

## **Freedom to Read Foundation Committee Reports**

### **Winter Meeting 2024**

#### **Finance Committee – Jim Neal, Chair**

#### **Fundraising and Membership Committee – Jennifer Griswold, Chair**

The committee met several times this year. Topics discussed include:

- Update on the membership renewal mailing from Karen Gianni
- Membership numbers, donations, and fundraising strategies (2023 and YTD 2024) from Karen Gianni. She provided numbers for donations, memberships, and fundraising. Overall, numbers are good. Organizational member numbers are down but up for benefactors and sponsors. Individual memberships: Student and new member are down but all other categories are up.
- Work plan: The committee reviewed and updated the workplan which is available on Google docs.
- Update on proposed TLA presentation: Committee members Skip Dye, Liz Nebeker, Dorcas Hand, and Jennifer Griswold will be giving a presentation at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference on the First Amendment and why it matters.

#### **Nominating Committee – Loida Garcia-Febo, Chair**

The Nominating Committee will meet late January to discuss the election process, timeline, PR, and candidates.

#### **Roll of Honor Committee – Sophia Sotilleo, Chair**

The Roll of Honor Committee will meet in February to discuss timeline, PR, and candidates.

#### **Developing Issues Committee – Cole Adams, Chair**

The Developing Issues Committee has not convened since our annual meeting.

#### **Conable Scholarship Committee – Jarrett Dapier, Chair**

The Conable Scholarship Committee will meet in February to discuss timeline, PR, and review of candidates.

The 2023 Scholarship recipients met with mentors throughout the FTRF Annual Meeting events and ALA Annual Conference 2023 and enjoyed learning more about intellectual freedom within our organizations as well as pursuing the intersection of intellectual freedom with their specific interests.

The 2023 recipients are:

**Paloma Barraza** (she/her/hers) is completing her master's degree in library and information science from the University of Arizona iSchool with a focus in academic libraries. She works as a Library Technician at the University of Northern Colorado Libraries as the course reserve specialist and works for High Plains Library District as a bilingual Substitute Librarian. Paloma also has a master's degree in art history from the University of New Mexico, where she specialized in colonial and pre-contact art of the Americas. After she graduates, she hopes to become a specialized librarian in an academic setting. This is her first time attending the conference, and she hopes to meet academic librarians and others who are working with Latin American collections as well as accessibility for patrons.

**Pamela Verfaillie** is the library associate at Valdez High School in Valdez, Alaska. She is Past-President of the Alaska Association of School Librarians and is currently studying to earn her MLIS at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. She has an undergraduate degree in political science from Bates College (ME) and a certificate in Information and Library Science from the University of Maine at Augusta. Her interest in intellectual freedom stems from watching friends and colleagues facing coordinated efforts to remove books from school libraries and seeing school districts set aside existing policies when confronted by these tactics. Mrs. Verfaillie believes that librarians and other educators need to work together to effectively support each other, educate school and city administrations regarding appropriate policies and procedures, prevent censorship, and ensure that the views of one individual or group does not restrict other patrons' freedom to read.

### **Krug Fund Banned Books Week Committee – Jennifer Ferris, Chair**

The Krug Fund Banned Books Week Committee will meet in late February or early March to discuss the grant process timeline.

In 2023, the Krug Fund awarded \$1,000 grants to the following institutions: Keller ISD Families for Public Education, Canton, MS; Georgia Southern University, Savannah, GA; George Washington High School, Philadelphia, PA; North Bergen Free Public Library, North Bergen, NJ.

### **Krug Fund Education Committee – Dorcas Hand, Chair**

The Krug Fund Education Committee has been active on two fronts:

- Supporting FTRF staff in planning a webinar series in collaboration with OIF for Spring 2024
  - First Amendment Basics (*IF Manual Giveaway*)
  - First Amendment Audits/Meeting Room Use/Program Challenges
  - Crisis Communication. De-escalation, self-preservation
- Working on a Poster to be funded by PRH for libraries of all types to post for increased public awareness and understanding of what the First Amendment says and means. A draft of the content was submitted to PRH on Dec 15. Design conversation will occur in January, and we hope to have a poster to share by April.
  - [Content Draft](#)
- The poster Team hopes to continue with this idea and offer a series of free downloadable 8.5x11' posters later in 2024.
- We also have ideas for additional webinars later in the year.
- FTRF staff and Krug Fund Education Committee members hope to increase our IF course collaborations this year by adding between two and four colleges/universities.

### **Intellectual Freedom and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee – Lesliediana Jones, Chair**

The IF/EDI committee met, and members will be involved with the planning and implementation of an FTRF President's Program webinar taking place this Winter. The webinar will focus on a conversation with leaders from National Associations of Librarians of Color.

### **Communications Committee – Chair Currently Open**

The Communications Committee has met several times and discussed ways to raise awareness about the Foundation and activities internally as well as externally. In addition to sharing information about programs, campaigns, and social media campaigns, committee members are creating a database of higher education organizations, and others whose members would be interested in the activities of the Foundation. Next month the committee will explore ways to spread awareness to members within these groups. In the next newsletter we will invite members to share suggestions of what they would like to know about and how they would like to receive information.

### **Additional Education and Advocacy work:**

#### **Law for Librarians and Lawyers for Libraries**

In addition to the programming through the Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund, and in conjunction with the Unite Against Book Bans campaign, Freedom to Read Foundation staff, member leaders, and members continue to provide unique education opportunities. FTRF Director, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, FTRF General Counsel Theresa Chmara, and FTRF Staff members Karen Gianni and Joyce McIntosh are integral in supporting the revitalization of Lawyers for Libraries and Law for Librarians. We are excited to bring this initiative back at this most critical time.