**OFA Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 19, 2020**

**10am Pacific time**

1. Roll Call **(bold names were present)**:

Board Members:

**At-Large / Harold Cook**

**Broadcom / Eddie Wai**

**HPE / John Byrne**

Huawei / Daqi Ren

**IBM / Bernard Metzler**

**Intel / Divya Kolar**

**LLNL / Matt Leininger**

**Mellanox / Gilad Shainer**

**Oak Ridge / Scott Atchley**

Sandia / Mike Aguilar

Others:

**Jim Ryan**

**HPE/Paul Grun**

**IBM/Red Hat / Doug Ledford**

**Gen-Z / Barry McAuliffe**

**Gen-Z / Kurtis Bowman**

**Intel / Woody**

**Intel / Arlin Davis**

1. Opens, Agenda Bashing
2. Approve Board minutes from [2/20/2020](https://downloads.openfabrics.org/WorkGroups/board/minutes_board/2020/OFABoardMinutes_20200220.docx)
   1. IBM motion, Oakridge Seconds
3. Treasurer’s Report – Jim R (Acting Treasurer)
   1. Small loss, expecting a loss of ~$10K due to WS postponement.
   2. If we cancel, the losses will be substantial.
   3. The actual losses as we understand them today will be reported in next month’s financial report
4. Working Group Reports
   1. IWG – Tatyana Nikolova
      1. The IWG Revival Committee (Tatyana, Paul, Doug and Jim) has started and continued discussions with VTM and NMC in the process of choosing possible vendors who are going to help us host and run the IWG cluster service. We are also working on a slide deck about the new program outlook.
      2. The eventual proposed testing environment subject to Board approval will probably be called the “Fabrics Development SW Platform” (FDSP).
   2. OFIWG – Sean Hefty: no report
   3. MWG – Divya Kolar
      1. Supporting the TPC in communicating with Workshop participants.
      2. Two communications have gone out so far. Began floating the idea of a virtual event. No plan to change the format for February 2021.
   4. EWG – Arlin Davis: see discussion of OFED below
5. Voteable: Adopt the Gen-Z MOU – [voteable Draft MOU](https://downloads.openfabrics.org/WorkGroups/board/collaborations/Gen-Z/GenZ_OFA_MOU_2020_0317.doc)
   1. HPE motions, Oakridge seconds
   2. No discussion
   3. B’com – y, HPE -y, IBM – y, Intel – y, LLNL – y, MLNX – y, Oakridge – y,
6. OFED’s future – Woody/Arlin

* EWG co-chair’s position: Time to declare victory and move on w.r.t. OFED. RDMA is now well-supported in the open community (OpenFabrics Software, RDMA subsystem).
* Folks in general seem to prefer the use of the Distros, leading to a dwindling of its use in the community.
* OFED is unlikely to play a key role in the emerging Interop program.
* EWG members increasingly hesitant to continue support, including e.g. backports.
* OFED, a great idea whose time has passed.
* Broadcom is still interested, and asks for the time to discuss internally.
* This would require someone to step into the role currently filled by Vlad (MLNX).
* EWG decides which kernel to target, and which distros.
* Doug observes that the way the OFED package works, is that it rips out the guts of what’s upstream and replaces it. Suggestion: revamp OFED to a more intelligent, update mechanism that would allow fixes to be layered on top of the distro. The community could provide the framework to support this, with vendors using that framework to submit patches to e.g. get around a broken driver.
* From Livermore’s perspective, this is more or less what they’ve already been doing. It’s reasonable to think along these lines in the EWG.
* EWG will re-convene to present this idea with an eye toward discovering if there are resources to support it. A future update to the Board is possible based on how the EWG discussions go

1. Workshop – JimR
   * TPC came up with the idea of a possible virtual event sometime this summer.
   * Resume normal f-2-f Workshop in 2021 at the Blackwell
   * Many questions to answer:
     + Time budget – how many sessions would we offer?
     + What about other activities, e.g. BoFs – do they translate to a virtual environment?
     + Many of the currently proposed session are topical, and may not have a long shelf life.
   * Work underway in evaluating the s/w infrastructure collaboration products required.
   * HPE has a techcon, which was held virtually one year. It worked reasonably well, except for poster sessions. Success of BoFs depends, to some extent, on a ‘whiteboard’ capability; the extent to which collaboration products support this is unknown.
   * Would this be a ‘charged for’ event, or free? Current thinking is to make it free. That raises questions about registration fees currently paid – do we continue to allow people to leave registration fees on account? Jim as acting Treasurer suggested the OFA should cover registration fees and attendees should be offered refunds or keep their payments on account, as they see fit.
   * What about a European version, in the interests of time zones.
2. At-Large-Director
   1. The issue is how to deal with nominations which we had previously been considered a WS activity
   2. Harold Cook, currently our only “ALD” has done a great job and has made it clear he’s interested in carrying on. We are very grateful.
   3. There is no further resolution at this point
3. Motion to adjourn: IBM