MLA Conference Update

- Conference is first week of May, early bird deadline is March 18.
- We are sponsoring several sessions
  - MAPIG is doing a preconference “unconference”
  - SRC (Frederick County)
  - Check Out Your Community (use your library card at local businesses)
  - Legal resources (Sandy Brewer)
  - Connecting You Library with Business Resources (Erin @ Pratt)
- Alan needs a couple of packet picker uppers. Melissa will do it for MAPIG.

Take-Aways from the Virtual Meeting

- December’s virtual meeting was a learning experience, but not a good meeting. We will have to plan better in future. (Tech monitor, facilitator, etc.)
- We might want to use Google Hangouts for smaller meetings.
- Blackboard can be used as a fifth meeting, but not take the place of one of our four regular meetings.
- Should we change around our meeting locations, perhaps have each one in a different county? (SSD has their meetings in different locations each time)

Fall 2016 Program

- Decided not to do a spring program, will do one in Fall 2016 instead.
- For fall program: Guy reads, urban fiction, graphic novels.
- Possible speakers:
  - Diane Berkman (urban fiction) Aberdeen
  - Andy Wolverton (guy reads) AACPL
  - Bill Stea (graphic novels) Charles County
- Decided on October 6 at the Arbutus Library, with a weather date of October 13.
  - Melissa will ask Bill. Jennifer will ask Diane. Jesse will ask Andy.
  - We will also talk to Monica McAbee about RAIG cosponsoring.
  - Tina will draw up a rough draft of the day.
- Can we have a morning session and some people only pay for half day, then have others stay all day and get a lunch? CHECK WITH MLA ABOUT THIS!
  - Gertrude’s for catering? Catonsville Gourmet? Taneytown Deli?
  - Three options, one vegetarian?
Future Programs Brainstorming
- Lots of ideas generated at virtual meeting. (See “minutes” from December)
- Inspirational fiction, cozy mysteries, light reads - one possible program?

Miscellaneous
- Jennifer mentioned that the new Havre de Grace Branch in Harford County will be opening in May. She will check to see if we can have our June meeting there and then take a tour of the new branch.
- Alan mentioned that the Elkridge Branch in Howard County will be closing for a year beginning sometime in May for renovations.
- Tina is retiring at the end of June 2016, but she plans to remain active in MLA.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tina Pickens, Secretary