IFP Meeting 8/7/19 AACPL Headquarters

Sara Brown (Baltimore County), Monica McAbee (PG County), Hannah Wilkes (Baltimore County), Julie Ranelli (QA County), Gaylord Robb (Salisbury U), Clare Kuntz Balcher, Emily Sachs (Enoch Pratt), Kat Jolie (Charles County)

The June minutes were approved without amendment.

MLA Executive Board Update:

- October will be Read Across America month, featuring a financial literacy component. More info will come out on Marylib.
- Updates from annual conference: ALA passed a resolution to rename the Melvil Dewey medal ([https://tinyurl.com/dewey-medal](https://tinyurl.com/dewey-medal)). MLA past president Joe Thompson thanked everyone who worked the MLA booth at ALA.
- The Leadership Development Division (LDD) has partnered with the New Jersey Library Association on MentorLib, a matchmaking service for mentors/mentees. They are looking for MD mentors. If interested, the time commitment depends on what you as the mentor are interested in (email-only, one-time, in person). Sara will email this info to the IFP listserv. Mentors have short profiles identifying their areas. Looking for mentees down the pike once more mentors are established.

2020 Conference:

- Roaring 20s theme
- There was a lot of conversation about decreased traffic in the vendor area. This makes vendors less likely to attend the conference, which is a problem because they are a huge revenue stream. Friday morning is an especially low business time for them, as many people leave early and the Delaware keynote speaker is Friday morning. Please send Hannah, IFP’s rep on the conference committee ([hwilkes@bcpl.net](mailto:hwilkes@bcpl.net)), any thoughts you might have for changes to the Friday schedule, ways of increasing traffic in the vendor area, or anything along those lines.

Old business:

- LibGuide - Sara provided an overview of our LibGuide – it’s resource for librarians around the state to learn more about intellectual freedom issues. We are still missing intros to some sections, but it’s still in good shape overall. If you’d like to write an intro, please let Sara ([sabrown@bcpl.net](mailto:sabrown@bcpl.net)) know – a great way to be involved that doesn’t take much time or any travel!
- Winter program and conference programs: Winter programs would be January – March, paperwork due October 1. Preliminary conference forms are due around the same time, so we discussed these items together. We’d like to have at least one if not more programs for the conference and at least one standalone program.
  - Implicit bias/how our implicit biases impact our customer service and reference – possibly for conference instead of standalone due to paying a speaker
  - Current topics, could be panel of speakers from around the state (Skip Auld, Michael Blackwell, others?)
- Database challenges, Drag Queen Storytime, banned books/primarily LGBTQ+ on current banned and challenged books list
- IF beyond banned books
- Strategies for dealing with challenges, almost like a workshop (have a reconsideration form, etc)
- Town hall-style “this is what I’ve faced”
- Shannon Oltmann, professor from Kentucky and editor of the *Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy*, contacted us that she would be available to present. She just published a book called *Practicing Intellectual Freedom in Libraries*.
- Dr. Hill is amazing and worth keeping on our radar (not available for the foreseeable future due to department commitments). Hannah will follow up with her to see if there’s an end date for her university commitments. We also want to contact Prof Oltman and see what she can offer/what she charges. Emily will find out about community groups working on racial justice to see if they have anyone who would be available for implicit bias talk.
- Standalone: we could offer strategies for dealing with challenges as our panel, without needing an outside speaker.
- If we offer a panel of speakers from around the state, we could consider having them build on each other since they are not that far apart.
- Monica will plan standalone program on “how to deal with challenges.” Rounding up a local panel should also be fairly easy, so we can have this for conference. Sara will contact Prof. Oltman to see about her availability and fee for webinar or conference. Sara will email Marylib for conference proposals. Hannah will contact possible panelists from around the state. Emily will also consider presenting something on privacy again, Sara and Josh might do something on threat modeling. PSD is possibly interested in partnering with us on a conference program about digital collections and copyright.
- The webinar for LATI training is still in progress.

**New Business:**

- **Banned books week:** Last year, we put a call to Marylib for pictures/descriptions of what people were doing for Banned Books Week. We were going to use these for a poster at conference, but the poster didn’t happen. Do we want to try again? Discussion of a *Crab* article (or program in future) to break down Banned Books Week: bans vs challenges, trends in bans and challenges, impact of banning, etc. We’ll send an email to Marylib at Banned Books Week reminding everyone we are here to support them during challenges and to report their challenges. DC Public did a scavenger hunt this year, discussion of whether we could put together something like this through our social media channels, or plan something larger for next year. Also discussion of Banned Books Week trivia, again, more likely for next year. We also talked about hosting a social event/takeover during BBW. Ideas included Flying Dog Brewery in Frederick (they have hosted banned books events in the past) and a knitting shop in Charles County – Kat will investigate this option.
- **Workplan:** Sara is working on this, due October 1. The goal of the workplan is to tell MLA what we want to accomplish, how it supports MLA/MLA’s goals, and how we will know we’ve accomplished this. Sara will send out a summary of what she wants to include with the hope
that anyone who is working on projects they want to add they will share those for inclusion on the workplan.

- **Resolutions/statement position:** Sara attends SIFNet, quarterly meetings attending by the IF chairs nationwide talking about issues/trends in different states. A question arose recently about whether any state associations have put out public statements about drag queen storytimes. The Massachusetts Library Association recently released an endorsement of anti-facial recognition legislation ([https://tinyurl.com/massendorse](https://tinyurl.com/massendorse)). How does the group feel about, as issues arise, bringing resolutions before MLA to ask them to adopt? Discussion of this being time-consuming through MLA, but we can only speak through MLA, so we are all interested in pursuing this if/as issues arise.

**Current issues:**

- Lynda.com. PG dropping, AA dropping. PG looking at Udemy. BCPL is not dropping, holding internal discussion and most staff seem to support keeping. McMillan embarguing ebooks past print publication date. ALA and Overdrive writing letters in support of libraries and access. St. Mary’s facing ongoing blowback re: DQST. Protestor assaulted board member at Severna Park (AACPL) DQST. Question of whether ALA has a resolution on DQST – reason being MLA is less of a public org than ALA is. (ALA Resources: [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/libraries-respond-drag-queen-story-hour](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/libraries-respond-drag-queen-story-hour))

**Next meeting October 2, 2:00-3:30 PM, AACPL**