Intellectual Freedom Panel Meeting
Virtual
Wednesday, February 1st 2023, 2:00pm
MINUTES
In attendance: Andrea Boothby Rice (Washington College), Lloyd Jansen (Charles Co PL), Monica McAbee (PGCMLS), Laura Bandoch (Harford Co PL), Mou Chakraborty (Salsibury U), Arthur LaRue (WCFL), Hannah Rosekrans (BCPL), Kat Jolie (Charles Co PL)

- December minutes were reviewed, no revisions. Laura moved to approve and Arthur seconded.
- Reports
  - Executive Board and Legislative Panel
    - EB did not meet in January
    - Affiliate Membership vote passed
    - New logo has been rolled out
    - MLA now has a Canva account that units can use for designing marketing; password provided to unit chairs
    - Lib Leg Day is 2/15
    - Keeping an eye on a few bills: SLRC funding, regional libraries structuring bill, collective bargaining enabling legislation
    - Finding support for ebook legislation before putting a bill forth
  - Conference Committee
    - Registration should be open soon
    - Our preconference with LAIG is Wednesday afternoon from 1-4
  - SIFNET
    - A lot of carryover legislation – proposed last year or two but never went anywhere – a lot of it criminalization of educators and/or librarians who provide certain materials, but also instances of such bills failing to pass
    - Some instances of schools not following their own policies and instead engaging in soft- or self-censorship out of fear
    - In FL one school district has implemented an opt-out form for parents to opt out of certain books
    - Instances of finding problems that don’t exist and finding new ways to restrict access
- Old business
  - Missouri Rule Statement
    - Haven’t heard much of an update on the situation in MO.
  - GLSEN Event
    - Andrea, Lloyd, and Kennedy from LGBTQ+ interest group hosting workshop on Feb 18 at the GLSN Youth Summit in Baltimore. Will talk about IF, rights, how to advocate
- New businesses
  - Conference Poster Session
    - Discussion of poster session on various IFP events
  - Conference Silent Auction
    - We will work on assembling a basket on the general theme of “preparing yourself to be an intellectual freedom warrior.” Please contribute ideas in shared document.
- Website and Book Sanctuary Libraries
  - Chicago PL has created book sanctuary libraries and website (booksanctuary.org)
  - Conversations have been happening about what library worker protection laws should look like and an attempt to propose such legislation in MD. Based on what we are hearing in other states, interest in getting ahead of this and creating a MD Freedom to Read group (would not supercede IFP but be a more unified effort uniting us, MASL, Legislative Panel, etc). Hannah, Lloyd, Arthur, Kate, and Andrea will be involved in ongoing conversations about this.

- Roundtable Discussion
  - Andrea will be discussing censorship with group in QA County called Sunday Supper Club
  - Panel 3/27
  - Please email Hannah (hrosekrans@bcpl.net) if you could take minutes for the April 5 meeting in her absence

Next meeting: April 5th