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# MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

October 2005

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## Task Force Recommends Organizational Changes

*By Carol Hammond, MPLA past president*

The Task Force on Reorganization that was appointed last Fall has completed its work. A report with recommendations for significant restructuring and change for MPLA was presented by the Task Force Chair Donna Jones Morris at the October board meeting, where it was unanimously approved. The recommendations reflect both a new structure and changes in operating procedures. The size and composition of the board will change, and electronic technology will be used to carry out many of the objectives and activities of the organization. Here is an overview of the new organization which the Board accepted:

### *Standing Committees*

The current standing committees were reviewed and the number reduced as some were combined and the activities of others were assigned elsewhere. The new list of standing committees will be: Awards, Administration (formerly Finance and Management, and Bylaws and Procedures), Communications, Leadership Institute, Nominations, Professional Development (formerly Professional Development Grants, Scholarship and Continuing Education), and Membership. Intellectual Freedom will become an electronic community, as described below.

One board member will be appointed to serve on each committee and be both an active participant in the work of that committee and a liaison to the board.

*continued on page 3*

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March 1	September 1
May 1	November 1

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## **Organizational Change**, *continued from page 1*

### ***Electronic Communities***

The sections, which in MPLA represent different areas of interest, will become active electronic communities where members can engage in online discussion, gain insight into best practices, post questions, seek advice from colleagues, and solve problems. They will be organized by areas of interest, and utilize the discussion feature on MemberClicks. Moderators will replace section chairs and help structure and lead the exchange within each electronic community. The moderators will be appointed and will also serve as the **Program Council**, assisting the Vice President/President Elect in developing and proposing programs for the annual conference.

A membership survey will be conducted to determine the areas of interest and electronic communities will be established based on that data. Sections as they now exist will be eliminated.

### ***Board Meetings***

The task force had several recommendations about the Board and its meetings, in addition to changes in its composition. These include:

- Reducing the number of face-to-face meetings to no more than two a year, and using conference calls, e-mail or electronic meetings as an alternative. The Board has often met even if there are no action items or discussion on the agenda; those meetings can and should take place without the cost of travel.
- The use of the web site for distributing reports and documents has worked well, and the task force recommends eliminating the distribution of any paper copies at meetings.
- Routine business, such as approval of minutes, should be done online before the meeting to save time.
- A qualified trainer should be hired to develop tutorials on leading and participating in meetings, using tools for group discussion and problem solving, and running online meetings.

- The Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and Executive Secretary will attend Board meetings only when their participation is required.

### ***Next Steps***

In order to implement the proposed new structure, the Bylaws must be revised and approved. That process is already underway, with the expectation that it will be available to all members 30 days before the membership meeting to be held at the conference in Wyoming and where they will be discussed and brought for a vote. (See proposed revision on MPLA website: <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/>.) If the revision is passed, we will begin phasing in the new structure over the next year. The committee recommended that Carol Hammond be appointed to serve as the steward to assure the recommendations were implemented, and she accepted that assignment.

### ***Task Force Members***

The individuals who worked on the task force included the following:

Donna Jones Morris, Chair UT; Carol Hammond, AZ; Sharon Osenga, NE; Sandra Barstow, WY; Mary Bushing, MT; Pam Bohmfalk, NE; Wayne Hanway, OK; Linda Deacy, NV; Debbie Iverson, WY; Michelle Swain, KS; Jeff Belliston, UT.



# President's Letter

By Beth Avery

I've said it before and I'll say it again. MPLA volunteers make a real difference! Through their generous gifts of time and resources, dedicated MPLA members put into action the MPLA vision to "... gain new knowledge, support and expertise through involvement in a dynamic association that fosters networking, learning, and leadership."

The Board had a very productive session in July. We reviewed and accepted the Task Force on Reorganization's Report. The Board was excited about the possibilities for a renewed, vibrant MPLA presented in the report. A copy of the report is on the web page at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/documents/reports/other/reorg/20050723.html>. Carol Hammond is busy working on revising our bylaws to reflect many of the proposed changes in the report. Wayne Hannway and Dorothy Leigel looked at our dues structure and how it compared to other professional organizations. You will soon be seen a report and recommendation from that committee.

I have appointed a committee to look at creating an award for ways to recognize "Unsung Heroes." The award will recognize those that who might not otherwise be recognized such as "Excellence in Small Libraries" for less than 5,000 population, "Excellence in Service by a One Person Library" etc. I'm interested in hearing any ideas about this award.

There are many great programs and activities for MPLA members scheduled for our meeting in Jackson Holes. I look forward to seeing you there.

Beth

## Just Received

### Notice of Resignation

#### Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary

*I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve you and MPLA for the past 30 years as MPLA's Executive Secretary. MPLA has truly been one of the 'loves of my life' during this period.*

*I was first appointed as MPLA's Fiscal Agent in November, 1973. I was coming off a stint as chair of the Technical Services Section and had just completed my task as Chair of the Financial Structure Task Force in 1973. After our conference in Lake Tahoe in 1974 (remember the train to Tahoe that Vern West put together on which 106 of us had the time of our lives?) I was appointed Executive Secretary on May 17, 1975, without stipend. It has been my great pleasure to have served you in that capacity in the intervening years.*

*However, now the time has come with the new direction that MPLA is taking for the 21st Century with the recently-adopted Reorganization Task Force's Report to allow the Board to put a new face on this leadership position. I have submitted my resignation to the Executive Committee and am now submitting that resignation to you, the members of MPLA.*

*I have enjoyed my association with each and every one of you over these many years and salute you for the efforts you have put forth to make MPLA the great Association it is in 2005.*

*It would not have happened without this combined effort.*

*I will, or course, work in whatever interim period is required to insure a smooth transition until the Board decides on a replacement.*

*Again, thank you for the life-time of memories!*

*Most sincerely,*

Joe



# **Last Minute WLA/MPLA Conference Updates**

## **October 12-15 in Jackson Hole**

### **EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION!**

The WLA/MPLA 2005 Conference is pleased to announce an added attraction at the opening event, "Movie Takes: Writing for the Silver Screen" being held at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming on Oct. 12, 2005. Mark Spragg, the author of "Where Rivers Change Directions" and "The Fruit of Stone" will share experiences from his new book, "An Unfinished Life." In a unique example of teamwork, Mark wrote the book as his wife Virginia wrote the screenplay. The movie, starring Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman and Jennifer Lopez, will be released this August. An outstanding group of artists will be participating in "Movie Takes": Bonnie Kreps and Charlie Craighead who produced, directed and wrote the documentary "Arctic Dance;" Tim Sandlin, who has adapted several novels for the screen including "Skipped Parts;" and William Broyles, Jr. whose script for the film "Castaway" with Tom Hanks is on almost everyone's All Time Favorite Movies list. You do not want to miss this opening event!

