

# MPLA Newsletter

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Keynote Address  
CLA/MPLA Joint  
Conference  
October 2, 1993  
Aspen, Colorado

## Building Bridges

by Gary E. Strong, State Librarian of California

- “45 branch libraries to close.”
- “County library to close 12 or 15 branches.”
- “Library hours reduced by 50%.”
- “Libraries layoff staff to meet budget reductions.”
- “Library materials budgets reduced by 35%.”
- “Library literacy programs severely curtailed.”
- “Library operates with volunteers.”
- “Library officials consider user fees to keep doors open.”
- “School libraries are dead last in the nation, and 3,000 teacher/librarians would have to be trained to just move to 49th in the nation.”

These headlines are common place in newspapers across California. As reporters call and ask for comments about the future of library service in the state, I am struck by the dilemma of justifying a situation that I consider totally unacceptable.

When Proposition 13 passed in 1978, taxpayers were out to reduce government. Many voters have told me over the years that they did not want their libraries to close, but they had voted to reduce government. While we are still reaping the results of the initiative process in California, it extends far beyond Proposition 13. A year earlier, people had gone to the polls to cap the growth in government income and place caps on how fast and how high it could

grow. Two years following Proposition 13, the first initiative was passed limiting the growth of legislative spending. Faced with reduced funding for schools, the California Teachers Association introduced and supported an initiative requiring a set aside percentage of the states general fund that must be appropriated to K-14 classroom instruction. The recently passed Proposition 140 not only set term limits for legislators, but mandated a reduction in the legislative budget expenditure of 38%. The school voucher initiative promises to further divide the state over issues of choice in education. Some believe that the initiative process has gone wild and is reaction to the inaction of our elected officials. Last year the budget was not finalized by the July 1 deadline and IOUs had to be issued to meet payroll, welfare payments, and vendor payments. The taxpayer is outraged. Government in California is in turmoil.

At the same time, the state’s population has exploded growing to some 32 million people. The defense industry is declining, military bases are closing, crime is on the rise, and more children live in poverty.

Despite the California Legislature’s declaration, California public library service is eroding dangerously if  
*(continued on page 2)*

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governments are to provide the necessary information, education, and skills support required to maintain a democratic society of productive and committed people.

Prior to Proposition 13 public libraries had the authority to appropriate an ad valorem tax for library services. That disappeared and library became dependant, as did all local government, on the yearly actions of the State Legislature and the governor for fund appropriation. In 1979, the legislature established the District Augmentation Fund that ensured that public libraries who were special districts—37 of our 169 public libraries serving over one-half of the state's population—would received funding similar to their pre Proposition 13 levels. But little increased funding was allocated, even with the passage of the Public Library Foundation Program in 1982 that was to provide up to 10% of local funding. At its highest level PLF only achieved 5% funding.

During this last session, the Governor and the Legislature eliminated all of the funding for enterprise districts, our library special districts, and shifted some \$71 million of library allocations to schools. This was a part of a \$2.6 billion shift from cities, counties, and special districts to support the school guarantee. Further the public library share of the "historic" property tax was lost in the shift as well. The full impact is being calculated as we meet here, but it is safe to say that California libraries will suffer reductions averaging 20 to 50% of their revenues in this year alone.

There is certainly great pressure to "reinvent government." We are all faced with the challenge to transform the public sector with the entrepreneurial spirit. We all know that government is in deep trouble. As public servants we are held in low esteem. But I respond that California's public libraries have changed and are changing. And we are generally ahead of most of the rest of the government family. The funding reductions of the late 1970s and early 1980s provided ample opportunity for libraries to change. The State Library undertook programs like the California Literacy Campaign, the Families for Literacy Program, and Partnerships for Change because we believe deeply that libraries must change to meet the challenge of the 21st century.

Carefully restating some of the thoughts embodied in *Reinventing Government* by David Osborne and Ted Gaebler, let me suggest that:

- We change because we believe deeply in the mission of the public library as a fundamental public good within our democracy. It is how we provide access to information and knowledge. It is how we record for future generations the record of our time and space on earth. It is how we understand the past and plan for the future. Free public library service is the basis of our democracy and will keep us a free nation. Demo-

cratic values depend on a free flow of information and knowledge with each individual assured the right and the privilege and the ability to choose and to pursue any direction of thought, study and action. Libraries are also our collective memory. History and human experience are best preserved in writing.

- We believe that civilized society cannot function effectively without excellent public library services. We are a knowledge-based society and our knowledge institutions must be strengthened and encouraged. As governments and the private sector move to privatize information and knowledge we must advocate for our mission of equal access for all. We must continually restate that knowledge should not belong to any one interest. We must support the continued mining of knowledge and advance the creation of new ideas and thought.
- We believe that the people who work in libraries are not the problem; the society in which they work is the problem. I find very few people working in libraries who are causing the problems that we face in society. In reality, I find many who are working hard to help society and its people. Our Friends of Libraries provide valuable and appropriate citizen input into library services. Hundreds of volunteers contribute to the on-going programs of services in our libraries and library literacy programs. These forces coupled with dedicated staff and users create a positive force in our communities today.
- We believe that which party or political view is in power has little relevance to the problems facing our public libraries today. We must work to make public libraries relevant to the communities that they serve and to the governments that fund them.
- Finally, we believe deeply in equity and that public libraries are fundamental in empowering people to take charge of their lives and their communities. With the growing awareness of our wonderful diversity, libraries provide wonderful places for us to learn of the rich traditions and cultures that come together in our communities.

I share with you the importance that learning and education has in our lives. We cannot survive today in our emerging technological society without a base of knowledge one gains from schooling. More important, we cannot keep pace with the changes of our work without a strong system of life-long learning opportunity. Our library programs in adult literacy are bringing people in touch with new opportunities for learning. They seek to empower people to fully participating in home, work and community life.

