

**OFA XWG Meeting
July 6, 2017
11am Mountain**

1. Roll Call:

Board Members:

At-Large / Jason Gunthorpe
At-Large / Bob Noseworthy
Broadcom / Eddie Wai
Cray/Paul Grun
HPE / Andy Riebs
Huawei / Daqi Renf
IBM / Bernard Metzler
Intel / Jim Pappas
Jump Trading / Christoph Lameter
LANL / Susan Coulter
LLNL / Matt Leininger
Mellanox / Gilad Shainer (Bill Lee)
NetApp / David Dale
Oak Ridge / Scott Atchley
Oracle / David Brean
Sandia / Mike Aguilar
Unisys / Lilia Weber

Also present:

OFA/Jim Ryan
Intel / Divya Kolar
LANL / Parks Fields

2. The XWG meeting minutes from 22 June 2017 were approved. Divya Kolar (Intel) motioned and Susan Coulter (LANL) seconded the motion.
3. 2018 OFA Workshop site:

After a discussion at the XWG meeting, it appears that the most appealing site for next year's Open Fabric Alliance Workshop is at the Boulder Embassy Suites in Boulder Colorado.

- The address for Boulder Embassy Suites is: 2601 Canyon Boulevard, Boulder, CO. Thus, the site is in an area with a large amount of restaurants.
- The tentative Workshop dates would be April 9-13, 2018.
- Jim Ryan (OFA) will question the Embassy Suites on the availability of public transportation from Denver International Airport before a commitment is made to choose this site.
- There was a desire by the XWG to pick a workshop site early to have the best site and pricing options available for 2018.

4. OFA Projects

The XWG wanted to continue the discussion around opportunities for the Open Fabrics Alliance to contribute to the wider community.

- Most of discussion was about supporting, by funding or by other mechanisms, projects deemed of value to the Open Fabrics Alliance members, as well as, the wider community.

A discussion was made as to what type of support the Open Fabrics Alliance might provide and what a correct type of project might be for contribution.

- One option for support was to provide meeting spaces and snacks to foster communications on a project of interest to the Open Fabrics Alliance and the RDMA community.
- Another option for support was to provide work support for difficult projects that are better solved with more contributors and more input from various sources.
- It was noted again that any project would need to be of significant interest to the Open Fabrics Alliance and be related to our current work.

Another discussion was, whether or not, the Open Fabrics Alliance should be a Facilitator in creating discussions and projects or if the Alliance should act as a leader in discussions. Further, the discussion noted that the Alliance is not an authoritative entity into what projects and features might go into the Linux kernel.

Susan Coulter (LANL) would like to take an opportunity to ‘go off-line’ and get input from Christof Lameter (Jump Trading), Jason Gunthorpe (Obsidian Research), and Robert Woodruff (Intel). She will report back with the feedback she receives from their input.

5. Bylaws

Further discussions were made regarding alteration of the current Open Fabrics Alliance bylaws.

The discussion included:

- What would be considered good standing? Further, under what circumstances does a director get booted?
- What are the overall necessary requirements from the Open Fabrics Alliance for its Working Group operations. We want to know what basic rules must be followed by the Alliance, yet we want to give the individual Working Groups latitude to set some of their own rules.
- The contract hasn’t been reviewed and changed for 11-12 years, now.
- What do you get for different membership levels?
- It was felt that the Workshop has great value and brings developers and users together. It is a forum for scientist and computer scientists to meet with software developers and engineers. “All sides of the equation.”

- For someone that wants to be exposed to the ‘state-of-the-art’ in high-speed fabrics, the Open Fabrics Alliance is the conduit for that.
- The Open Fabrics Alliance Workshop has a different focus from that of SIGCOMM and Hot Interconnects.
- We need a new mission statement for the Open Fabrics Alliance.
 - IBTA tests for compliance, OFA tests for Interoperability
 - OFA tests for Interoperability for interfaces and Verbs, and also various HCA/motherboard combinations that can communicate with one another.
 - What are the tests we do in the Interop process—as and example what can Redhat and SUSE use?
 - Redhat is very interested in the Interop program and testing their distro.
 - The Open Fabrics Alliance doesn’t actually control any resources, either money or input to the Linux kernel.
 - Our current mission statement says that we are maintaining the Open Fabrics Enterprise Distribution (OFED) software stack. That needs to be changed to reflect what we would like the Alliance to be.
 - The OpenFabrics Interfaces Working Group (OFIWG) is behind the development of LibFabric