### **WEBCAST 2005!**

*By Sharon Osenga*

Everyone knows the value of attending a conference. Through stellar programs and events, a great conference can enhance, empower and re-invigorate your enthusiasm and skills on the job. In addition, the chance to network and meet colleagues is on the top of everybody's list. However, if this year you fall into the group that will be unable to attend, don't worry. The conference will also be coming to you.

The WLA/MPLA joint conference is pleased to announce the first ever Webcast. While no substitute for attending the conference, the Webcast will provide an equal opportunity for all of us to benefit from outstanding programs and events. Those attending the conference will also benefit, as there will be no such thing as missing a program that you really want to see this year.

Conference programs will be available online in real time, as well as being available for viewing 30 days after the conference. Links on the WLA, MPLA and Teton County Library Web sites will guide you to the Webcasts. Viewers will need the latest free QuickTime viewer to watch Webcasts. Full instructions and test links will be available on the Teton County Library Web site a week before the conference. A dial-up connection will not provide a good Webcast experience, so we hope that libraries throughout the mountain and plains area will designate computers for staff at work or elsewhere with at least a 256k (such as a typical DSL connection) hookup to the Internet.

Keep your eyes on the conference Web sites as new pages with updated Webcast news will be appearing in September. The following Web sites will provide access: Wyoming Library Association - <http://www.wyla.org/>; Mountain Plains Library Association - <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/>; Teton County Library - <http://TCLib.org/>

### **Swap & Share at the Conference**

The first Swap & Share presented by the Wyoming Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association is an opportunity to view publicity materials, share marketing ideas, take home materials, and chat with others from around the region about promoting libraries. Swap & Share is open to all libraries: public, school, academic and special. Not a competitive event, it will be an opportunity to see new public relations ideas and materials. The room will be filled with items to take back to your library. This program is based on a similar and highly successful program at ALA's annual conference.

For an application form, visit [www.wyla.org/2005conference/swap\\_and\\_share.pdf](http://www.wyla.org/2005conference/swap_and_share.pdf). For other information, contact Troy Rumpf at 307.635.1032 x. 123 or [trumpf@lclsonline.org](mailto:trumpf@lclsonline.org).



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# *Get Set N' Go Blog*

## **MPLA/WLA ready to blog away**

### *or, Conference joins the Blog Fantastic*

*By Janet Ahrberg and Brian Greene*

Guess what we'll be doing at conference this year? Blogging!

Yes! This year's MPLA/WLA conference is emulating recent blogging projects done by other library associations such as ALA (American Library Association), LITA (Library and Information Technology Association), ACRL (Association of Colleges and Research Libraries), and MLA (Manitoba Library Association) to name a few. The blogosphere (the blog realm) will be enriched by musings and reports about our conference programs, speakers, events and activities for members attending and those not attending. Check out the blog at: <http://mplawla2005.blogspot.com>



For those new to blogging, a weblog (commonly shortened to blog) is a form of web-based publication. Peter Scott, a Canadian librarian and blogger has rendered a popular definition for a blog: “a Web page containing brief, chronologically arranged items of information” (from a Nov. 2001 Internet Librarian presentation, <http://library.usask.ca/~scott/pil2001/definitions.html>). Blogs are almost always structured in reverse chronological order. Many of them deliver information or are read via the use of XML files generally called RSS feeds. They come in a variety pack of formats and with unlimited potential.

Blogs can be diaries or journals of a person's daily life; chronicles of wars, battles, or natural disasters as seen with Hurricane Katrina done by eyewitnesses, victims, national and local media persons, or other observers; the journal of ALA President-Elect Leslie Burger to provide insights into the activities of a person in that position; updates by a librarian colleague with lung cancer who regularly reports on her condition and well-being for those who care about her; news items from a library director on the construction a new building and the announcement of local library events; sharing of expertise by staff of prominent companies to gain visibility; listings of favorite books read and comments by others about those choices; and reports by a Texas lobbyist who details the daily activities of the Texas legislature.

Like the conference web casting project the MPLA/WLA conference blog promises to provide access to programs for those unable to attend and additional enrichment or review for those who were there. Blogging also allows for additional participation with the encouragement of comments by readers of the individual postings. Several members have volunteered to blog about their conference experiences. By going to the conference blog site listed above you can find items of interest and click on the “comments” link, where you can add your comment and place yourself in the blogosphere. In some cases you may have to create a short profile to post a comment. How about that?

Challenge yourself to begin using a blog reader or aggregator if you don't already. This will allow you to add the conference blog to a collection of other blogs of interest. Common free readers or aggregators allow one to make blog reading easier and more organized. Some of these are AmphetDesk, Blogger, Bloglines, and FeedReader. There are many more. Find one today that is compatible with your choice of browser and blog on. Also, seriously consider ones that are also RSS readers. They're available for the cross-platform mode, Windows, Mac, Linux/Unix, web-based, Blackberry, Pocket PC, mobile phones, email, etc. Your information options will dramatically increase.

## Conference Blog, continued from page 6

Other members or your libraries may already be a part of the blogosphere. Those of you with your own blogs on library and information issues are invited to submit your blog(s) or your library's blogging efforts to us. Please send your site(s) to us via email: Janet Ahrberg: [janet.ahrberg@okstate.edu](mailto:janet.ahrberg@okstate.edu); or Brian Greene: [brian.greene@state.wy.us](mailto:brian.greene@state.wy.us). We would like to list them on a MPLA web page and/or on the conference site. Here's a chance to give your efforts in the blog fantastic more visibility and to further exemplify the richness of blogs as information resources.

