Attendees

Mou Chakraborty (Salisbury University), Naomi Keppler (Carroll County), Monica McAbee (Prince George’s County), Katelyn McLimans (Cecil County), Julie Ranelli (Queen Anne’s County), Gaylord Robb (Salisbury University), Mary Somers (Retired), Alex Supko (Baltimore County), Dianne Whitaker (Retired), Hannah Wilkes (Frederick County)

Minutes

October 2017 minutes were approved.

Reports

- Executive Board: Monica attended the most recent MLA Executive Board meeting.
  - The new Intellectual Freedom Manual was approved unanimously and added to the MLA website.
  - MLA urged all groups to keep their webpages up to date.
  - MD Library Day is February 20, 2018. National Library Legislative Day(s) are May 7 & 8, 2018. Anyone interested in participating should speak with their library leadership.
  - MLA President Denise Davis spoke about the Access to Justice program, which would provide libraries with strategies for helping patrons find legal help.

- Legislative Panel: Julie attended the November legislative panel meeting.
  - The state is coming into budget season. No major items related to libraries are being considered this year due to the major change to the Maryland State Library last year.
  - Panel members are encouraged to contact Julie if they are interested in attending state and national legislative days.
  - The advocacy interest group is hosting an advocacy boot camp as a preconference for the 2018 MLA/DLA Conference.

- Conference Committee: Monica attended the most recent conference committee meeting.
  - The Intellectual Freedom Panel is sponsoring three programs for this year’s conference and all forms have been submitted:
    - Update - James LaRue of the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom will join as a presenter for the session on library privacy.
  - The conference website and brochure are coming in January.
  - The committee announced this year’s keynote speakers:
    - Doug Davidoff, CEO Image LLC
    - Gayle Danley, Maryland Author Award Winner
- Jim Neal, ALA President
- Dr. Marie Radford, Rutgers University-Keynote topic will be, “How to disagree without being disagreeable.”
  - Special Events- This year will include a pub quiz, an escape room, a beer shindig with games, “Minute to Win It” challenges, and karaoke.
  - Hotel/Parking- The conference committee reported that the hotel should have enough rooms for all attendees and more parking will be available.
  - The call for volunteers will come out soon. Volunteers can help at the registration table and at the book sale.
  - Poster Session/ Basket-
    - The IFP discussed contributing a poster. There was general interest, and Mou volunteered to continue brainstorming ideas.
    - There was interest in contributing a basket for the auction. Nay suggested creating an “Out of Print” basket, including banned books swag. Hannah & Nay will continue investigating items to add and send a summary of the items/cost to Julie.

Social Media:
- Sara reported via email that the Facebook page is showing steadily increasing interest, currently with 247 likes.
- There were two recent popular posts on banned books: “Banned Books at St. Mary's Library Draw Ire of Parents” and “Why Your Kids Should Read Banned Books.”
  - Each post reached approximately 1,300 Facebook users.
  - Both posts had a combined 51 reactions.
- Two additional recent posts reached over 500 users: “Catonsville Immigration Forum Canceled After Threats of Protests” and “How These Libraries Are Changing the Way We Think about Digital Privacy.”
- The Facebook page now includes an updated link to the IFP website.
- All instances of “IFAP” on the page have now been changed to “IFP.”

State of the States:
- Julie reported that the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom is looking for guest bloggers. Anyone interested in submitting blog posts should contact Julie.
- ALA has new “report censorship” buttons that libraries can add to their webpages that will link users directly to the ALA challenged books site.
- Recent challenges-
  - Buck by M.K. Asante challenged at the Digital Harbor High School in Baltimore
  - The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas challenged at a high school in Katy, TX.

Old Business

- Review of work plan:
  - We are moving along steadily with the work plan. There are no major updates at this time. Julie will send it out for review before submitting it to ALA.

- LATI training resources:
  - We currently have 8 up-to-date articles/resources for the LATI Wiki. Julie will send these to the LATI Coordinator.
Mou discussed the possibility of including these resources in a lib guide that could be shared statewide. There is an intellectual freedom lib guide on the Salisbury University Library’s site, but it is out of date. Mou will send out the current lib guide link for the group to review at the next meeting and discuss a plan for distribution.

- Privacy- Photo & 3rd Party Vendors
  - This is currently an ongoing question on the state level. There are no new updates.
  - Carrie Sanders shared at the fall Youth Services Coordinators’ meeting that libraries should not sign up patrons for third party accounts without their consent.

- There are no new updates on the current challenge of the Handmaid’s Tale in Montgomery County.

New Business

- Spring Program Discussion:
  - The IFP discussed the option of offering a spring program but decided to hold the program in fall, 2018.
  - The panel discussed offering the fall program as a webinar to allow for greater access statewide. We will continue to investigate webinar platforms.
  - There was a request for a presenter to discuss how to effectively handle difficult conversations with patrons including book/material challenges.

- There was a recent challenge to *Buck* in Baltimore County Public Schools. Julie offered the IFP’s support to BCPS.
  - Julie shared that in these cases, we can connect the organization with the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom to receive advice on procedures/policies, help with the media, and examples of similar past challenges. We can also provide letters of support and support with the media.
  - The IFP discussed the importance of continuing to encourage all systems to contact us if they need help with challenges.

Action Items

- Mou will send the link for the Salisbury University lib guide on intellectual freedom.
- Nay & Hannah will investigate options for the MLA Conference basket.
- Mou & the panel members will continue brainstorming poster session ideas.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 2:00-3:30** - AACPL HQ - 5 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401-7042. Google Hangouts available. Contact Julie Ranelli for information or Google Hangouts invitation: julie@qaclibrary.org
- **Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 2:00-3:30** - AACPL HQ 5 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401-7042. Google Hangouts available. Contact Julie Ranelli for information or Google Hangouts invitation: julie@qaclibrary.org
- **Wednesday, June 6, 2018** - Broadneck Grill for 12:30 lunch & meeting, 1364 Cape St Claire Rd, Annapolis, MD 21409