Reading is magic. Initially we learn to read as a skill,

An important reminder can be found on page 16.



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much like riding a bicycle or putting puzzle pieces in place. Letters had no more meaning to us than shapes. As we became familiar with the names for letters, and then how these letters were combined to form something called words. Words became more than words, they became concepts and concepts took us into the world of imagination and information.

Many of us find it difficult to recall the frustration and difficulty we experienced as children when we looked at a book with words — words which were only images on a page, images which meant nothing. We knew they had some unexplainable power. Others were able to look at them and travel to wondrous lands, telling us of ideas and information which seemed unattainable. As we learned to read, the images lost significance in themselves and became the ideas which they represented. We were finally free to explore what had been beyond our reach. We were on our way to limitless explorations.

Reading is freedom: Freedom of choice, freedom to learn, freedom to travel, create, imagine. Reading offers the ability to control our intellectual and creative lives in a world where we often feel ineffectual, where others seem to be in control.

Millions of Americans cannot read. Millions more can read and do not. This national disgrace cripples our ability to compete effectively in a global economy and to ensure the well-being of our nation. Perhaps more importantly, millions of people do not have control of their daily lives and must depend on others to assist them in living. They cannot participate fully in our democracy and are not empowered to act on their own behalf.

I want to stress also that I am not suggesting we concentrate on what libraries should do, but on what we as librarians, library supporters, and library staff can do—on how we operate.

But we must select the roles that public libraries will play very carefully. I recall a particular passage from a book that so well describes what I mean:

*I would awake tired, with a few unremarkable traces that never seemed to do justice to the dull fear I had felt while still asleep: the memory of the low hum of an electric clock, of an aimless albino hound, of a voice incessantly announcing departure times over a public address system; and that summer, my job was a dream of this sort. I'd wanted to work in a true, old-fashioned book shop, crammed with the mingled smells of literature and Pittsburgh flowing in through the open door. Instead I'd got myself hired by Boardwalk books.*

*Boardwalk, a chain, sold books at low prices, in huge, fluorescent, supermarket style, a style pervaded by glumness and by an uncomprehending distaste for its low-profit merchandise. The store, with its long white aisle and megalithic piles of discount thrillers and exercise guides, was organized as though the management had hoped to sell luncheon meat or lawn care products but had somehow been tricked by an unscrupulous whole-*

*saler—I imagined the disappointed “What the hell are we doing to do with all these damned books?” of the owner, who had started in postcards and seaside souvenirs on the Jersey shore. As far as they were concerned, a good book was still a plump little paperback that knew how to sit in a beach bag and keep its dirty mouth shut.*

*Literature was squeezed into a miniature and otherwise useless alcove between War and Home Improvement, and of all the employees, several of whom were fat and wanted to be paramedics, I was the only one who found irregularity in the fact that Boardwalk sold the Monarch notes to works, such as Tristram Shandy, that it did not actually stock. I was to spend the daytime summer stunned by air-conditioning, almost without a thought in my head, waiting for the engagement of evening. Summer would happen after dinner. The job had no claim upon me.<sup>1</sup>*

Public Libraries must stand for something. Breadth and depth in collections and library staff expertise are important as well as meeting popular demand. Be careful of the choices and make sure that we do not give up on the mission of public libraries. If public libraries disappear, I believe that we will just have to create them all over again in the future.

We must separate the proper roles of libraries of all types against other services, and we must carefully define what we will do for our communities. There seems to be an increased pressure to merge school and public libraries. Be very cautious of taking on this full task of fulfilling the curriculum support role of schools. Don't become the excuse for local school districts to not provide the library services required to meet student needs at the expense of providing a full range of public library services. These services should concentrate on serving children in the home and in the community. They should focus toward parents and to people working with children. Public libraries should develop after school programs and opportunities for young people to have a safe, unobtrusive place to go where they can truly be free. Public libraries must support school library services, but should not provide these services. Children in school deserve teacher/librarians who understand the curriculum and the learning process.

We must remember that the attention span of government policy makers and constituents is very limited. We expect each crisis to be solved in 30 minutes at most in the length of a 3 night running mini-series. The people we work for and serve want quick solutions. They do not really care much about tradition, the past, the basics, values, and mission. They want to know what can be solved quickly and let someone else worry about tomorrow. As we build libraries we must be concerned about the collections we build, the access we provide, and that we stand fast against censorship and the commercialization of information.

We must become involved in networks and collaboration with other libraries and with other agencies in each



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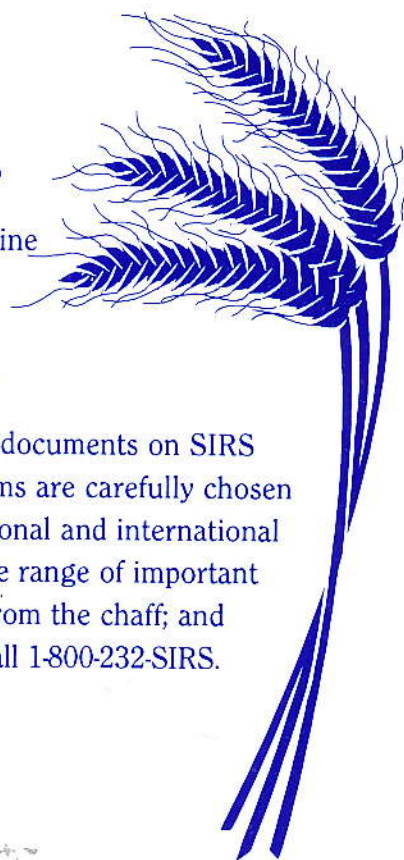
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community we serve. As the nation embraces an expansion of the electronic highway, we must ensure that every public library is positioned as the on ramp to that highway on behalf of the people it serves. We must provide the necessary linkages and equipment that ensure we will not create a society of information rich and information poor. We must provide the access not just for librarians, but for the people who do not have access in their homes or offices, for students who do not have the capacity at home or in the school, and for small business entrepreneurs who will create the jobs of the future in all of our Western states.