One other exciting thing to watch will be any interest that other bloggers outside our region may show and report on their own blogs: library student blogs, librarian and library association blogs, media blogs, and other information-focused sites. There are blog search engines that may be helpful in this effort. Some examples are Blog Search Engine, BlogStreet, Blogarama, BlogDex, BlogWise and BlogUniverse, DayPop, and Feedster.

The MPLA/WLA conference blog is possible because of the endorsement of the MPLA Executive Board, the participation of Conference Co-Chairs Erin Kinney and Sharon Osenga, the guidance of MPLA Dan "Webmaster" Chaney who created the conference blog and the efforts of the MPLA Electronic Communications Committee led by Janet Ahrberg.

The challenge is on. Take advantage of blogging resources. Be creative with the potential of this information technology in your work with your colleagues and the people you serve. A blog a day keeps you on your way. Remember, bloggin' is good for the noggin'.

ALA President-Elect Leslie Burger's Blog  
[http://burgerforala.blogs.com/burger\\_for\\_ala/](http://burgerforala.blogs.com/burger_for_ala/)

available at <http://www.infotoday.com/mls/nov03/fichter.shtml> accessed Sept. 1, 2005.

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*Knowledge Quest* (Jan/Feb 2005), available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/kqweb/kqarchives/v33/mckiernan.pdf> accessed Sept. 1, 2005.

### Professional Development Grants Application Next Deadline is Sept. 28, 2005

*For application and procedures see*  
<http://www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/profdev/grants.html>

## ***Controversial Children's Books to be Shelved Separately***

*by Wayne Hanway, Oklahoma Library  
Association Representative*

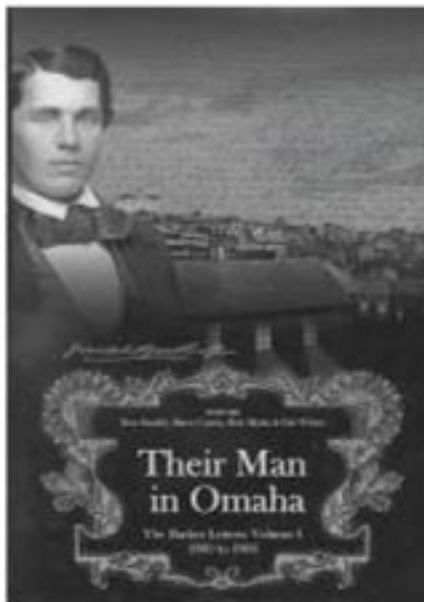
After months of deliberation and in a crowded, highly publicized meeting, the Metropolitan Library Commission, which is the governing board of Oklahoma City's country library system, voted August 25th to limit access to children's books dealing with "controversial topics" by placing them in a "parenting collection" within the children's section of the library. The action came as a result of complaints about the book *King and King*, which escalated when local television stations got involved and an effort was made by state legislators from Oklahoma City to withhold funds for the state library and state aid to public libraries.

The decision on which books are moved will be made by the library system's selection staff, but the motion as approved reads: "subjects where good judgment would indicate that Oklahoma County community standards are not served by the material would dictate inclusion in the collection." The focus of the complaints was several books considered to have homosexual themes.

The state legislator who led last spring's actions said in a press release that the action did not go far enough and that she "is developing a non-profit organization for library accountability that will involve parents statewide."



### **A 2005 Midwest Book Awards Nominee**



A collection of letters written by Joseph Barker, Jr during the 1860s to his family in England.

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- David Wishart, Professor and Chair  
Department of Anthropology and Geography  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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# Lessons in Leadership

By Marilyn L. Hinshaw, *Leadership Institute Chair*

During the American Library Association's 2005 Annual Conference in Chicago, I was part of a program to expound on the leadership institute experience. Mary Bushing, who might have been the better speaker to represent our MPLA Leadership Institute, chose to go to England instead of Chicago. (Well, who wouldn't have?!!)

As I prepared for the presentation, the desert mountains of New Mexico came back through my inner eye. The camaraderie I felt the week of the first Ghost Ranch experience resurfaced too, and I knew from this deep emotional imprint that those who have been a part of the Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute through its history would remember it as movingly as have I. Through my career as a library leader, that story of why the Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute is more than its separate ingredients is what I attempted to tell in the brief presentation. Making even the overt choice to attend a leadership institute may be too difficult for the faint of heart. With MPLA's event at Ghost Ranch, I explained, even getting to the location is demanding. In any leadership training event, the learner **should** be challenged and that is how it begins for the Ghost Ranch participants.

It was easy to relate the details of how the choice of locations was narrowed by the planning committee from some 35 nominated locations to the Ghost Ranch setting. In retrospect it was easy to tell how the planning committee came to the decision to make the process of selecting the participants a collaboration with the MPLA member associations, but it was yet another unique feature that the committee discussion shaped and refined to become part of the Institute's culture of partnership. It was easy to relate how the staff for the Institute was recruited, and what we learned from it that first year.

It's no secret to all those involved or fortunate enough to attend the Leadership Institute that Mary Bushing, coordinator extraordinaire, has become integral to its success. Beginning with her first year, when she was among the first class of mentors, she moved so

naturally into planning of the content that it is now standard for those participating to see her as a co-producer with Maureen Sullivan in the quality of the experience. I personally thank Mary because of what she took on when I asked her to do this for MPLA after the Leadership Institute's first season. She has agreed to be the Leadership Institute's Coordinator through 2006. We couldn't ask for better.

The excellence of this staff team, headed by Maureen Sullivan and Mary Bushing, and a succession of successful career librarians as mentors who come from the 12 state region is also an easy thing to relate, but to tell you the dozens of feedback letters and messages from mentors is to know that the Ghost Ranch experience is as thought provoking and as magical for them as it has been for participants.

Some things are common to leadership training events. It is an accepted truism that the learner will get out of the experience what they are willing to invest from their own skill and talent bank, plus the hard work it requires to make a few key changes. Feeling unsure at the beginning is part of the process. In the realm of library leadership, the first person who must believe that you can be an accomplished leader is **YOU!**

Almost all leadership training events work to build skills such as empathic listening, leading groups with respect, and purposeful inclusion of a variety of viewpoints. Engaging with others in self diagnosis and exploration of good practice that will improve personal skills becomes an evolution for the participants. The evidence that the MPLA leadership institute is accomplishing this is the numbers of graduate stories after they have returned to the job. There is a theme – they are telling us stories of increased self esteem. And now, for the first time, many participants have a support group who believe in them fully. It is one of the career changing strengths that emanate from a week of deep experience and personal evolution at Ghost Ranch.

