

Courtney Whitaker

Administrator's Report

April - June 2022

Meetings Attended

Monthly

- Florida Library Directors Meetings
- Division Updates with State Librarian Amy Johnson
- WILD Directors Meetings
- Intellectual Freedom Committee Meetings
- Cooperative Directors Meeting

Other Activities Of Note

I attended Libraries on the Frontlines of Democracy in Panama City through PLAN. They had the assistant director from ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom as a guest to discuss the unprecedented number of book challenges and bans occurring across the country. I am happy to report that a number of her suggestions for anticipating challenges are already in place in our cooperative. She had a few other suggestions that I will be discussing with the directors soon.

I also attended the Florida Library Association's annual conference, entitled Reset and Reconnect. It was an amazing experience. I did a lot of networking, learned so many new things, and I'm excited to begin implementing some of the many ideas that the conference inspired. I was also there as a committee member and I moderated a panel discussion entitled: Resetting Intellectual Freedom for Today's World. The recording will be available soon and I will send it out if you're interested in viewing that. While I was there, a local school media specialist reached out to the Intellectual Freedom Committee to ask us to please attend the local school board hearing about seven books that were being challenged and to speak on behalf of the libraries. It turned out that the meeting lasted from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM but one of the committee members was able to speak briefly. It was an illuminating experience to see what we've talked about put into action at this meeting. Overall, the conference was fantastic and I'm looking forward to attending again.

I have been continuing my research into E-Rate. I just received the very long list of grant contractors and will begin contacting people soon to try to get some rates and do some cost comparisons. I've also applied to attend the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institution.