Citizens want greater participation in the decision-making that affects their communities and their lives, whether it is in government or on the job. We will see a shift from institutions to structures and the decisions that are made will often not be economic. That is why the California State Library has been working with Partnerships for Change and adult and family literacy. Many of these factors are critical components of what libraries embrace in the rest of the decade.

We must develop a better awareness and acceptance of our diversity. I am reminded of an understanding I gained from a passage in Walter Mosely's *White Butterfly*. Easy Rawlins, Mosley's black detective, speaks of a Los Angeles in the 1950s in the language of the times. I mean no offense in the references here, but only to reflect his words. The passage reads:

*There was a small public library on Ninety-third and Hooper. Mrs. Stella Keaton was the librarian. We'd known each other for years. She was a white lady from Wisconsin. Her husband had a fatal heart attack in '34 and her two children died in a fire the year after that. Her only living relative had been an older brother who was stationed in San Diego with the navy for ten years. After his discharge he moved to L.A. When Mrs. Keaton had her tragedies he invited her to live with him. One year after that her brother, Horton, took ill, and after three months he died spitting up blood, in her arms.*

*All Mrs. Keaton had was the Ninety-third Street branch. She treated the people who came in there like her siblings and she treated the children like her own. If you were a regular at the library she'd bake you a cake on your birthday and save the books you loved under the front desk.*

*We were on a first-name basis, Stella and I, but I was unhappy that she held that job. I was unhappy because even though Stella was nice, she was still a white woman.*

*A white woman from a place where there were only white Christians. To her Shakespeare was a god. I didn't mind that, but what did she know about the folk tales and riddles and stories colored folks had been telling for centuries? What did she know about the language we spoke?*

*I always heard her correcting children's speech. "Not 'I is,' she'd say, "It's 'I am.'"*

*And, of course, she was right. It's just that little colored children listening to that proper white woman would never hear their own cadence in her words. They'd come to believe that they would have to abandon their own language and stories to become a part of her educated world. They would have to forfeit Waller for Mozart and Remus for Puck. They would enter a world where only white people spoke. And no matter how articulate Dickens and Voltaire were, those children wouldn't have their own examples in the house of learning—the library.*

*I had argued with Stella about these things before. She was sensitive about them but when you told her that some man standing on a street corner telling bawdy tales was something like Chaucer she'd crinkle her nose and shake her head. She was always respectful, though. They often take the kindest white people to colonize the colored community. But as kind as Mrs. Keaton was, she reflected an alien view of our people.<sup>2</sup>*

I believe we must reinvent or recreate public libraries for the 21st century. And we must develop the partnerships with government, business and our communities to be successful in this venture.

Well what of solutions? I believe it will take a combination of factors to improve matters. The first is, the economy has to improve, both to increase revenues under existing law, and to reduce taxpayer reluctance to vote for additional revenues. The second is a different perception by the electorate regarding the value and funding priorities of the public services they request of government. The third is, to increase available ways for local and state government to support library service.

With respect to this last point, California public libraries have been working for the passage of Library Benefit Assessment Legislation. While I will be speaking in more detail later this morning about this legislation, I would like to share its framework as an example of the kind of approach we are exploring. As we meet here, we are awaiting Governor Wilson's decision whether to sign or veto this ground breaking legislation. While we have had examples of parcel tax and special district legislation

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since the passage of Proposition 13, their use is not wide spread and most require a 2/3rds vote in order to successfully pass. Most recently Pasadena successfully passed such a parcel tax garnering the required 2/3rds. But just a few months earlier the City of Oakland could only achieve 65.8% The City of Berkeley has passed two different parcel taxes with over a 70% vote. Most other attempts have achieved greater than 50% votes falling short of the 2/3 requirement.

Counties can create assessment districts, but these may only generate revenues for new or expanded services. The small community of Cameron Park did so successfully this spring and had less than a 10% protest in creating the assessment district. BSI Consultants of San Diego assisted El Dorado County in this effort and both should be congratulated. The key with benefit assessments is that they must demonstrate a direct benefit to the properties and parcels being assessed.

The new legislation would create a library specific benefit assessment opportunity. A key declaration of the legislation is that "assessments imposed for the purpose of providing library services benefit individual properties and are not taxes for the general benefit of the governmental entity, but are assessments for services that confer special benefits upon the properties to which the services are provided." Unlike the County Assessment Act, this new legislation could be used to support all current and on-going services provided by a public library, including construction of facilities. It allows each jurisdiction or portion of a given library jurisdiction to levy such an assessment without requiring the 2/3rds public vote.<sup>3</sup>

I know that many of us are being pushed to be more entrepreneurial and consider levying fees for service. In fact, we determined that the only source of revenue going up for libraries last year was increase in traditional fees and fines for overdue books, for non resident borrower's cards, charges for meeting rooms, photocopies, and inter-library loan. But even with 15% increases in all of these fees, they still made up less than 4% of total revenues to public libraries. For all of the effort to create public libraries as "profit centers" in local government, little return can be realized. Could not and should not that effort be directed toward generating or regenerating the 95% portion of revenues?

Further, California's libraries have become very entrepreneurial and we must continue to tell these success stories. Most libraries have organized Friends of Libraries who raise private funds through traditional and creative fund raising. Several library stores have been started

where proceeds benefit the library directly. Several libraries have established nonprofit foundations to benefit both capital and special project campaigns.

