MINUTES

In attendance: Andrea Boothby Rice (QACL), Monica McAbee (PGCMLS), Arthur LaRue (WCFL), Carrie Sanders (MSL), Hannah Rosekrans (BCPL)

● Open Discussion on Censorship - 2:00 - 2:30
● Minutes
  o Monica moved to approve February minutes without revision, Arthur seconded
● Reports
  o Executive Board and Legislative Panel
    ▪ Black Caucus of MLA now official
    ▪ Andrea will remain IFP Chair another year
    ▪ MLA may be signing up for a booth in the vendor hall at ALA – be on the lookout for more info
    ▪ Leg panel: Discussion of funding bills – did not receive the funding requested, ALA unhappy with federal budget, e-book legislation from last year is being challenged in the courts and an injunction was issued in favor of the publishers. Minutes were not sent out yet so Andrea will follow up with more info when those are out.
  o Conference Committee
    ▪ Andrea is packet person for all our events
    ▪ There is a need for volunteers to assist at registration table
  o SIFNET
    ▪ 2021 had the most challenges there have been since OIF began collecting challenge reports in 1990
    ▪ Everyone in attendance
    ▪ We discussed interest in knowing more about how challenges are tracked, if there’s a tracking of what is removed or relocated versus challenged without going any further

● Old business
  o MSL Censorship Libguide - Tamar Sarnoff
    ▪ Still in progress. Our involvement is somewhat a consultant role, rather than active participates. The intent is that our LibGuide and theirs will cross-reference.
New business
  o Dr. Gabbin stand alone program update
    ▪ Scheduled for April 27, registration is low at this time. We need 30 participants because of the honorarium involved. Also sponsored by BCMLA, who are also promoting. We have until the 15th to secure enough registration so it is not cancelled.
  o MLA programs
    ▪ Hate speech panel – in the works. We are looking at June 8, possibly a hybrid program if we can find a location with the right technology.
  o IFP assistance request
    ▪ We were contacted by a detention center librarian who asked for assistance after being banned from the facility. We have been in contact with the library administration in that county and are waiting to see what support is needed. Andrea is also waiting to receive further guidance from OIF.
    ▪ We have had follow up conversation about prison access generally and how to best bring the issue of prison access to light but have not yet drawn conclusions or begun any work
  o SLRC conference
    ▪ We have been invited to this year’s Cultures Conference. This year’s focus is on EDI and Intellectual Freedom. The conference is virtual.
    ▪ We determined we would like to participate and will discuss details between now and the conference (June 6).

Roundtable Discussion
  o Mou (through Andrea) suggested doing some banned poetry posts on Facebook during April. Please send any ideas her way.
  o Mou added a banned authors page to the LibGuide. Please send any interviews are articles related to banned authors to Mou for inclusion.
  o We discussed the various guidance we have heard from our systems regarding First Amendment Audits

Next meeting: June 1st