What I could not tell the Chicago audience is the effect of MPLA's Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute on the career decisions it has helped formulate and support for attendees. Only they can tell their own

*continued on page 10*

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## Leadership, continued from page 9

story. I have great confidence that one day, looking back, among those who are the greatest in our field will be career stories that include Ghost Ranch and MPLA's unique investment in the future of people whom we believe will make that sort of impact on the future of libraries.

While many leadership curricula are similar, the highly unique feature of leadership institutes is the economics involved. Universities that offer a similar mix of skill training to external customers through their continuing education programs put a price tag of \$5,000 - \$15,000 on the leadership program offered. Some library leadership institutes are offered with a cost in the multiple thousands of dollars. MPLA has made its event not only an outstanding example (and that's the reason we are so often asked to present), but it remains a great investment for the price. \$550 for non-members and a \$450 price tag for members is unheard of, even among library leadership institutes of similar quality. MPLA continues its great history of achieving the improbable, if not the impossible, for its members and participating associations.

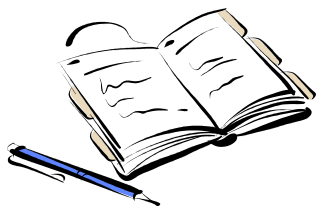
I thank all the MPLA member leaders, and the members of the Leadership Institute Committee whose efforts allow me to make a great announcement. ***SIRSI will provide funding for the 2006 Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute.*** Congratulations committee members and MPLA Leadership! In that Chicago audience, you have the record of grantsmanship that other library groups envy. Thanks to you, MPLA's Ghost Ranch experience will continue!

### *2004-05 Leadership Institute Committee Members:*

Patti Butcher, Kansas, chair  
Donna Morris, Colorado  
Linda Deacy, Nevada  
Debbie Iverson, Wyoming  
Peter Kraus, Utah

### *2005-06 Committee Members:*

Marilyn Hinshaw, Oklahoma, chair  
Donna Morris, Utah  
Debbie Iverson, Wyoming  
Dennis Wilson, Kansas  
Peter Kraus, Utah



## **An Interview with Maureen Sullivan, MPLA Leadership Institute Facilitator**

*Amy Owen and Maureen Sullivan*

MPLA's Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute began in 2002. Each year since then it has reached approximately 30 participants, drawn from throughout the entire MPLA region. The criteria have varied giving opportunities not only for those fairly new to the profession but also those in mid-career. The institutes have been coordinated by Mary Bushing, and facilitated by Maureen Sullivan, a distinguished organizational development consultant with prior experience in numerous leadership development programs: Urban Libraries Council, ACRL/Harvard Leadership, Tall Texans, etc. For more details on the institute, see <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/leadership/index.html>. Amy Owen presented the following questions to Maureen Sullivan:

*Maureen, given your extensive experience with leadership development programs, what do you find that these leadership programs have in common, and what makes MPLA's institute unique?*

**All focus on the development of leadership competence in the field. The MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute is distinctive because it draws participants from a variety of libraries in the 12 Mountain Plains states; each state selects its participants to the program; and a portion of the curriculum is devoted to enhancing leadership within MPLA.**

*continued on page 11*

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## **Maureen Sullivan Interview**, continued from page 10

*How would you characterize the strengths of the MPLA Institute? What do you enjoy most about it?*

**I believe the strengths include the curriculum itself, especially the segments developed from the topics selected by the original planning committee; Mary Bushing's effective coordination of the program and the work she does with the participants in the MPLA segments of the Institute as well as before and after the Institute; the very practical focus of the learning approach; and, of course, the location. Ghost Ranch provides a great setting for a collaborative, action-learning program because of its remote location and very relaxed atmosphere. It is a very special place.**

*How would you characterize the attendees at past Ghost Ranch institutes? In what ways are they similar to or different from individuals you've met at other leadership training programs?*

**The participants have been eager and engaged learners who naturally support each other in the learning process. A number of them in each class have been very forthcoming with their ideas and perspectives. Most have demonstrated a deep commitment to their professional practice and to being effective leaders. In this respect, they have been very similar to those with whom I have worked in other programs.**

*What sums up the difference between management and leadership?*

**To me, management is the discipline of organizing and coordinating work accomplishment. This includes policy formulation, allocation of resources, the design and administration of organizational systems such as communication, decision making, planning, budgeting, technology, and accountability. Of course, it also includes the design and oversight of the human resources systems that are so necessary to support the people of the organization.**

**Leadership is the process of engaging and inspiring**

**people to accomplish the best possible results. I like Daniel Goleman's description of leadership as one of resonance with followership. Leadership fundamentally occurs when the relationship with followers is one in which there is trust; open, honest, and direct communication; and a mutual commitment to achieve high performance.**

*Is leadership possible from any position within an organization?*

**Absolutely. Not only is leadership possible from any position, I believe this informal leadership abounds in libraries today. Staff at all levels take action to meet the needs of their customers.**

*Why is leadership training an especially important initiative right now in the library community?*

**Leadership development is so important because of the complex transformational change we experience in libraries, in the information industry and in the world around us. We need to have staff who can exercise their judgment under difficult and ever-changing circumstances and who can do so with confidence.**

*You have completed some evaluation studies of the long term results of leadership training initiatives. What are some of the key points you have learned?*

**The key learnings include:**

- **The importance of an action learning approach**
- **The value of including mentors who are well prepared**
- **The benefit of flexibility in the presentation of the curriculum**
- **The need for participants to be committed to learning and to applying the learning after the program**
- **Support and coaching for the participants when they return to work and begin to apply what they have learned**
- **Strong program coordination and support by individuals who understand and are committed to leadership development and to the success of the program.**

*continued on page 24*

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# MPLA Election Results

For the first time in its history, MPLA conducted its election process entirely electronically. The voting process was open from August 21 – September 9 using MemberClicks via the MPLA website. The results are:

## Vice-President/President-Elect Wayne Hanway



Wayne Hanway is Executive Director, Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma since 1991. He has been a member of MPLA since 1982 and is currently the Oklahoma Library Association's state representative. He has served on the Finance and Management Committee, the Nominating Committee, and Awards Committee.