Both the City of Los Angeles and San Francisco have undertaken fund raising through their Foundations raising \$100 million and \$30 million respectively. But smaller libraries have been very successful as well in such efforts. Several small rural libraries have raised significant funds to match state or federal grants to build new facilities and to purchase library materials. Others have annual giving programs to support library literacy programs, after school programs, purchase computers, conduct public programs, purchase bookmobiles, among other things.

The key in each of these efforts is to be very careful not to compromise the responsibility of government to cover the day-to-day operations of the library. Private funds should enhance the capability of the library to serve its clientele. People do not want to give money to "bail-out" government. In fact, major Foundations will not do that and most will not give to a governmental entity at all. The issues of private fund raising deserve several sessions all of their own. But my point here is to challenge you to expand your enterprises, keeping the focus very clear. Local governments must not believe that when you raise private funds from your community that they are to replace the responsibility of local government to fund your day-to-day operations.

As we explore ways to move aggressively into the future we must look at new ways of doing business. Boy, do I get tired of hearing that phrase, "new ways of doing business." But in the spirit of the trust we are given, let me suggest several options to consider: What of the future and your role?

- **First don't give up.** You must work in the environment that exists now. And don't think it can never happen in your state or your community. What is happening now in California can happen to you. Begin preparing now. The full impact of Proposition 13, some of us feel, is still not being felt. We may have to see more libraries close, more staff laid off, fewer materials purchased, before the taxpayers gets angry enough to do something about it. When you are asked to write letters and talk with legislators, approach local politicians, encourage library staff, and keep spirits up, do it. You are our strength and inspiration. You keep libraries alive.
- **Embrace change.** We always say we believe in change, but often it is others we want to change not ourselves. We must learn how to change. We must

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—Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary



learn how to share the decision making power with new people and with those who may not think as we do.

Libraries need to regularly examine how their service program fits into the priorities of decision-makers. Vice-President Gore has given us a wonderful opportunity to capitalize on the interest in linking all of our communities through the national electronic highway. The emphasis on children and youth-at-risk allows us to focus our programs for children and youth to respond to these concerns. The National Service Program may provide a tremendous opportunity for us to attract young people into libraries to work and in turn recruit them to the profession. But often we must look at doing things differently; adapt our programs to focus on specific needs of the moment.

- **Listen to your community.** Keep in mind that people really want their library to succeed. But they have particular concerns and beliefs about how their library should work and how it should respond. You cannot listen one day and not the next. Communities change and libraries must be ready to keep pace with the changes of their communities.
- **Remember the principles and mission of the public library.** Even as we embrace change and listen to our communities, we must keep in mind the principles and practice of public library service. We must stand for something in a changing environment that demands quick solutions and low-cost alternatives. The principles of free access to information and knowledge in a democracy are very important. We must stand fast to ensure that they are protected and valued. Few others will be advocating these positions. We must remain advocates or there is no reason for the public library versus some other business enterprise that can provide the same services for those who are willing to pay.
- **Keep reading, learning, and growing.** You must demonstrate regularly that you believe in the fundamentals of the library through your practice of reading and learning. Being informed is just fine. Bookish is not that bad. Being knowledgeable is even better. The creation of a reading society where people have the opportunity to learn at their full capacities throughout their lives will be no easy task. As our communities develop bringing people with different cultures, languages, and dreams together, our libraries must respond in providing the information and ideas which will serve each individually.
- **Learn how to use new technology and don't let it take over your lives.** There is nothing wrong with technology. Learn to embrace it. But it is just a tool. Learn its utility, just as one did with electricity, air travel, and television. It does not have to govern our lives or limit our intellect. It can, though, greatly enhance our understanding and capability of coping with the tremendous world around us this global village that is truly available at our doorstep.

If ever your stamina wavers or your faith dims, stop a moment and remember why we are involved in this great adventure. Recently a ten year old Hmong girl testified before the National Commission on Libraries and Information Services at the California State Library. I would like to leave you with her words:

*My name is Lomhohn Vue. My parents name is Mr. and Mrs. Vue. They came from Laos and they are Hmong. I have five sisters and one brother. I am a fourth grader at North avenue School in Sacramento.*

*I am here to speak to you on behalf of all children who need a Library to study. I have used Del Paso Heights Library since I was in pre-school, six years ago, because I don't have a place to study at home after school.*

*I use the Library to do my research paper, reading, and learning with the computer. I have found that the library is a great help for my education, but there are many things that are still missing for us children.*

*The children's library is in need of improvement; that means, we need more children resource books, more space, open more hours, and more help in the library. I feel upset, poor, and lost when I can not find a 7000k that I needed to read for my school work; I can not get some body to help me read; and the library has to be closed sometimes because no money to open it.*

*We children want to learn how to grow up, how to work, how to become a good American; and the library is our only hope to get resource from.*

*Ladies and gentlemen I am counting on your support to help keep our neighborhood library open. So please help our library as to help us children learn, grow and become a beautiful American. Please tell our president for us. I will be waiting to hear from him.*

This is our hope. This is our future. We enlist it together. As we recreate library services for the next century, let's be sure we don't forget why we do so.

<sup>1</sup>from Michael Chabon's *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*. "The Cloud Factory." (Morrow, 1988. p.42-3)

<sup>2</sup>from Walter Mosley's *White Butterfly*. (Norton, 1992) p 55-6.

<sup>3</sup>The Governor vetoed the Library Assessment Act the week following this speech. California public libraries are now attempting to determine next steps in addressing the problem.

### State Association Pre-Conference Grants

MPLA will provide grants of up to \$500 to state associations to encourage continuing education for MPLA members and others through pre-conferences or conference programs held at the time of state association annual conferences.

