Maryland Library Association – Children’s Services Division
Meeting Minutes, March 14, 2016
SMRLA/Charlotte Hall in St. Mary’s County

Called to order 10:32

Introductions
  o Jill Hutchison, Secretary, St. Marys
  o Amanda Roberson, President
  o Jessica Crutcheley, VP, Baltimore County
  o Conni Strittmatter, Harford
  o Sophia VanSchaick, Harford

Approval of Minutes- Conni Approved, Jill Seconded

Action Item Follow Up- throughout meeting
  o Final approval forms for western- finished
  o MLA conference booksale/registration volunteers- not doing by division this year.
    Everyone who registers for conference will get link to volunteer. Jess C. will send link to
    Jill H. also, once received.
  o Jill will schedule MLA Conference uncommons for guerilla storytime
  o Bethany Vangrin of Bel Air Library will chair Blue Crab committee for 2017 awards
  o Microphone for hybrid in-person/remote meetings- Amanda R. has sent info & request
    to MLA office, waiting for reply

President’s Report
  o Jessica Brown resigned as VP/ President-elect. Jessica Crutchley appointed
    VP/president-elect, Jill Hutchison appointed Secretary. This allows continuity & transfer
    of knowledge, but means that the elections are now uncontested.

Program Planning
  • May- MLA Conference
    o Volunteers for registration table, etc. will be recruited thru a link that MLA will send to
      everyone who registers. Please do volunteer!
    o Conference Center wifi has been upgraded as much as possible; hopefully there will be
      fewer problems!
    o No division has requested books for the books sale, so apparently there won’t be a book
      sale at all this year.
    o Packet pickup by room hosts can be Weds, Thurs, or Fri at the MLA conference office in
      the hotel.
Auction Basket is shaping up, need more people to confirm what they’re bringing and make arrangements to get their contributions to Jill H.

**Oct- Kids Are Customers**
- Additional idea submitted after last meeting: have a panel of ALSC Curiosity Creates grant winners discuss what they did and how it can be replicated.
- Putting out a call for proposals- we’ll put it out for KAC, Southern & Western all together. Can do Southern/Western call for proposals again separately if needed.
  - Say seeking ideas for year-round workshops
  - Have column to select which workshops they’re interested in
  - Jess C. will do this
  - Do MLA conference separately
- Keeping Owings Mills location- Jess C. will ask Joe to find out if we can have the space 3rd Thurs of Oct (20th)
- Depending on the winners of the Blue Crab, we’ll try to pursue one of these authors as a speaker.

**Request from Julie Zamostny of Western Regional for a “far-western” conference:** they’d like to repeat this year’s S/W topics in Garret or Alleghany in April or May.
- We’re not sure it’s feasible in this timeline
- Julie asked if virtual was an option, but our topics are pretty hands-on and we’re doubtful they would work virtually
- Decision: this year we will share the presenters’ info w/ WMRL so they can pursue on their own. Next year, we’ll look into moving Western further West and Southern farther North (Anne Arundel or PG). Amanda R. will reply to July

**Awards- Blue Crab**

- Announcing today at Southern
- 2017 Chair & Committee- we have a chair! Bethany Vangrin will chair the committee. Need committee members, so please encourage anyone you know who may be interested. Need at least 8 members plus the chair, want a mix of public librarians, school media specialists, and perhaps academic librarians or other specialties.
- Blue Crab rules/ bylaws badly need to be updated and revised, including the # of contact hours and the role of the chair vs. other committee members. Jess C. and Conni will work on this w/ Bethany.
- Outgoing committee chair remains responsible for contacting the winning & honored authors and helping arrange their appearance at KAC.
  - MLA letterhead is being sent in paper form from the MLA office to Jill. It did not arrive in time for today’s meeting. Jill will scan it into a digital file for future use.
  - Shirley will give Jill the info on winners & honorees and Jill will draft the correspondence
  - Need to contact the winners ASAP by phone or email to let them know they won, BEFORE announcing online, on social media, etc. Jill will work on this immediately.
- Winners and Honorees will be listed in the next CSD newsletter.
• The 2016 winners’ list will be posted on the MLA website once authors have been notified.

Old Business

• Social Media
  o Engagement is increasing slowly- keep liking and commenting on our items to boost them
  o Conni will post about the Blue Crabs, 1 category a week, winners on Monday and then 1 honor tues-thurs
  o Conni will make all officers incl. past president and herself admins on our social media accounts, pages, and groups. So Rachel, Amanda, Jessica C., Jill H.

• Newsletter
  o Deadline for next issue is this Friday, March 18. Send to Sophia at vanschaick@hcplonline.org or MLA Children’s gmail account
  o Post to FB and twitter asking for any last submissions

• Virtual Meetings
  o Bylaws & Digital Voting- nothing specific about voting in virtual meetings. Bylaws do say email voting allowed, don’t say anything one way or another about voting in virtual meetings by other means. The bylaws do encourage the use of alternate communication methods in place of physical meetings. We believe this covers us for voting and decision making in virtual meetings, so no updates to the bylaws are needed.

New Business- None

Monthly Topic/ Idea Share/Discussion: Parent Engagement

• None

Go ‘Round:

• Beanstack summer sharing Maryland group- virtual meeting March 24 at 2pm organized by A. Roberson. Amanda@zoobean.com if interested
• Upcoming Future Makers training- Primo workshops
• Webinar opportunity for Sesame Street autism project- one for educators & 1 for provider
• St. Mary’s is preparing a new childcare providers’ workshop w/ Hospice on supporting young children and families during serious illness and loss.
• Amanda shared about Calendly- new website for scheduling appointments to have conversations with people (less in depth than an appointment). Prevents endless phone tag.
• Jessica C.- Woodlawn and Rosedale branches having literacy fairs to put parents in contact with local resources & agencies. 2 hrs long each.
• IKEA donated 100 books and some storage furniture to BCPL in exchange for BCPL having storytimes in their IKEA café.

Adjourned at 11:53am.