*My great-grandfather homesteaded in western Nebraska, and I have lived most of my life in the mountain plains region. I have traveled in every state in the region and have been a library director in the region for twenty-three years. My vision is that MPLA will transform this very large region into a dynamic, warm and supportive library community, by being a force for networking, professional development, continuing education, communication, advocacy, and celebration of our regional heritage and ongoing literary and library vitality, and by being welcoming, friendly, encouraging, and helpful in the best tradition of librarianship. Goals:*

- *Keep moving MPLA forward in using technology to conduct as much as possible of our between-conference business through virtual meetings;*

- *Explore new ways for MPLA to bring librarians and continuing education providers together, so that despite the barriers of distance, continuing education happens when and where it is needed;*
- *Increase opportunities for member involvement;*
- *Work with MPLA and NMLA members to make MPLA's first joint conference in New Mexico an unforgettable success in 2007;*
- *Keep MPLA moving forward by implementing the long range plan and the recommendations of the restructuring task force.*

## Recording Secretary Sandra Barstow



Sandra Barstow is Assistant Dean for Administration and Finance, University of Wyoming Libraries. She is a past chair and current member of the Technical Services Section and has served on the Academic and Special Libraries Section and the MPLA Reorganization Task Force. She has been a member of MPLA since 1988.

*I believe that MPLA serves a vital role for librarians in our region, and I have benefited from my membership in the organization over the past 17 years. The Recording Secretary has the responsibility for accurately documenting and communicating the activities of the MPLA Board to the members. I feel that this position is important for ensuring that current and future members have a complete record of our activities.*

*continued on page 13*

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## **Election Results**, continued from page 12

*As a previous board member during my tenure as Technical Services Section chair, I am aware of the variety of information that comes before the board, and I feel that my understanding of the issues and my attention to detail will serve MPLA well in providing accurate and timely documentation.*

### **Academic Section, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Kirsten Clark**

Kirsten Clark is Government Documents Librarian, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. She was a participant in MPLA's 2004 Leadership Institute and has been a member of MPLA since 2004.

*Through my previous positions, and current one, I have been involved in many aspects of academic librarianship. This includes public service through reference, collection development and library instruction; technical service through cataloging and collection management; and systems through library system migration. I have worked on a variety of committees and believe that involvement in associations allows libraries to learn from each other and move forward to face upcoming challenges within the library profession. As library budgets become smaller, libraries need to learn new ways of working together to meet the patron information needs. My main goal is to emphasize researching and implementing new cooperations between libraries and states within MPLA to provide the best service possible to whoever our patrons might be now, and in the future.*

### **Technical Services Section, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Rachel White**

Rachel White is Head of Technical Services, State Archives and Historical Research Library, State Historical Society of North Dakota. She has been a member of MPLA since 2002 and attended the 2004 MPLA Leadership Institute. She is a member of the Technical Services Section, the State Agency, Cooperatives and systems Section, the Government Documents Section, and the Preservation Archives and Special Collections Section.

*I have experience in cataloging, acquisitions, collections and database maintenance in both*

*large and small libraries. I have recently steered my library through a system migration and database cleanup project. I believe in having clear, easy to follow procedures and protocols established, and have experience writing manuals, chairing meetings, and training catalogers and patrons. I am able to control multiple projects simultaneously, and see them through from inception to completion. I would like to see a local network for cataloging and technical services knowledge established in the MPLA region. Cataloging and technical services questions could be asked and answered on an MPLA Technical Services Roundtable listserv. We all have years of combined experience and wisdom. Why not call on each other more often for help? Also, I would like to see revitalized regional efforts for training and discussion of technical services topics, centered around the MPLA conference.*

### **State Agency, Cooperatives And Systems Section, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect - Colleen Kirby**

Colleen Kirby is Technical Services Librarian, South Dakota State Library. She has been a member of MPLA since 1984 and has served on the Nominating Committee and Bylaws and Procedures Committee.

*During the past 20+ years I have worked in a variety of libraries throughout South Dakota. I especially like working at the South Dakota State Library because it gives me the opportunity to work with librarians from all types of libraries. Trying to meet the needs of public, school and special libraries, as well as the needs of state government, is a challenge. I enjoy working with groups to develop and complete projects that will benefit libraries and librarians. I would work with the members of the State Agency, Cooperatives & Systems Section to ensure relevant programming at the annual conference. I would also like to explore ways that agencies with state-wide or regional responsibilities could share resources.*

### **Public Libraries and Trustees Section, Vice-Chair/ Chair-Elect - Laura DeBaun**

Laura DeBaun is Library Services Coordinator & Business Manager, Northeast Kansas Library System. She has been a member of MPLA 2002.

*continued on page 14*



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## **Election Results**, *continued from page 13*

*Public Libraries and Trustees face many challenges balancing today's economic climate and today's information needs. I feel I can combine my current work with public libraries and trustees and my prior experience as a trustee and a private business owner to provide strong leadership for this section.*

### **New Members Round Table, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect - Michele Seikel**

Michele Seikel is Cataloger & Assistant Professor of Bibliography, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. A member of MPLA since 2005 she is belong to the New Members Roundtable and the Technical Services Section.

*I enjoy participating in groups large and small to formulate and further goals, have no trouble meeting deadlines, and I have a range of library experience, both the professional and paraprofessional, and of participation in professional library organizations. As a brand-new member of MPLA, I want to make the MPLA experience welcoming and inclusive for new members, especially those who may never have attended a conference before, or know any other MPLA members. I'd be interested in proposing an MPLA mentoring program, which would pair new members attending their first conference with old hands. We could meet for a new members reception, then the mentoring pairs could arrange to get together for meals and talk later during the conference.*

### **Children's and School Section, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect - Judy Druse**

Judy Druse is currently the Curriculum Resources Librarian at the Mabree Library at Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas. She has previously worked as a School Library Media Specialist, a Young Adult Librarian, and an English teacher in several Mountain Plains states: Kansas, Arizona, and New Mexico. She has been a member of MPLA since 2003.