For an application and/or additional information contact: Steve Skidmore, Chair, MPLA Continuing Education Committee, Ponca City Library, 515 East Grant, Ponca City, OK 74601. 405-767-0345.





## From our president

At its Fall 1992 meeting in Cheyenne, Wyoming the membership of the Mountain Plains Library Association endorsed a long-range plan that had been developed by then President-Elect Bunny Morrison and Association member Steve Skidmore. We have had a wonderful year as an Association under the capable leadership of President Bunny Morrison who deliberately worked on achieving these goals.

As we begin the 1993-94 year, it is appropriate to remind ourselves—board members, section officers, committee members, state representatives, interested members—of the goals we have identified for MPLA. Together we can continue to realize these goals and to strengthen our profession.

- MPLA will increase its membership
- MPLA will encourage and support educational training and growth opportunities for both professional and para-professional librarians in the MPLA region.
- MPLA will be actively involved in the recruitment of librarians for all types of libraries in the region.
- MPLA will promote both the interests of the eleven state region on a national level and the contributions which MPLA libraries and librarians make to their local communities.
- MPLA will seek to stimulate member interest in telecommunication through its products and services.
- MPLA will promote intellectual freedom and oppose attempts to censor library materials regardless of format.

Progress toward these goals is being made. Our 1992-93 Annual Report issue (October 1993) of the MPLA Newsletter contained information on various MPLA efforts.

MPLA relies on member involvement to meet these goals and to continue to improve services to members. Please contact me or other executive board members with your ideas and wishes.

Ronelle Thompson  
President

## MPLA News

At its December 4th meeting the MPLA executive board received a statistical and income report for the recent CLA/MPLA conference in Snowmass, Colorado. Of the 975 persons attending, 180 indicated they were MPLA members and 52 indicated they were both MPLA and CLA members. MPLA's income from the conference came to \$8437.98.

In other business...

- A report was received from the Bylaws Committee recommending a change in the Procedures Manual permitting past committee chairs to serve as ex officio non-voting members of a committee.
- Received and discussed a preliminary report on ALA's self study project.
- Approved a 1993-94 budget.

### MPLA Caucus at ALA

On Sunday, February 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., an MPLA caucus will be held in the ALA Council suite in the Westin Bonaventure Hotel.

Lynnette Anderson, MPLA's Chapter Relations Coordinator, encourages MPLA members to use this opportunity to connect with others from the region, to learn what is happening, and to get questions answered.



# Professional Development Assistance

**Seminars  
Institutes  
Workshops  
Coursework  
Conferences  
Independent  
Learning/Research  
Projects**

Association members are encouraged to apply for grants, mini-grants, and international grants, all of which may be used for the following: formal college or university classroom work, independent study programs, attendance at workshops, conferences or seminars, or participation in any other activity that will benefit libraries and the library community in our region. (Members are eligible after one full year of membership.)

For more information see your Membership Information brochure or write: Joseph R. Edelen, Jr., MPLA Executive Secretary, c/o I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069. 605/677-6082.

**Plan ahead now for your 1994 continuing education opportunities.  
Please contact us for application information.**

## 1993 Professional Development Grants Approved

**Mary R. Sand**, North Dakota, Director of a Nursing Resource Center, \$600 regular grant to attend ALA national convention, June 25-28, 1993.

**Jan Dawson**, Colorado academic library, Public Services Librarian, \$150 mini-grant to attend the 6th Annual Interagency Depository Seminar in Washington, DC, May 19-26, 1993.

**Judith Johnson**, Utah academic library, Reference Librarian, \$150 mini-grant to attend ACRL Science and Technology Pre-Conference-Science Reference Service at ALA, June 25, 1993.

**Rita Dellinger**, Kansas public library, Children's Department, \$150 mini-grant to attend K.P.L.A.C.E. at Emporia State University, May 24-28, 1993.

**Sue Marie Adams**, Arizona school library, cataloger, \$150 mini-grant to attend ALA conference in New Orleans, June 24-July 1, 1993.

**Michael Mullins**, South Dakota regional library, Director, \$324 regular grant to attend the Snowbird Leadership Institute, July 29-August 3, 1993.

**James Dertien**, South Dakota public library, City Librarian, \$600 regular grant to attend The Information Broker's Seminar in Chicago, September 18, 1993.

**Dora Biblarz**, Arizona academic library, Associate Dean for Collection Development, \$600 regular grant to attend IFLA Conference in Barcelona, Spain, August 22-28, 1993.

**Mary Degeer**, Oklahoma public library, Children's Department, \$150 mini-grant to attend MPLA Conference and present program on Dewey Detectives, October 3, 1993.

**Yolanda Vigil-Henderson**, Nevada public library, Library Board Member, \$150 mini-grant to attend the Nevada Library Association Conference, September 30-October 2, 1993.

**Douglas Dashiell**, Nevada public library, Library Trustee, \$150 mini-grant to attend Nevada Library Association Conference, September 30-October 2, 1993.

**Rob Morrison**, Utah academic library, Reference/Extension, \$150 mini-grant to attend the Sixth Off-Campus Library Services Conference in Kansas City, MO October 6-8, 1993.

**Chris Colborn**, Kansas Morton County Library, Assistant Director, \$150 mini-grant to attend CLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Snowmass, CO, October 1-4, 1993.

**Virginia Johnson**, Kansas Morton County Library, Director, \$150 mini-grant to attend CLA/MPLA in Snowmass, CO, October 1-4, 1993.

**Patricia Knecht**, Utah public library, Reference Librarian, \$150 mini-grant to attend CLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Snowmass, CO, October 1-4, 1993.

**Frances Roberts**, Kansas, Grant County Library, Director, \$576 regular grant to attend CLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Snowmass, CO, October 1-4, 1993.

