Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel Meeting
Friday, October 4, 2013, 12:30 pm
Blackboard Collaborate (online)

Present: Mou Chakraborty, Mark de Jong (chair), Andrea Dowling, Michael English, Monica McAbee, Sarah Jane Miller, Gaylord Robb

Minutes of August 2013 were approved.

Letter protesting NSA Surveillance
• New version (included below the minutes) well received by the Board. They request more about library users connecting online outside the library. Awaiting feedback from Mark’s email to the wider MLA membership (sent Oct. 3). The two specific requests to Congress will be modified and incorporated into the narrative of the letter.

Media Law Resource Center programs
• First presentation scheduled at Enoch Pratt Free Library, 10-12 on October 28. No charge. Forms with a “recommended CEU value” will be available. Speakers are Jim McLaughlin, Deputy General Counsel at Washington Post Media, and Jeff Leen, lead editor at the Post for national security/NSA coverage. Wesley Wilson of the State Library Resource Center is the contact at Pratt.
• Further programs to be held in Ocean City (not confirmed yet) and hopefully Delaware.

Social Media
• Sarah Jane has set up links to Pinterest and Twitter accounts:
  https://twitter.com/MLAIFAP
  http://www.pinterest.com/ifapf/boards/
• Sarah Jane and Andrea will develop a social media policy to determine what we will cover and what original content to provide, and also to ensure that all our platforms have a consistent message.
• IFAP has 36 Facebook followers.
• Mark would like Sarah Jane and Andrea to work with Michael on marketing IFAP.

Marketing and member recruitment
• Mark complimented Michael on his proposed recruitment letter (emailed to IFAP list Oct. 4). He will discuss with Michael ways to disseminate the letter. Please send feedback on the letter to the IFAP list.

New Business
Mark asked if there was any new business, but then appeared to be disconnected from the meeting. The secretary heard nothing further on her phone line and hung up.

NEXT MEETING:
• Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 12:30 pm, at Liberatore’s in Timonium: www.liberatores.com

Monica McAbee
Dear Members of Congress,

The Maryland Library Association’s Executive Board wishes to express its concern regarding recent reports published in *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post*. These reports, acknowledged as accurate by the White House, stated that the National Security Agency (NSA) has covertly collected phone and Internet records of citizens of the United States who are not under criminal investigation.

The *Post* and *Guardian* detailed how the NSA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are gaining unfettered access to the aggregated data from the leading U.S. phone and Internet companies as well as sharing this information with foreign governments. As reported, the U.S. government is accessing private audio, video, photograph, e-mail, and document information in addition to Internet connection logs. The vast majority of this data is not related to any criminal investigation or terrorist activity.

As librarians, we are dedicated to preserving the privacy, intellectual curiosity, and intellectual freedom of all readers and researchers, especially those in our local communities. However, we also appreciate that the Constitution balances the rights of privacy against the needs of law enforcement and security. Thus, we acknowledge and respect the importance of judicial oversight in preserving this balance. Blanket data collection by the government circumvents the requirement for probable cause thus undermining judicial review and the balance of privacy vis-à-vis national security.

We, the Executive Board, on behalf of the Maryland Library Association members, ask Congress to investigate and provide a full public accounting of the NSA’s and the FBI’s data collection programs. We further request that Congress assure a well-informed judicial process to preserve both our freedom and security regarding records collection. Thus, we request that Congress immediately and publicly:

1. Create a special, bipartisan committee to investigate, report, and reveal to the public the extent of domestic surveillance. This committee should create specific recommendations for legal and regulatory reform; and

2. Enact reform in the 113th session of Congress to Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, the state secrets privilege, and the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. The reforms should make clear that the surveillance of any citizen of the United States without probable cause and judicial oversight is prohibited by law and that violations can be reviewed in adversarial proceedings before a public court.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important Constitutional issue.

Sincerely,

[Executive Board signatures]