### **Preservation, Archives And Special Collections Section, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect - Eileen Wright**

Eileen Wright is Reference and Special Collections Librarian, Montana State University – Billings. A

member of MPLA since 2003, she attended the Leadership Insittute in 2004.

*While I am new to the field, I have quickly become active within MPLA and my state's library association. I have been a MPLA and a Montana State Library Association member since 2003. I have also been an ALA member since 2000. This is my second year on the MPLA nominating committee. I am a MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership graduate of 2004. I was co-chair for the Montana State Library Association 2005 conference. I attended the Western Archives Institute the summer of 2004. I have continued my training in the archives field by attending workshops, lectures, conferences, and by talking, emailing and just asking questions when new endeavors are discovered on my campus. I have attended our meetings at the past 2 conferences, and I have enjoyed the ability to ask questions of fellow colleagues. I believe this is an important aspect of the section, the ability to ask questions and gain new knowledge from fellow colleagues. I would like to incorporate in our meetings a time for open questions, a time to share with others the accomplishments and achievements that are taking place at your library, institution, or museum,*

### **Government Documents Section, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect - Mark Scott**

Mark Scott is Arizona State Documents Librarian, Arizona State University Library since 2003. He has been a member of MPLA since 2003.

*Since working in the Documents, Gifts and Exchange Department at the New York State Library during graduate school, I have been fascinated with government documents. Upon completing my Master's degree, my first professional position was as a reference librarian at the Merrimack Public Library in New Hampshire. In 2001, I relocated to Boston where I worked at the State Library of Massachusetts in the State House as the assistant documents librarian. While at the State Library, I was involved with numerous aspects of both the state and federal documents collection. I also worked the reference desk, trained staff, and taught library instruction. I currently serve as the chair of the Government Documents Interest Group for the Arizona Library Association. With my experience in documents and association work at the state level, I look forward to offering my knowledge and interest for government information to the regional level.*

## **“Board Choice” Awards**

### ***Several Chosen for Free Memberships***

Since 2000, members of the MPLA Board have each had the annual opportunity to select a person in the region to receive a free one-year membership in the association. Among the most recent “Board Choice” awards winners and their sponsors are:

**Brenda Bailey-Hainer** - selected by President Beth Avery. Brenda has been the Director of Networking and Resource Sharing at the Colorado State Library since 1999, where she has successfully planned, implemented and launched a number of continuing statewide, cooperative technology-based projects including the Colorado Virtual Library, Colorado Virtual Library for Kids (cataloged, searchable websites for K12), AskColorado (virtual reference), SWIFT (interlibrary loan), and Colorado’s Historic Newspaper Collection (digitized historic newspapers). She was the recipient of CAL’s Librarian of the

Year Award in 2001, and was featured in the March 15, 2002 *Library Journal* “Movers & Shakers” supplement. In 2004, she received the Colorado Association of Libraries’ award for Technology Project of the Year for Colorado’s Historic Newspaper Collection.

**Ethelle Bean** - chosen by Colleen Smith, South Dakota State Representative. After receiving a MLS degree from Florida State University, Ethelle Bean began her professional library career as a school librarian at the Oglala, SD Loneman School on the Pine Ridge Reservation. A few years later was employed at National College, Rapid City, and Huron College before accepting the position of Library Director of the Karl E. Mundt Library at Dakota State University, Madison. She is currently Associate Vice President of Special projects/Director of Library at Dakota State University. She also serves as the Dakota State University representative to the Madison Chamber of Commerce.

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Some of our EJS team, left to right, Meg Waites, Gary Coker, Oliver Pasch, Rosalind Barclay, Michael Maser, Penn Jackson



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# Business Sense

Jean Anderson

Business Librarian

Fort Collins Public Library, CO

## Best Business Bloggers

(Note: This column is designed to be a handout for public library business patrons. I would be happy to share this column and previous columns with you - Word format. Email me at [Janderson@fcgov.com](mailto:Janderson@fcgov.com))

A blog is a form of web communication allowing companies of all sizes to reach new audiences and build a loyal web following. Blogging software is the first true easy to use solution for small business and free agents allowing one to create, publish, manage, share, and syndicate communications to new and existing customers.

### 2005 Business Blogging Awards

- **Best Overall Blog:**

**Security Awareness** ([securityawareness.blogspot.com](http://securityawareness.blogspot.com)) - the Security Awareness Blog gives computer security tips and tricks to government, corporations and home users everywhere.

- **Best Group Blog:**

**800-CEO-READ** ([www.800ceoread.com/blog](http://www.800ceoread.com/blog)) - a large discussion group of authors, reviews, and books pertaining to the business world.

- **Best New Blog:**

**Monty's Bluff** ([oiadvantage.blogspot.com](http://oiadvantage.blogspot.com)) - general discussion of current articles and trends on a corporate level.

- **Best Law Blog:**

**Phosita** ([www.okpatents.com/phosita](http://www.okpatents.com/phosita)) - this site discusses legal issues of interest: patent, copyright and trademark law.

- **Best VC/Entrepreneur Blog:**

**Business Opportunities** ([www.business-opportunities.biz](http://www.business-opportunities.biz)) - a moderated list of legitimate of business

opportunities for entrepreneurs. Its presented like a weblog with chronological archives and extensive outbound links.

- **Best Financial Industry/Investment Blog:**

**Between the Hedges** ([hedgefundmgr.blogspot.com](http://hedgefundmgr.blogspot.com)) - daily commentary on investing and trading in the U.S. financial markets with mid-day reports and weekly wrap-ups.

- **Best Personal Finance Blog:**

**PFBlog** ([www.pfblog.com](http://www.pfblog.com)) - The goal of PFBlog is to accumulate a full million dollars by the age of 40 thru hard working and diligent personal finance management.

- **Best Blog by a Small Business:**

**The Tin Basher Blog** ([www.butlersheetmetal.com/tinbasherblog](http://www.butlersheetmetal.com/tinbasherblog)) - the Tin Basher is a company blog to help customers learn more about Planters Direct and its parent company Butler Sheetmetal Ltd. This blog is highly entertaining and personal while still being informative.

- **Best Blog About a Small Business:**

**EBizBlog** ([www.ebizblog.ca](http://www.ebizblog.ca)) - click here for e-business news, commentary, inspiration, and insider tips for small businesses on a budget.

