Intellectual Freedom Panel Meeting
Virtual
Wednesday, June 8th 2:00pm

MEETING
In attendance: Andrea Boothby Rice (Washington College), Mou Chakraborty (Salisbury U), Monica McAbee (Prince Georges County Memorial Library), Hannah Rosekrans (Baltimore County Public Library), Kelsey Hughes (Prince Georges County Memorial Library), Thomas Vose (Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County)

● Open Discussion
● Minutes
  o Approved without correction (moved by Monica, seconded by Kelsey)
● Reports
  o Executive Board and Legislative Panel
    ▪ Andrea unable to attend most recent meeting.
  o Conference Committee
    ▪ Conference was a huge success
  o SIFNET
    ▪ Nothing new, ongoing tremendous uptick in challenges
● Old business
  o MLA Programs – Reflections
    ▪ Very positive surveys from MLA programs
    ▪ Monica volunteered to be Conference Committee rep for next year
● New business
  o FY 23 Work Plan
    ▪ IF, Neutrality, and Hate Speech panel will occur in the next fiscal year as we were not able to get that scheduled for June 8
  o MLA Donation
    ▪ $200 specified for combatting censorship. Discussion occurred via email on how to use the money.
    ▪ Two ideas that stood out
      ● Postcards to send to school districts featuring “book challenge toolkits”
      ● Holding a program and using the money to cover registration so the program can be free
        o Some discussion of this idea with respect to the panel since we want that to be more accessible to frontline staff. Andrea also noted Nay and Josh have a goal of making MLA programs more accessible generally.
  o Freedom to Read Foundation Grant
    ▪ MASL proposed a virtual banned book day; we told them we would be available to pair with them if they receive a grant for that.
    ▪ We proposed a two-part project; first: a banned book poster contest, shared with MASL to get out to schools, offer prize money. Invite winners to panel to share about their poster. If went with toolkit idea for $200 donation above, would include poster art on the postcards. Second part: panel at Salisbury (hybrid for those who cannot get to Salisbury) bringing together public, academic libraries, a member of GLSEN, hopefully an author, to discuss banned
books, during BBW. Proposal submitted and Andrea and Mou will keep us updated.

- We held further discussion about logistics of this program if we do receive the grant.

**Roundtable Discussion**

- Andrea shared this guide to consider adding to the LibGuide: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nCLhW368GGGf17lo4_zh2QCWjQ7X4lxJ7w0iFaP-tgc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nCLhW368GGGf17lo4_zh2QCWjQ7X4lxJ7w0iFaP-tgc/edit?usp=sharing)
- Mou shared this other IF LibGuide: [https://guides.lib.wayne.edu/IntellectualFreedom](https://guides.lib.wayne.edu/IntellectualFreedom)
- We had brief discussion about neutrality and collection development and our desire to have longer conversation about this; we also discussed whether it makes sense for the onus to consistently be on library systems to defend titles as opposed to the burden of proof falling to those who challenge
- Mou added a tab to our LibGuide to keep track of events occurring in the news
- Various members shared the stories discussed in each of these links. This was only discussion of the nationwide trend, and no actions were discussed. Please note that two of these links are from Maryland libraries, and no employees of those libraries were present at the meeting.
  
  - [https://flatheadbeacon.com/2022/03/12/policy-differences-on-display-at-library-board-retreat/](https://flatheadbeacon.com/2022/03/12/policy-differences-on-display-at-library-board-retreat/)
  - [https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/05/10/school-library-database-book-ban/?utm_campaign=wp_post_most&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newletter&amp;wpsrc=nl_most&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fcar-tr%2F36cdd15%2F627a8b93956121755a711657%2F598115349bcb0f6826d937af%2F15%2F72%2F627a8b93956121755a711657&fbclid=IwAR25rZWTVuOJ_TKPogGTkaxx8LhNjT3vsMmJJA35ychMo8k0jhdAeGcVhA](https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/05/10/school-library-database-book-ban/?utm_campaign=wp_post_most&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newletter&amp;wpsrc=nl_most&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fcar-tr%2F36cdd15%2F627a8b93956121755a711657%2F598115349bcb0f6826d937af%2F15%2F72%2F627a8b93956121755a711657&fbclid=IwAR25rZWTVuOJ_TKPogGTkaxx8LhNjT3vsMmJJA35ychMo8k0jhdAeGcVhA)

Next meeting: August 3rd