Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel Meeting  
Friday, February 4, 12:30 pm  
DuClaw Brewing Company, Hanover

Present: Mark de Jong, Annette Goodman, Monica McAbee, Sarah Jane Miller, April Perlowski, Margie Rhoden, Mary Somers (IF Officer), Barbara Webb, Dianne Whitaker

Minutes of December 2010 were approved.

Conference update.
- The Conference brochure is almost ready and will be online soon.
- Programs are being identified for virtual presentations and audio recordings.

IFAP program update.
- April has just one last form (Final Checklist) to take care of.

IFAP silent auction contribution.
For the Conference, MLA divisions and groups were asked to contribute something to the Silent Auction and use the opportunity to promote their group. IFAP will donate a basket of Banned Books favorites. Everyone pick 2 candidates and let Mary know your choices. Mary will locate a basket and she has a stand for our IFAP poster. April’s husband can arrange the basket contents in an attractive way. Mary will find a volunteer to design our IFAP poster.

Other business.
- Mary reported that Carrie Gardner confirmed that confidentiality of patron records is covered by Maryland law, and having someone else’s card with you is NOT evidence of “implied consent.” This was in response to Andrea’s question about a woman who wanted to discuss her sister’s library account.
- We have a private Facebook page but Andrea would like to create a more public one. We tabled the idea for now and will revisit it in a few months.

IFAP Manual updates.
- Mark and Michael completed their tasks – thank you!
- We will look at other states’ manuals to see how they present them, with the idea of possibly making ours more practical (more “what do I do if…” guidance).

IFAP Wiki.
- Everyone has the ability to edit the wiki. Practice by playing in the Sandbox – you can’t hurt anything there!
- Dianne volunteered to update and maintain the “quote of the week” feature.
- We discussed the need to archive pages, and how to organize them.

New Business.
- Sarah asked about the Defending Access with Confidence program. She would like to help present it in the future. We discussed the possibility of presenting a program on
these issues to the public. Monica will check with Margaret Carty about MLA doing programs that are open to the public.

- Mary suggested that everyone take a look at OIF’s Conable Award. Here is the link: www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaawards/gordonmconableaward/index.cfm
  [It is actually sponsored by LSSI, not OIF, but it does have to do with intellectual freedom.]

**DISCUSSION TOPIC**

Because we had a full meeting agenda, we didn’t have any formal discussion topics. However, informal discussion before the meeting touched on filters in libraries and getting books for prison libraries. There was also a lot of discussion about the lack of critical thinking skills being taught in schools. Intellectual freedom involves having access to a variety of information and opinions in order to make an informed decision. However, without the ability to judge, question, or analyze that information, access to it means nothing.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, April 6, 12:30, at Hemingway’s Restaurant in Stevensville: www.hemingwaysmaryland.com

Monica McAbee