- **Best PR Blog:**

**Media Guerilla** ([mmanuel.typepad.com/media\\_guerilla](http://mmanuel.typepad.com/media_guerilla)) - An insider's look at public relations in the technology industry.

- **Best Tech Company Blog:**

**Security Awareness** ([securityawareness.blogspot.com](http://securityawareness.blogspot.com)) - this blog provides computer security tips and tricks to government, corporations, and home users.

- **Best Media Blog:**

**Media Guerilla** ([mmanuel.typepad.com/media\\_guerilla/](http://mmanuel.typepad.com/media_guerilla/)) - an insider's take on the practice of technology public relations.

- **Best Real Estate Blog:**

**Inside Real Estate Journal** ([insiderealestatejournal.blogspot.com](http://insiderealestatejournal.blogspot.com)) - a chatty look at the Florida real estate market with an emphasis on the Tampa area.

*continued on page 17*

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## Business Sense, *continued from page 16*

- **Best Marketing Blog:**

**JSLogan** ([www.jslogan.com](http://www.jslogan.com)) - this is a series of short, well-written daily essays on several marketing topics. Keyword, category, and archive searching provides easy and quick access to previous writings.

- **Best SEO Blog:**

**Blog Business World** ([blogbusinessworld.blogspot.com](http://blogbusinessworld.blogspot.com)) – a form of online marketing, search engine optimization (SEO) is the process of making a site and its content highly relevant for both search engines and searchers. Successful search marketing helps a site gain top positioning for relevant words and phrases.

- **Best Project Management Blog:**

**Agile Management** ([www.agilemanagement.net/Articles/Weblog/blog.html](http://www.agilemanagement.net/Articles/Weblog/blog.html)) - written by David Anderson, a Microsoft program manager, this blog features articles on the agile software development methodology.

- **Best Leadership Blog:**

**Leadership Now** ([blogs.bnet.com/leadershipnow](http://blogs.bnet.com/leadershipnow)) – Don Blohowiak writes this straightforward blog with intelligence and a bit of humor. Topics vary from organizational behavior to motivation.

- **The Picasso Award (Best Design):**

**Signal vs. Noise** ([www.37signals.com/svn](http://www.37signals.com/svn)) - check out this site for its sleek and simple design. Fonts and headings are consistent with minimal graphics, creating a site that is free from eye “chatter.”

### More Business Blog Sites to Explore:

- Business 2.0 Blog ([business2.blogs.com/business2blog](http://business2.blogs.com/business2blog))
- The Management Issues Blog ([www.management-issues.com/blog.asp](http://www.management-issues.com/blog.asp))
- Fast Company Blog ([blog.fastcompany.com](http://blog.fastcompany.com))
- Small Business Success ([www.entrepreneurslife.com/index.php](http://www.entrepreneurslife.com/index.php))
- Re:Invention: Soundbytes for Women Entrepreneurs ([reinventioninc.blogspot.com](http://reinventioninc.blogspot.com))
- Small Business Blog ([www.sbblog.com/sbbloghome](http://www.sbblog.com/sbbloghome))
- Business Pundit ([www.businesspundit.com](http://www.businesspundit.com))
- Small Business CEO ([smallbusinessceo.blogspot.com](http://smallbusinessceo.blogspot.com))

- Small Business ISO ([smallbusinessiso.blogspot.com](http://smallbusinessiso.blogspot.com))
- Small Business Trends ([www.smallbusinesses.blogspot.com](http://www.smallbusinesses.blogspot.com))
- Strategize ([strategize.blogspot.com](http://strategize.blogspot.com))
- The Entrepreneurial Mind ([forum.belmont.edu/cornwall](http://forum.belmont.edu/cornwall))
- Wonderbranding: Marketing to Women ([michelemiller.blogs.com/marketing\\_to\\_women](http://michelemiller.blogs.com/marketing_to_women))

### Searching for Any Blog? Try The Blog Search Engine ([www.blogsearchengine.com](http://www.blogsearchengine.com))

*Jean Anderson is the Business Librarian for the Fort Collins Public Library. Suggestions for future columns are welcome: JAnderson@fcgov.com. Current and past issues of Business Sense are available at: [www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php](http://www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php)*

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## Emporia Discontinues Library Services Certificate Program

Ann, O'Neill, Dean of the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University, recently announced the discontinuation of Kansas' undergraduate Library Services Certificate Program (LSCP). Though participants praised the program it could not overcome several problems that plagued it from the beginning. These included:

- Low enrollment
- Issues related to credit vs. non-credit
- Cost effectiveness for participants (ie. cost to participate not offset by subsequent promotion &/ or salary increase)
- Length of time for certificate completion
- Insufficient funding to build and sustain the program.

It's demise will become part of the current discussion and review on library training and continuing education taking place in the state through a series of task forces created by State Librarian, Christie Brandau. More information about the program and its discontinuation is available on the SLIM web site at [http://slim.emporia.edu/about/pressreleases/dean\\_0805.htm](http://slim.emporia.edu/about/pressreleases/dean_0805.htm).

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## **Board Choice Awards**, *continued from page 15*

**Kathy Berg** - selected by Louis Howley, MPLA Recording Secretary. In her role as Archives and Special Projects Librarian at the Salida Regional Library in Colorado, Kathy helped create the library's Local History Archive five years ago. Kathy also has been involved with a variety of programs in her capacity as Special Projects Librarian. These include poetry, literary and art programs sponsored by the Salida Regional Library. She has been a board member and fundraiser for the Salida Steam Plant Performing Arts Center; Gallery Director for the Arkansas Valley Arts Council when it was the CCCA; founding member and first President of the board of the low-power community radio station, KHEN 106.9 FM; board member of the Chaffee County AIDS Walk; and a founding member and board member of "Art Works. For the Heart of the Rockies," Chaffee County's newest non-profit for arts education and advocacy.

**Judith Cremer** - selected by Susan Moyer, Kansas Representative to MPLA. She graduated from Emporia State University with a BA in History and minor in Sociology/Anthropology. She received her MLS from Emporia State in 1992 and a MA in American History in 1995. Judith served as the Director of the Education America/Topeka Technical College Library and is now the Assistant Director of the Pottawatomie/Wabaunsee Regional Library System. Judith has been a member of ALA since 1992 and an active KLA member, serving as the Vice-Chair of the Interlibrary Loan Round Table. She also maintains a membership in the Kansas Corral of the Westerners and has served as its Sheriff.

