MLA Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel
Friday, June 5, 2015
Broadneck Grill, Annapolis
Minutes

Present: Monica McAbee, Mou Chakraborty, Gaylord Robb, Terri Boddorff, Cathi MacRae, Mary Somers, Amy Jones, Steve LaBash

Minutes from April 2015 were approved with two corrections: Mou was not present at the April meeting, and in the second bullet point under Future Programming, the minutes should read Media Law Resource Center.

Executive Board report
Monica’s term was renewed for another year to serve as the Maryland Intellectual Freedom Officer. She will alternate with John Courie in attending the Conference Committee meetings. MLA seems to be in good financial shape. The membership numbers are down, but only because of a software problem preventing renewals from being processed.

Facebook report
Andrea was not present to give a report, but Monica reminded the members to send “shelfies” to Andrea. Monica will ask the Conference Committee for a photo of the auction basket so it can be posted on the Facebook page.

Annual Conference wrap-up
Monica and Mary presented with Cathay Keough (DLA Executive Director) on defending access (Defending Access with Confidence). The evaluations were very positive. The only negative comments suggested there was too much information presented for the three-hour timeframe.

Plan future programs
In the coming year, Monica would like to plan one conference program, one stand-alone program (with a goal of generating income), and something offered online.

Online:
Instead of the online tutorial as discussed in previous meetings, Mou suggested creating a LibGuide on issues dealing with intellectual freedom. Based on this, if needed, an interactive tutorial could be created in future. Mou has already created a template from Salisbury University Libraries website and will send out the link. She will need members to take ownership of a section and provide content. We can discuss it more at the next meeting.

Stand-alone:
We discussed the following options: an update on the Patriot and Freedom Acts – host a speaker to offer an update and review of changes in the laws; something directed at young adults related to Banned Books Week; a webinar with a panel of speakers on the Freedom Act and its relevance to libraries – money could be collected through MLA. Monica will contact Jonathan Kelly to see if he has any ideas for panelists. MLA could offer a webinar through Blackboard Collaborate.

Conference:
We could ask the Media Law Resource Center to provide a speaker on the History of the First Amendment (perhaps Kate Bolger?).

Networking ideas
We discussed attending the Baltimore Book Festival in late September. Monica will check the web site for more information. We made tentative plans to organize a harbor cruise event in Annapolis on a Wednesday afternoon in July. Monica will send out a doodle poll to help select a date, and then advertise on MaryLib. The cost is $15 per person for a 40 minute ride. If we have a group of 30 or more, we qualify for a cheaper group rate.

IFAP article for Crab
We will write a report on the Annapolis cruise event, and we will tie it in with Banned Books Week.

Future Meetings
The group discussed the preferred meeting dates and decided Wednesdays are better than Fridays. Monica will check with Sarah Jane and Andrea on their availability. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at the Broadneck Grill at 12:30pm.