Meeting Minutes, March 12, 2018
Children’s Services Division, Maryland Library Association
Waldorf West Library

- Introductions- Jill Hutchison, Sarah Guy, Joe Farmarco, Kristen Bodvin, Christine Freeman (by phone)
- Approval of minutes
- President’s Report- none this month
- Program Planning
  - Southern/Western- Southern is today!
  - MLA Annual-
    - Hotel rooms are selling out quickly, so folks should book their rooms if they haven’t yet. Still need room hosts for: pre-conference, embedded librarians, and media mentorship sessions
    - Joe will host pre-conference session
    - Jill will email members & post on FB for remaining 2 sessions
    - Raffle basket- Sarah Guy volunteers to make the basket and send with Charles Co staff to MLA. Ice cream theme.
  - Kids Are Customers 2018
    - Put out call for presenters
    - Touch base with “Not your Usual ST” panel to see if they’re interested/available
    - Check with Eileen if she’s available to do her cancelled session from last year.
    - Contact Janet Ring at Owings Mills library to inquire about booking space, and also Devon McLaughlin about CCBC classrooms for breakouts.
  - B.E.S.T.-
  - Blue Crab Committee Update- Winners & Honors announced later today at Southern!
- Old Business
  - Social Media- Keep liking & sharing on our page and group!
  - Newsletter-
    - Develop & manage own division website, linked from MLA website?
    - Videos for LATI training- Jill email members for contributions
- Action item follow-up- anything not covered so far
- New Business
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Sarah: Difficulty for interested new members to “break into” active participation in CSD meetings. Need to be welcomed and given backstory on current and upcoming projects, invited to contribute.

- Idea from Sophia & Kristen: emphasize the monthly topic and go-round sharing as this is often the most valuable in terms of networking and idea-sharing. Share the upcoming topics in advance and encourage people to contribute on social media and by sending their sharing bits even if they can’t attend each month. Include all the sharings in the minutes, and share the minutes widely.
- Idea from Joe: do more icebreaking/ welcoming of new members during the introductions.
- Idea from the whole group: make more of a point to explain/ give background for each agenda item before jumping directly into business-in-progress, so that new folks can feel more confident contributing.
- Idea from Kristen: send welcome messages to new members who join CSD while joining or renewing MLA membership, and who turn up at a meeting.
- Action item for Jill- get updated membership list from MLA office.

Monthly Sharing Topic- If you could send ONE piece of advice back through time to yourself on your first day in library youth services, what would it be?

- Sarah: Try anything once!
- Joe: When leading storytime, don’t plow ahead with a story if it’s just not working. Don’t be afraid to abandon what’s not working and change gears right in the middle of a program; to make this possible, have more stuff prepared than you think you need.
- Kristen- When purchasing a new outreach vehicle, make sure the people responsible for making the purchase are truly listening to the staff who will be using it, hearing what they need, and making decisions accordingly
- Sophia- Be aware that library policies will change over time, and be ready to change with them.
- Jill- Find your people! Seek out and build (and then maintain) relationships with other people in children’s librarianship and related fields, both within and beyond your local community. Conferences, online communities, & serendipitous meetings cal all help you create a strong and supportive professional network.
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You can get (and give!) a great deal of good ideas, opportunities, information, advice, and moral support if you have a strong network.

○ Christine- Don’t be afraid to make a mistake and laugh at yourself. If you can laugh about it, others will be good with it too.

○ Next month’s sharing topic: **What’s your favorite thing about summer reading? What’s your biggest challenge in summer reading.**

● Go ‘Round- Share anything of interest from your library’s youth-services department
  ○ Sarah- Charles Co Lib partnering w/ Tri County Youth Services Bureau on a parent support group for parents of teens, led by a licensed therapist on relevant topics like understanding and handling behavior issues with their teens.
  ○ Jill- New Leonardtown library construction contract awarded
  ○ Christine- Montgomery Co launching 1000 books before Kindergarten
  ○ Joe- May 19, 10-6, Gaithersburg Book Festival- lots of big name children’s authors
  ○ Sophia- Fallston Branch & 2 others have “Beam by eyeCLick” interactive projection systems with games for children. It is a HUGE hit with kids. They usually offer playtime with it after storytime ends.
  ○ Kristen- Carroll County is raising money for “Exploration Commons at 50 East”- transforming an unused 14,000 square foot basement space in Westminster Branch into a makerspace with kitchen, long-arm quilting, audio & video studios, etc. to open in 2020.
  ○ Joe- Eric Litwin is making an appearance at a conference in OC the day after MLA ends. Joe is not sure if it’s open to the public, but if so it might be fun for children’s librarians to make a side trip!

● Next meeting: April 9, 2018, Washington County Free Library Central Library in Hagerstown; Western Conference follows
  ○ Snack-bringer: Kristen

Action items to review from Feb:

● Conni- make schedule of room hosts/ volunteers for MLA conference- not done
● Conni- make & share a Google Form for people to submit proposals for KAC 2018 and Southern/Western 2019 sessions- not done
● Conni- Make Christine an admin of our FB group, Twitter, & Instagram- done
● Jill- email members & ask for volunteers to make video clips for LATI- not done
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- Officers- for KAC 2018, need to start confirming presentations, and book Owings Mills Library- not done
- Officers, current Blue Crab committee- put out feelers for next year’s Blue Crab committee- not done
- Jill- check in with Blue Crab committee on status & start notifying winners- done
- Carrie- ask YS Coordinators about interest in the full-day Ready at Five Learning Parties training, and also about interest in a follow-on training on how to adapt the Learning Parties for public library settings- done
- Jill- Set up LSC Journal Club virtual chapter- not done
- Jill- send blue crab committee updates to MLA Webmaster- done
- Conni- check in with Eileen if she still wants to continue being the chair of BEST. Idea: suggest having a co-chair so that other people can learn how to organize this conference, in case Eileen should decide step down in the future- not done
- Conni- ask MLA if we can manage our own division website as a Google Site, and just link to it from the MLA site.- not done
- Officers- schedule FB posts on advocacy opportunities as they come up, & highlighting past Blue Crab books- not done

Action items from this meeting:
- All not done, above
- Jill will email members & post on FB for room host volunteers for remaining 2 MLA sessions
- Sarah Guy- organize raffle basket & transport for it to MLA
- Put out call for Kids Are Customers 2018 presenters
- Touch base with “Not your Usual ST” panel to see if they’re interested/available for KAC
- Check with Eileen if she’s available to do her cancelled session from last year at KAC 2018
- Contact Janet Ring at Owings Mills library to inquire about booking space for KAC 2018, and also Devon McLaughlin about CCBC classrooms for breakouts.
- Jill- email members for contributions to videos for LATI training about Youth Services
- Jill- get updated membership list from MLA office, update mailing list