Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel Meeting
Anne Arundel County Public Library Headquarters
5 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Wednesday, August 1 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM

MINUTES

Introductions

Julie Ranelli (Queen Anne’s County), Sara Brown (Baltimore County), Sarah J. Miller (Baltimore County), Monica McAbee (Prince George’s County), Nay Keppler (Carroll County), Mou Chakraborty (Salisbury University), Katelyn McLimans (Cecil County)

Minutes

- April 2018 minutes were approved.

Reports

- July Executive Board Meeting (Nay)-
  - New task force on Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity is seeking members- please spread the word.
  - MLA goal is to get 5% increase in membership.
  - August 29 online training- Program Development Panel revising program procedures and discussing new procedures for MLA programs
  - Sept. executive board meeting moved to Sept. 12
  - Provided training on new Blackboard Ultra platform available to MLA divisions and interest groups to host meetings and trainings
  - Raised $2,500 for public library relief efforts in Puerto Rico

- Legislative Panel
  - Question on November ballot about whether to use gambling funds specifically for K-12 education. This would eliminate libraries from being able to use these funds.

- MLA Annual Conference
  - Poster session very successful- Interactive components encouraged people to participate.
    - The PDF of the poster will be uploaded to the MLA IFP site. There is potential to use banned book responses from the poster on social media during Banned Books Week.
  - All sessions were successful and saw high numbers of attendees ranging from 40-70 people. The IFP session presenters will send Sarah session information to add to MLA conference website for those who were unable to attend. We will also add this information to the lib guide.
Basket- Nay will find out how much money the basket raised. The IFP plans to use a similar model next year to get donations related to banned books and potential tie it to social media.

• MLA Conference 2019
  o Conference Positions:
    • Nay is conference co-chair
    • Hannah Wilkes is our representative
    • Tiffany Sutherland is the conference director- Goals are to model some of the activities after the ALA conference, including adding authors
  o Sessions:
    • Received feedback that they would like to see more for academic libraries
    • Oct. 12- Preliminary approval forms due (On MLA website)
    • Plan to have fewer programs in order to make better use of the space
    • Adding Ignite MLA sessions- 1-2 hour programs with several presenters. Each presenter speaks for 15-20 minutes on a topic.
  o IFP Session Ideas:
    • Sarah can do program on Library Freedom Institute with a focus on privacy
    • Possible presentation about issue of meeting rooms and space and handling question of hate groups. Potential to network with ALA OIF to find a presenter.
    • Question of 3-D printing and weapons. For libraries with open 3-D printing access
    • Potential to incorporate ignite format and speak about multiple smaller topics. “Hot topics in Intellectual Freedom”
    • If have any additional ideas, share them with Julie and Sarah ASAP so can prepare for Oct. deadline
  o 2019 Poster:
    • Maybe do survey for MD and DE libraries asking what types of programs they do for Banned Books week. First survey in September asking what they plan to do and follow up in October to find out how it went- Mou will take lead on this project.
  o Reach out to Nay if you would like to be added to the annual conference listserv
  o Next conference committee meeting Aug. 22.

Old Business

• Libguide- There are still areas to add content. Goal is to have it finished in time to present in January.
• Webinar- Will take place in the spring. Initial version presented to LATI group this fall.  
  o Censorship and Customer Complaints with Sarah Miller (Looking for additional presenter).
  o In order to allow greater access to the information, plan is not to charge for the webinar. Webinar can be hosted on WebEx. Since planning not to host through MLA, Sarah will get in touch with MLA to make sure that we can do it independently.
Meeting schedule for Aug. 2018-June 2019- 1st Wednesday of the month (Every other month). December meeting at Broadneck. Will decide June location at October meeting.

FY19 Work plan goals:
- Develop Libguide and have ready to show at the Executive Board meeting in January
- Goal this year to share Libguide with the public
- Have a presence at the MLA/ DLA Annual Conference
- LATI training
- Spring webinar
- Keeping website updated
- Potential to host program during the year on microaggressions in partnership with another division. This is based on feedback from the microaggression session at the 2018 MLA/DLA conference
- Increase IFP membership- Use MLA listserv, the Crab newsletter, and social media to advertise meetings.

Julie will draft work plan and send out to group for additions/revisions

Banned Books Week, Sept. 23-29. Taking the data from the poster and writing a Crab article (Due Sept. 5)- Mou and Sarah working on this article

AACC panel- Sara approached by Anne Arundel Community College- Visual arts professor interested in putting on Banned Books panel with someone from IFP and Comicbook Legal Defense Fund (No date yet, but Sept.). Sara will reach out again to check on status. Panel encouraged to think about potential presenters to represent IFP on this panel.

Discussion

Meeting rooms policies- ALA counsel spoke about amending ALA Bill of Rights interpretation of meeting room policies.
- People taking issue with controversial use of “Hate speech” and “hate group”- members felt not adequately prepared to vote based on the inclusion of this new language.
- Concerns that including this language will encourage hate groups to seek the library/sue if not allowed to use meeting rooms
- Also concern that allowing these groups may threaten other library users, staff, etc.
- IFP members discussed the inclusion of this language (“Hate group”), noting that hate groups typically do not self-identify as such
- The IFP reviewed the response from David Dahl, who explained his vote to rescind in August.
- ALA has a feedback form available from the Intellectual Freedom Committee through Aug. 24 for those who would like to be part of the conversation.
- The IFP will make sure to stay in touch with David Dahl (ALA rep.) to monitor ongoing updates
- Sara will send new and old policy to IFP and link to submission form
- If rescinded, vote will come up again at ALA midwinter
Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 3 from 2:00-3:30 at AACPL Headquarters, Annapolis with Google Hangout option