Mary Baykan called the meeting to order at 10:05. Minutes from the previous meeting of April 2015 were read and approved.

Mary requested that the Plan of Work for 2015/2016 legislative session be reviewed and approved. Kathleen made a motion to approve the Plan of Work, Alan seconded and the Panel approved. The Plan of Work will be forwarded to the Executive Board.

A general discussion followed concerning the upcoming General Session and what could be expected including any possible impact on libraries. Comments were made that it might be a very contentious session between the Administration and the Leadership of the General Assembly.

Mary passed out a sheet with dates of significance for the 2015-2016 General Session which will start January 13th and included that date that the Governor is required to submit the budget (January 20th.)

Possible upcoming legislation may be requested by the Anne Arundel’s County Executive to change the Anne Arundel Public Library’s charter. The potential for this happening and, in so doing, having a wider impact on libraries statewide was discussed. Mary mentioned that she would be contacting the CEO of the Enoch Pratt, Carla Hayden and informing her of this possibility.

Natalie gave a brief update on ESEA legislation. Natalie also mentioned that she was continuing to familiarize herself with the new ENGAGE program. It was mentioned that it would be useful to the panel to have a demonstration of ENGAGE at a future panel meeting; as well as, arranging for Natalie to give a demonstration at a future MAPLA meeting. Natalie informed the panel that ALA’s National Legislative Day will be May 2nd and 3rd 2016.

Irene gave a DLDS update. She mentioned that things are a bit in flux as the Dept. of Education adjusts to Dr. Lowery’s resignation and the appointment of Jack Smith as acting Superintendent. It was mentioned that the Governor has required that all state agencies take a 2% cut which amounted to close to 54 million in budget reductions. While the state agencies had a 2% overall cut, the division’s cut was much deeper. Irene reported that due to the General Assembly mandating funding for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, LBPH is off Federal money which allows the Division to redirect that funding to possible grants and program development. DLDS plans to hold focus groups to determine future needs of libraries. The Division still has vacancies and approval is being asked from Secretary Brinkley to fill the positions.

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Mary Hastler reported that the upcoming annual Maryland Library Association Conference will be held May 4th-6th, 2016 and the theme will be, “Libraries – Unlocking Potential.” Mary H. also mentioned that there is an evaluation team working with a facilitator to reevaluate the Maryland Library Leadership program. When it is completed a report will be made to the Executive Committee and membership.

Margaret reminded everyone that the Baltimore Book Festival is Sept 25th-27th at the Inner Harbor and we could still use volunteers to cover hours in the booth. She also alerted the panel that the Maryland Library Association was partnering with the Delaware Library Association and the Library of Congress to sponsor a program on September 15th at the Library of Congress. The program is titled, “The History of Public Libraries in America.”

Mary B. announced that, due to a scheduling conflict, there will be no Legislative Panel meeting in October; however, the panel will reconvene on the first Friday in November as scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.