



## *Library Association of Brevard*

### LAB spring meeting 2018 notes

On April 27, 2018 at 3 p.m., Library Association of Brevard held its' spring meeting at the Melbourne Public Library, 430 E. Fee Ave., Melbourne, Fl. About 20 members and guests attended. Adam Chalmers, president, opened the meeting around 3 p.m. He introduced the guest speaker (more on her below).

Our guest speaker was Ericka Dow, from Manatee County (Bradenton area) Library system on the west coast of Florida. Her topic was how to conduct a ManaCon, or comic convention for libraries.. She came to share her experiences of running a comicon over nine years. Her talk was sponsored by NEFLIN, the Northeastern Florida Information Network, a cooperative organization of member libraries located in the Northeast part of Florida, of which Brevard County Library System is a member.

She began her talk with a video presentation on the last event at her library, which was filmed by the Bradenton Herald newspaper.

Activities included: Karoke, origami, face painting , Mural painting, martial arts demo, dance party, candy sushi, comic cosplay with runway and judging contest, crafts, speakers and displays of Japanese culture, art drawing contests, graffiti wall painting ( on cellophane wall) kimono dressing, anime drawing, t-shirt art like tie-dye, poster coloring contest, etc.

Note about filming::Tampa Bay Library Consortium (TBLC) will offer to film the comic con event any library hosts for free. Photo releases must be used.

Her suggestions were: make sure you have enough donated give away bags for patrons(a big draw for attendees),get enough judges beforehand(include one teen volunteer); use local groups for costume characters(could be theatre groups or comic shop heroes that dress up), get your teen volunteers ready weeks before, use the schools to help spread the word about your event, get your food truck s ready and in a different area just for food, away from the arts and crafts

area , for example. (less messy that way, and it won't draw people away from the other events), use social media and issue local press releases for the event.

Questions and answer time followed with a short time for refreshments before the meeting concluded around 4:45 p.m.

LAB Members will be notified via email of new officer selection, Marian Smith of EFSC Library, for VP. Also the date and time for the summer banquet will be announced shortly. Please check your email shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Lynn Bennett

Reference Librarian, Melbourne Public Lib.

May, 2018.