MLA Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel
Wednesday, October 7, 2015
Annie’s, Grasonville
Minutes

Present: Mou Chakraborty, Andrea Dowling, Steve LaBash, Cathi MacRae, Monica McAbee, Sarah Jane Miller, Ann Reed, Gaylord Robb, Mary Somers

Minutes from September 2015 were approved, taking out the sentence that Cathi would send a report about the Legislative Panel (there was nothing to report).

Reports:
Executive Board, September 16
Monica attended the meeting. Nothing notable to report.

Conference Committee, September 16
Monica spoke to Cathay Keough about a DLA/IFAP collaboration on IF Basics, which appeared in the list of potential programs but nobody seems to know anything about. Monica suggested a different topic [privacy in libraries, how far to protect it & when to loosen it up at customers’ request] but stipulated that DLA had to take the lead, since we already have our planning schedule well along and had not intended to do a pre-conference. Monica contacted Margie Cyr via email and Margie expressed interest, but has not responded further. Since deadline for program approval forms is October 15, Monica does not expect anything to happen with the pre-conference idea.

Facebook
- Andrea worked hard to get several banned-books videos up during Banned Books Week. Everything looks great!
- Monica pointed out that Prince George’s County posted the first BBW video on their Facebook page, and we posted a video from them. We should do these social media exchanges with systems more often.
- Next year: instead of dwelling on why books are challenged, emphasize their merits.
- Monica will send Andrea info about the New Zealand censorship case to post.
- We have exceeded 100 Likes.

Baltimore Book Festival
At the MLA booth, Monica displayed ALA’s list of the top 10 most frequently challenged books (2014) and had people put check marks for each title they had read. [Most read was The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, least read was A Stolen Life by Jaycee Dugard.] Many conversations about book banning ensued.
**Programs and Projects**

**Conference program**
Kate Bolger will do her “Censorship and the Law” presentation, which went over well 2 years ago. Monica will ask if she can have 2 hours instead of 1. Monica is the program planner & contact person for this program.

**Patriot Act update webinar**
Plan this for the spring. Monica will ask ALA’s Kristin Pekoll for speaker suggestions.
Cathi suggested that Kristin could do a program on her experience with censorship in West Bend, Wisconsin [in 2009].

**IF Tutorial online**
- Mou reviewed the purpose of our planned LibGuide on Intellectual Freedom. It could be used as a training tool for new library staff. She has set up a page and now needs content.
- The link is: [http://libraryguides.salisbury.edu/IF](http://libraryguides.salisbury.edu/IF)
- The following members volunteered to create content:
  - Monica – General overview, “What is intellectual freedom?”
  - Mou – Banned Books
  - Sarah Jane – Handling challenges, Internet Filtering
  - Cathi – IF and Youth
  - Andrea – Privacy & Confidentiality
  - We will ask John if he could do one on Net Neutrality.
- Monica will share the “Defending Access” PowerPoint to generate ideas for content.
- We could post handouts from IFAP programs (with permission from the presenters).

**New Business**
We tabled discussion of membership recruitment.
Our Winter Crab article can promote the Kate Bolger program.

**Future Meetings**
- Dec 2: Broadneck Grill & Cantina, [www.broadneckgrill.com](http://www.broadneckgrill.com)
- Feb 3: online via Blackboard Collaborate
- April 6: Annie’s Paramount Steak & Seafood House, [www.annies.biz](http://www.annies.biz)
- June 1: Broadneck Grill & Cantina, [www.broadneckgrill.com](http://www.broadneckgrill.com)