**Elizabeth Romero**, Oklahoma public library, Information Services Manager, \$320 regular grant to attend CLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Snowmass, CO, October 1-4, 1993.

**Joanne Sunderman**, Kansas public library, Director \$350 regular grant to attend CLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Snowmass, CO, October 1-4, 1993.

**Ann Smith**, South Dakota academic library, \$395 regular grant to attend workshop, "Transforming Visions into Realities," held in Ann Arbor, MI, October 29-31, 1993.

**Susan Knesel**, Wyoming county library, \$140 mini-grant to attend program, "Presenting Literature to Children," held in Billings, MT, November 1, 1993.

Funds encumbered for 1993	\$6,006
Grants awarded	\$4,870
Approved grants not awarded	\$ 150
Grants approved and outstanding	\$ 986



# MPLA Executive Board

## Officers

President	Ronelle Thompson Mikkelsen Library Augustana College Sioux Falls, SD 57197 Office: 605-336-4921 Fax: 605-336-5447	Nebraska	Robert Nash University Library University of Nebraska/ Omaha Omaha, NE 68182 Office: 402-554-2884 Fax: 402-554-3215	Government Documents	Suzanne Taylor The Libraries Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO 80523 Office: 303-491-1880 Fax: 303-491-1195
Vice President	Blaine H. Hall 5022 HBLL Brigham Young University Provo, UT 84602 Office: 801-378-6117 Fax: 801-378-3221	Nevada	Sharon Scott Getchell Library University of Nevada, Reno Reno, NV 89557 Office: 702-784-4578	New Members Roundtable	Robert Shupe Mohave Community College Library 1971 Jagerson Avenue Kingman, AZ 86401 Office: 602-757-0881 Fax: 602-757-0836
Secretary	Heather McNeil Edwin A. Bemis Pub. Library 6014 S. Datura Street Littleton, CO 80120 Office: 303-795-3961 Fax: 303-795-3996	North Dakota	Roann Masterson Library, University of Mary Bismarck, ND 58504 Office: 701-255-7500, x477 Fax: 701-255-7690	Preservation	Blanche Clegg Southern Utah University Library 300 West Center Cedar City, UT 84720 Office: 801-586-7945
Past President	Bunny Morrison 2135 Silver Sage Trail Billings, MT 59102 Phone: 406-252-0811	Oklahoma	Jan Sanders Bartlesville Public Library 600 South Johnstone Bartlesville, OK 74003 Office: 918-337-5363 Fax: 918-337-5338	Public Library/Trustee	Judy Zelenski Central Colorado Library System 4350 Wadsworth, Suite 340 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 Office: 303-422-1150 Fax: 303-431-9752
Executive Secretary	Joe Edelen I.D. Weeks Library University of South Dakota Vermillion, SD 57069-2390 Office: 605-677-6082 Fax: 605-677-5488	South Dakota	Jane Larson Vermillion Public Library 18 Church Street Vermillion, SD 57069 Office: 605-624-2741 Fax: 605-677-5461	State Agency, Cooperatives & Systems	Venice Beske Wyoming State Library Supreme Court Building Cheyenne, WY 82002 Office: 307-777-7982 Fax: 307-777-6289
<b>State Representatives</b>		Utah	Gwen Page Salt Lake City Pub. Library 209 East 500 South Salt Lake City, UT 84111 Office: 801-524-8212 Fax: 801-524-8272	Technical Services	Lynn Darrough-Walton Sweetwater County Library System 2935 Sweetwater Drive Rock Springs, WY 82901 Office: 307-362-2679 Fax: 307-362-2670
Arizona	Vanessa Czopek Chandler Public Library 25 S. Arizona Place, Suite 111 Chandler, AZ 85225 Office: 602-786-2317 Fax: 602-786-1156	Wyoming	Mary Coffin Laramie County Community College 1400 East College Drive Cheyenne, WY 82007 Office: 307-778-1283	<b>Interest Groups</b>	
Colorado	Ted Schmidt Loveland Public Library 300 North Adams Street Loveland, CO 80537 Office: 303-962-2400 Fax: 303-962-2905	<b>Section Representatives</b>		Interlibrary Loan	Metta Nicewarner University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library 4505 Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89154 Office: 702-895-4622
Kansas	Jane Hatch Dodge City Public Library 1001 Second Avenue Dodge City, KS 67801 Office: 800-657-2533 Fax: 316-225-0252	Academic	Mary Bushing, The Libraries Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717 Office: 406-994-4994 Fax: 406-994-2851	<b>Committees</b>	
Montana	Kathleen Bartlett Star Rt 1, Box 1446 Clinton, MT 59825 Home: 406-825-6694	Children's & School	Carla Rosenquist-Buhler 217N Love Library University of Nebraska- Lincoln Lincoln, NE 68588-0410 Office: 402-472-2525 Fax: 402-472-3151	Awards	B.J. Kim H.M. Briggs Library South Dakota State University Brookings, SD 57007 Office: 605-688-5560



Bylaws & Procedures Elmer Bachenberg  
1835 12th Avenue  
Greeley, CO 80631  
Home: 303-352-0959

Chapter Relations Lynette Anderson  
Casper College Library  
125 College Drive  
Casper, WY 82601  
Office: 307-268-2276

Continuing Education Steve Skidmore  
Ponca City Library  
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Ponca City, OK 74601  
Office: 405-767-0345  
Fax: 405-767-0377

Finance Bunny Morrison  
2135 Silver Sage Trail  
Billings, MT 59102  
Phone: 406-252-0811

Intellectual Freedom Robbe Sokolove  
Jefferson Cty Public Library  
455 South Pierce Street  
Lakewood, CO 80226  
Office: 303-936-7406  
Fax: 303-937-1980

