

Report of the Intellectual Freedom Committee
Michael Greenlee, Chair
ILA Executive Board Meeting
January 14, 2004

This is an update on the activities of the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) since the last ILA Board meeting on November 21, 2003. This update will comment on each goal listed in the ILA Strategic Plan.

Objective 1: Continue to advocate for open access to information for all Idaho residents

1. Add 5 new members to the IFC – Done. The IFC consists of 6 members: Michael Greenlee, Anne Abrams, Peggy Cooper, Leonard Hitchcock, Harriet Newlin, and Robert Wright.
2. Plan an Int. Freedom workshop for trustees by Nov. 2004 – In progress. I spoke with John Pool in December and we exchanged some ideas for workshop development. Considered the possibility of planning regional workshops w/ a luncheon.
3. Develop an Intellectual Freedom Speaker's Bureau by Dec. 2004 – In progress. So far, the list consists of myself and Candace Morgan.
4. Monitor national intellectual freedom issues and inform the Idaho Library community by Jan. 2004 – In progress. Starting this month I will begin posting notices on LIBIDAHO concerning IF issues. This duty could rotate between IF committee members. I would like at some point to possibly have a section of the IF web site devoted to IF News.

Objective 2: Support Idaho's libraries and library staff on IF issues

1. Annual fundraiser for intellectual freedom – See below.
2. Distribute information packets on IF to Idaho libraries by 2004 – In progress. I am currently compiling a Handbook on Intellectual Freedom to be posted on the IF web site. This Handbook will contain information on the basic principles of IF, preparing a material selection policy, preparing for censorship challenges, forms for reporting a censorship challenge and asking for assistance, resources and organizations to contact for assistance and information, and other material related to intellectual freedom. I am also considering the idea of creating an IF pamphlet to distribute to Idaho libraries.
3. Provide, upon request, counsel to libraries and library staff facing IF challenges – In progress. The preparation of the IF Handbook will address some of these needs.
4. Develop and distribute electronically information packets on banned books week each year by 2005 – No news to report.

Intellectual Freedom Auction

Anne Abrams and I have spoken a bit about this years' auction. We would like to continue having both a silent and a live auction since the response to the silent auction was so positive. However, we are concerned about holding the silent and live auctions consecutively since this takes so much time to conclude. Also, Anne reported that some people said they were reluctant to bid at the live auction because they did not know if they had won their silent auction. Our suggestion is to move both the silent and live auctions to the cocktail hour before the Banquet begins. The silent auction could begin at 5:30 and end by 6pm; the live auction would be from 6:15-6:45; and the Banquet could begin at 7pm. This could also alleviate some of the concerns that were expressed at the last Board meeting that the Banquet and Auction were going too late into the evening.

For entertainment, Anne mentioned a possible "Hey, Big Spender" production hosted by "Larry" Sinatra and his beautiful assistants or the Book Cart Brigade!