

**MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**2007-2008**  
*Division/Committee/Officer Annual Report*

**Unit:** Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel

**President/Officer:** Mary Somers

**Officers and Active Members:**

Secretary: Monica McAbee, Prince George's County Memorial Library  
Steve LaBash, University of Baltimore  
Leila Shapiro, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Retired  
LaTanya West, Circulation Systems Librarian, UMBC  
Pat Guyton, Anne Arundel County Public Library

**List the activities your unit addressed this past six months (past 12 months):**

Met bi-monthly

Sponsored a program in October, "Harmful to Minors? Rights of Youth to Library Access", presented by Carrie Gardner.

Spearheaded initiative to add MLA to the list of state associations endorsing ALA's National Security Letter Resolution

Presented a program at the 2008 MLA Conference and at the virtual conference

**Describe the accomplishments and methods:**

After Dr. Gardner's preconference at the 2007 MLA Conference, we booked her to present the same program in October. The program was held October 1, 2007 at Anne Arundel County Public Library's West County Branch from 9-3. Lunch was provided. There were approximately 30 attendees. The evaluations were very favorable.

After being alerted by the OIF of ALA's endorsement of the above resolution, and of OIF's desire to have all fifty state associations endorse it as well, a proposal was made to the Executive Board to approve MLA's endorsement. This was approved on September 11, 2007.

Mary Somers and Monica McAbee reprised their popular program "Defending Access with Confidence" at the MLA 2008 conference. They also presented a pared down version at the "virtual" conference.

**What is your overall evaluation for the year, and what suggestions would you like to see carried over in the future?**

While we have lost some members, we have gained at least one (and possibly more). We hope to repeat last year's fall program "Harmful to Minors", this time in western Maryland. This will hopefully happen in the fall of 2008.

Monica and I continue to work on taking our training program "Defending Access with Confidence" on the road, and plan to work on that in the coming year.

We hope to continue working more closely with ALA/OIF