Nominating Betty Gard  
University of North Dakota  
Chester Fritz Library  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9000  
Office: 701-777-4632

Professional Development Darlene Staffeldt  
Montana State Library  
1515 East 6th Avenue  
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Public Relations Marcia Wright  
Campbell County Public Library  
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Sioux Falls Public Library  
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Parliamentarian Roann Masterson  
Library, University of Mary  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
Office: 701-255-7500, x477  
Fax: 701-255-7690

Federal Relations Duane Johnson  
Kansas State Library  
Coordinator State Capitol  
Topeka, KS 66612  
Office: 913-296-6082

ALA Chapter Relations Coordinator Lynnette Anderson  
Casper College Library  
125 College Drive  
Casper, WY 82601  
Office: 307-268-2680

Archives Denver Public Library  
Western History Department  
1357 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203  
Attn: Lisa Bachman  
Office: 303-640-8883

## Committees

### Awards Committee

B. J. Kim, chair 92-94 SD  
Andrine Haas 92-94 UT  
Jan Hendrickson 93-95 ND  
Billie Polson 93-95 NV  
Herschel Anderson 93-95 AZ

### Bylaws Committee

Elmer Bachenberg, chair 93-95 CO  
Larry Benson 92-94 UT  
Doug Hindmarsh 93-94 UT  
Dana Wayne Rippe Boden 93-95 NE  
MPLA Parliamentarian ex-officio

### Continuing Education

Stephen Skidmore, chair 93-95 OK  
Lucie Osborn 92-94 WY  
Carol Connor 92-94 NE  
Diane Caley 92-94 ND  
Ann Eagen 93-94 AZ  
Elizabeth Hager 93-95 CO  
Colleen Kirby 93-95 SD  
Corky Walters 93-95 WY  
Anita Gordon-Gilmore 93-95 KS

### Finance

Bunny Morrison, chair 93-95 MT  
Dorothy Liegl 92-94 SD  
Jean Hemphill 92-94 CO  
James Swan 93-95 KS  
Charles Perry 93-95 OK  
Joe Edelen, ex-officio SD

### Intellectual Freedom

Robbe Sokolove, chair 93-95 CO  
Rhonda Hiebert 92-94 KS  
Bonnie Schuster 92-94 MT  
Kent Slade 92-94 UT  
93-94 ND  
Holly LaBossiere 93-94 OK  
Louis Howley 93-95 AZ  
Donna Jurena 93-95 NE  
Metta Nicewarner 93-95 NV  
Pamela Blome 93-95 SD  
Linda Koldenhoven 93-95 WY

### Nominating

Betty Gard, chair 93-95 ND  
Jane Howell 92-94 MT  
Bettie Powell 92-94 AZ

Mary Sherman 92-94 OK  
Adele Greenleaf 93-94 UT  
Stephen Ooton 93-94 NE  
Eveline Yang 93-95 CO  
Melanie Miller 93-95 KS  
Janet Mastalir 93-95 NV  
Ann Smith 93-95 SD  
Mary Coffin 93-95 WY

### Professional Development Grants

Darlene Staffeldt, chair 93-94 MT  
Jane Dotterer 93-94 UT  
Nancy Peterson 93-94 WY  
Theresa Dixon 93-94 MD  
Patsy Stafford 94-95 OK  
Henry Stewart 94-95 KS  
Sandra Keist, past chair 1994, ex officio KS  
Joe Edelen, ex officio SD

### Public Relations/Membership

Marcia Wright, chair 93-95 WY  
Ann Kuntzman 92-94 AZ  
Larry Vos 92-94 KS  
Linda Rea 92-94 NE  
Jim Dertien 93-95 SD  
Judy Zelenski 93-95 CO  
Marilyn Hinshaw 93-95 OK

## About You

**Mona Carmack**, Director of the Johnson County, Kansas Public Library, is a new member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Library Network.... **Sheila Cates**, Coordinator of Library Development, Montana State Library, was named Librarian of the Year by the Montana Library Association. Sheila died of breast cancer on August 10.... **Shirley Flack**, Scottsbluff (NE) Public Library Director, received the Nebraska Library Association Meritorious Service Award.... **Betty Gard**, Head of Reference Services at the University of North Dakota, is the 1993-1994 chairperson of the ALA Reference and Adult Services Division Performance Standard for Reference/Information Librarians Discussion Group.... **Agnes Kelly** has been named head of technical services at the Western Wyoming Community College Library.... **Heath McNeil**, Youth Services Librarian at the Littleton Public Library won the Colorado Library Association's 1993 Lifetime Achievement Award....



**Martha Jo Sani**, University of Colorado at Boulder Business Library, has been elected president-elect of the Rocky Mountain Special Libraries Association.... **Darlene Staffeldt**, Coordinator of Information Resources at the Montana State Library, has been appointed Coordinator of Library Development as well.... **Kathy Waldera**, Reference/Information Services Librarian at the Bismarck (ND) Public Library, was recently elected vice-president/president-elect of the North Dakota Library Association.... **Marlene Ware** has been appointed Manager of Support Services for the Laramie County Library System in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

## MPLA welcomes these new members

### Arizona

Susan Smith, Student, University of Arizona, Bullhead City

### Colorado

Ada Jo Barbar, Golden Library, Jefferson County Library System, Golden

Linda Bourgeois, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Fort Collins

Elizabeth Fuseler, Colorado State University, Fort Collins

Judy Hoxsey, Estes Valley Library District, Estes Park

Stephany Liptak, University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo

