

TO: ALA Council

DATE: June 3, 2022

RE: (select one)

ACTION REQUESTED
INFORMATION

X REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT : (add below)

Report: Freedom to Read Foundation

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to (if applicable)

None.

ACTION REQUESTED BY: (add committee name)

CONTACT PERSON:

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BACKGROUND: (add information)

Freedom to Read Foundation
REPORT TO COUNCIL
2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As President of the Freedom to Read Foundation, it is my privilege to report on the Foundation's activities since the 2022 January Meeting at LibLearnX

NEW LITIGATION

national organizations in the fight against censorship and amplifies the voices of individuals opposed to book bans

There is an [action toolkit](#) that provides resources and information for campaign supporters that helps them share the campaign with their social networks, communicate with their legislators, school officials and library boards, and create a plan for the future.

LIS and Professional Education

The Krug Fund's successful partnership with the University of Illinois' iSchool and the San Jose State University School of Information assures that dedicated graduate coursework addressing the practice of intellectual freedom in libraries remains available to those preparing for careers in information science and librarianship. Foundational classes are taught by Professor Emily Knox of the University of Illinois and Professor Beth Wrenn Estes of San Jose State University. The Freedom to Read Foundation is grateful to the University of Illinois and San Jose State University for partnering with the Freedom to Read Foundation. We also thank FTRF program director Joyce McIntosh for her dedicated support for the course instructors and the students enrolled in these classes.

This spring, the Krug Fund awarded two half scholarships to students enrolled in Beth Wrenn Estes' *Intellectual Freedom and Young Adults* course presented by San Jose State University. The scholarship recipients were Meaghan Rondeau, a student at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and Melissa Brinn, a student at Rutgers University.

2022 ROLL OF HONOR AWARD RECIPIENT ELDON RAY JAMES

I am pleased to announce that the 2022 FTRF Roll of Honor Award recipient is Eldon Ray James, retired information scientist and researcher who is a past member of the FTRF Board of Trustees and remains an active volunteer with FTRF.

FTRF is pleased to honor Ray for his many years of service on behalf of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table and the Freedom to Read Foundation. Elected a trustee of the foundation, Ray stepped down after one term because he believed that the foundation needed the input of librarians and intellectual freedom advocates who represented traditionally marginalized communities.

Remarkably, Ray's career as an information professional and his service in support of libraries and library users' right to read had its roots in Ray's time as an incarcerated person in a minimum security Federal correctional camp when he was a young man. During his time in the camp, he realized, during a college course offered to the incarcerated persons in the camp, the importance of education and the right to read, and determined that he would become a librarian. Ray persevered in pursuit of his goal and was able to complete his bachelor's degree in English and begin coursework at the University of Texas' School of Information Science where he was mentored by Loriene Roy, President of the American Library Association. Roy introduced Ray to members of the Association of Specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies' forum for Library Services to the Incarcerated and Detained and he immediately volunteered to chair the forum, beginning his years of service within ALA.

Ray was instrumental in the revision and update of ALA's "Prisoners Right to Read" statement, which was adopted by the ALA Council as ALA policy, launching his work advocating for the intellectual freedom rights of persons involved in the justice system and those incarcerated behind prison walls.

library shelves for review. They are selling and sponsorship-shirts and are donating proceeds to the Freedom to Read Foundation as a means of pushing back against the attacks on diverse books and the attacks directed towards the students, faculty members, and parents who are defending their right to read

You can become a ally of the students of Granbury ISD by becoming a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation. Your membership will help to build our organizational capacity so that we can protect and defend the Granbury students' First Amendment freedom. Without your support, we are unable to mount the litigation and advocacy initiatives that will preserve our freedom to read, advance racial and social justice, and raise up the voices of all those who have been silenced and marginalized throughout our history.

I encourage all ALA Councilors and all ALA members to join me in becoming a personal member of the Freedom to Read Foundation. I also ask that you invite your institution, organization, or state chapter to join FTRF as an organizational member. You are asked to include a donation in addition to your membership dues. Please send a check (\$50+ for personal members, \$100+ for organizations, \$35+ for new professionals, \$10+ for students, \$0 for furloughed/unemployed, and \$0 for retirees) to:

Freedom to Read Foundation
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