p>   | <p>Kirsten, Erin, Emily, Steve</p> |
| <p><b>X. Banned Books Week 2021 Promotion</b></p> <p>Sep 26 - Oct 2 2021</p> <p>Leading up to BBW, Perry has sent out reminders to Libs-OR and IF-News listservs about upcoming event dates and available resources. Will be scheduling a number of Facebook posts.</p> <p><a href="#">ALA free downloads, ideas, resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">Facebook Page - Celebrate Banned Books Week</a></p>  |                                    |
| <p><b>XI. IFC Fundraiser Idea – Intellectual Freedom Fighter T-shirts</b></p> <p>Topatoco offers <a href="#">wholesale pricing</a> (40%) and donations to libraries. With a \$25 price point, IFC could make \$10 on each sale. In advance of the next in-person conference, we could advertise and take pre-orders then distribute from our conference booth.</p>  |                                    |



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| <p>40 shirts would cost about \$575 and net about \$425.</p> <p>Since there is no conference, maybe we could somehow get pre-orders online, then place an order. But delivery is a challenge. Shipping costs would erode profit.</p>  |                                       |
| <p><b>XII. Rotating tasks and Tuesday Topics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review schedule for Tuesday Topics, listserv, and Facebook postings, and identify ideas for future Tuesday Topic posts.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>Before the meeting:</i> review the calendar and Tuesday Topic ideas in the <a href="#">IFC roles rotation and Tuesday Topics</a> google spreadsheet.</li></ul></li></ul> | <p><b>VOLUNTEER(S)<br/>NEEDED</b></p> |
| <p><b>XIII. Wrap-up: Review action items, set dates for upcoming meetings, conclude meeting</b></p> <p>Next Meeting: November 19, 9:30 AM?</p>  |                                       |