Cathi MacRae, Boulder Public Library, Boulder

Marla Nehring, Wilmont Elementary, Evergreen

Carol Primus, Three Rivers Regional Library Service System, Gunnison

### Kansas

E. Gael Gillespie, University of Kansas, Lawrence

### Montana

Camille Jackson, Montana State University, Bozeman

### Nebraska

Burns Smith Davis, Nebraska Library Commission, Lincoln

Jill Ellis, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff

Paul Hoffman, Nebr. Library Commission

La Jean Price, Northeast High School, Lincoln

James Shaw, University of Nebraska, Omaha

Sharon Youngberg, University of Nebraska, Kearney

### Nevada

Kerin Putnam, Nevada State Library & Archives, Carson City

### North Carolina

Nancy Sosnik, Raleigh

### North Dakota

Sheila Huber, Morton County Library, Mandan

Bonnie MacIver, Leach Public Library, Wahpeton

### Oklahoma

Robert Clar, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City

### South Dakota

Susan Brooks, Sisseton Wahpeton Community College, Sisseton

Nancy Haas, South Dakota State University, Brookings

Nancy Hackney, University of South Dakota, Vermillion

Fay Jackman, Mobridge Schools

Maxine Swanson, Madison Public Library,

Signe Swanson, Madison

Lori Wehlander, Hansen-McCook Library, Spencer

### Utah

Evan Baker, Uintah County Library Vernal

Denice Barainca, Brigham Young University Library, Provo

Penny Shiel, Grand County Middle School, Moab

### Wyoming

Sielaff McKinlay, University of Wyoming, Laramie

## Continuing Education

January 23-25

**InfoTech '94** *The Technology Conference for Information Professionals*

INFOMART, Dallas, TX

This SLA Winter Education Conference will offer continuing education courses, seminars and exhibits on information technology. Paul Evan Peters, director and founder of the Coalition for Networked Information

will be the keynote speaker.

For program and exhibition information, call Trudi Bellardo Hahn, 202/234-4700.

February 4-10

**ALA Midwinter**, Los Angeles

March 22-26

**Public Library Association Fifth National Conference**

Atlanta, GA

Theme: "New Ideas: A PLA Tradition" including over 120 continuing education programs. Program tracks cover: community relations, management, resources, services, and technology. Preconferences on collection management for small to medium-sized libraries, fund raising, and trustees building community partnerships are scheduled immediately preceding the conference.

For more information, 800/545-2433, ext. 5PLA.

April 17-23

**National Library Week**

May 12

**Customer Service Teleconference**

Hardy R. Franklin, ALA president has scheduled a teleconference on customer service and libraries. In his inaugural address, Franklin urged that librarians adopt a "can-do spirit" and take themselves off the reference desk and into the streets.

To receive information on site locations or share information on your library's exemplary customer service program, contact Peggy Barker, ALA Associate Executive Director of Communication, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. 800/545-2433, 3xt. 3229.

May 19-20

**Association of Research Libraries**, Austin, TX

May 27-June 1, 1994

**School Readiness Institute**

University of Texas at Austin

The institute will study children's programs in public libraries as a tool to help achieve the first National Education Goal, that by the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn. Partici-



pants will develop a prototype public library children's services model for achieving school readiness that will be published and distributed throughout the library community.

For more information, contact Dr. Barbara Immroth or Viki Ash-Geisler, 512/471-3875.

June 23-30

**American Library Association,**  
Miami, FL

### 1994 Regional Conferences

February 9-12 Utah Library Association

April 6-9 Kansas

April 24-27 Montana

April 27-30 Oklahoma

Nov. 30-Dec. 4 Arizona

Sept. 28-Oct. 1 South Dakota

Oct. 5-8 Wyoming

Oct. 17-23 Arizona

Oct. 26-29 MPLA/Nevada

Oct. 28-30 Nebraska

**Watch for our  
special 1994  
MPLA/  
Nevada  
Library  
Association  
conference  
insert in the  
February  
issue.  
October 26-29,  
1994  
Incline Village,  
Nevada**

## Joblist

Open until filled.

### **Director of Learning Resources** (\$30,880)

Colorado Northwestern Community College

12 month position.

MLS or equivalent, three years experience managing library staff, ability to administer a full range of library services, understanding of liberal arts and occupational programs, and skills using audio-visual equipment required. Experience with community colleges, learning assistance programs, instructional television programming, distance learning technologies, video production, and developing information technology are preferred.

To apply, send cover letter, resume, unofficial transcripts/certificates, and the names/addresses/phone number of three professional references to Ms. Chris Willis, Human Resources Coordinator, Colorado Northwestern Community College, CNCC Box 522, Rangely, CO 81648. Review of resumes to begin January 3. Questions? Call (303) 675-3210.

EEO

Deadline: January 14

### **Library Director** (\$32,235)

Flathead County (MT) Library System

Start date: April 4. Five automated library outlets serve a rapidly growing community of 60,000 residents near Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park. Library Cat has longevity. Automation and library

construction familiarity desirable.

Requirements: ALA/MLS, 5 years library experience incl. min. 2 yrs. administrative/supervisory. Application packet available from: Kalispell Job Service, 427 1st Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 59901 (406) 752-5627.

Deadline: January 14

### **Director, Network Services** (\$29,686)

Nebraska Library Commission

The Director, Network Services will direct NEBASE, the Library Commission's OCLC affiliated networked information service. Responsibilities include directing NEBASE activities in support of OCLC products and services; leading statewide planning and coordination of library resources sharing programs and services.

Qualifications require a master's degree in library or information science, minimum of five years library related work experience, including supervisory experience; knowledge and understanding of automated library systems; ability to work effectively in a team oriented work environment; ability to prepare and present instruction; and direct work experience in the utilization of the OCLC systems, products and services.

Send Nebraska state government application form, resume, and names of three references to Department of Administration Services, Personnel Division, P.O. Box 94905, Lincoln, NE 68059-4905.

EEO/AA