**Milla Cummins** was selected by Bridgett Johnson, Montana Representative. Milla is the Director at the Livingston-Park County Public Library in Livingston MT. Coming originally from Chicago, Milla has been the director in Livingston for the past eleven years. She is this year's Montana Library Association President.

**Tania Hajjar** was selected by Kay Lowell, Colorado's former Representative. Tania has been working in libraries since beginning her career as a shelver at age 13 in her hometown library. She received her MLS from the University of Kentucky in 1992, and

after a brief stint as director of the Niobrara County Library (WY), has been a Reference Librarian with the Montrose Regional Library District, CO, for the past 10 years. She has served on several Colorado Association of Libraries committees; volunteered several years as a Colorado Book Awards judge; and serves on the Virtual Reference Marketing Committee. She also spent several years as a member of the ALA John Cotton Dana Awards committee. Tania is a co-founder of the successful collaborative program "Poetry on a Platter" with the libraries of Salida and Gunnison, which brings state and national poets to rural Colorado and is now in its sixth year. And on a local level, she organized the first-ever Montrose Library District Book Cart Drill Team.

**Anne Lefkowsky** is selected by Valerie Nye, New Mexico Representative. Anne Lefkowsky earned a BA in English from UNM, and received her MLS from University of Washington, Seattle. After working as a reference/adult services librarian at the Fort Bend Co. Libraries in suburban Houston, TX, she returned to New Mexico in 1993 to join the Albuquerque / Bernalillo County Library system. Her 12 years at A/BCLS have included work as Reference Librarian, Serials Librarian, and Acquisitions Manager. She currently is Collection Development Manager for the system. Anne is Vice President/President-elect for NMLA and was a member of the 2000 NMSL Library Leadership Institute class. She is also a tab editor for WebJunction New Mexico.

**Catherine McMullen** was selected by Pam Henley, Chair of Public Library and Trustees Division. Catherine began working in libraries as an aide at the Bozeman Public Library in May 2004. She is also the assistant librarian at the Big Sky Community Library and the vice-chair of the Headwaters Library Association. Catherine recently was awarded a PEEL scholarship from the Montana State Library and will begin her MLIS through the University of Washington in Seattle in the fall. She plans to pursue a career as a Montana Public Library director.

**Sarah Pitkin** is chosen by Peter Kraus, Utah's MPLA Representative. Sarah Pitkin is a librarian with the Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled, primarily providing service to the blind, visually

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## **Board Choice Awards**, *continued from page 18*

impaired, and the physically disabled. She runs the organization's Summer Reading program and is one of its Reader's Advisor Librarians. She also works on a newly designed Library website that provides service and accessibility for online users. Sarah earned her B.S. in English from Utah State University and her MLS from Emporia State University. She was previously employed by Davis Applied Technology College.

**Barbara Ray** was selected by Wayne Hanway, State Representative from Oklahoma. Barbara is assistant professor and program chair for the Master of Science in Library Media and Information Technology at Northeastern State University. After receiving her MLIS from the University of Oklahoma, she was a school librarian in the Tulsa area for 15 years. She began her present position after receiving her doctorate in higher education at Oklahoma State University. She served on the Continuing Education committee of the Oklahoma Library Association and was Membership Chair. Currently she is a member of the Sequoyah Young Adult Reading Team and chair of the Library Education Division of OLA. She was also one of the mentors for the first Leadership Institute sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association.

**Jasmine Rousey** is selected by Dorothy Liegl, Chair of the State Agencies, Cooperatives, and Systems Section. Jasmine Rousey is Children's and Youth Services Coordinator, South Dakota State Library, Pierre. She is a newly minted MLS graduate of Louisiana State University. Jasmine started work at the South Dakota State Library on June 1 soon traveled the state with the Read Across South Dakota with Arthur project, reaching 10 communities in five days, taught one class at the annual Library Training Institute, dove head first into the Head Start book exchange project, and more.

**Rose Schinker** was designated by Nina Little, MPLA State Representative from Nebraska. After receiving a BS in Mathematics and English from Hastings College, NE, earned her MLS at Emporia State University, KS. She is currently Director of the La Vista, NE Public Library. Previous positions include Director of the Learning Resource Center at

Coffeyville Community College, KS; Public Services/ Outreach Librarian at Bellevue University, NE; Director of the Clarkson College Library in Omaha; and Head of Collection Development at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's McGoogan Library of Medicine. She serves on many committees in the Nebraska Library Association.

**Donna Ridley Smith** was selected by Martha Greene, Nevada's Representative to MPLA. Donna has wide and varied experience in both academic and public libraries in California and Nevada. Currently, Donna coordinates collection development and supervises the Circulation Division in the largest branch in the Washoe County Library System. She attended the library's first Leadership Development series and just completed the Nevada Library Leadership Institute. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Art History from the University of California at Riverside and her Master's in Library Science from UCLA.

### ***Hurricane Related Sources***

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has announced the release of a web site with environmental health information links related to Hurricane Katrina. The site is available at: <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/hurricane.html>

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has developed a reading list of books about overcoming disaster and stories of survival for teens. The booklist, which features fiction and nonfiction, was created to help librarians, educators and concerned adults guide teens to books that may help them cope after Hurricane Katrina. See [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org); select "News."

The ALA's Chapter Relations Office has established an "Adopt a Library" program to provide assistance to libraries damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Libraries interested in adopting a library may visit ALA's Chapter Relations Office Web site at <http://www.ala.org/katrina/adopt> and complete a participation form.

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# Nebraska



*Nina Little, Nebraska's State Representative to MPLA provided the following information about this issue's featured state..*

## **WHY NEBRASKA?**

Nebraska is sometimes thought of as the state people pass through or over on their way to someplace else. Actually, it is one of the USA's best-kept secrets. The fact is Nebraska has its share of famous citizens and interesting laces to visit. It is the 16th biggest state in area, covering 77,358 square miles; but is the 38th most populous state. There is breathing space between people and adequate space in which to move around.

## **A FEW THINGS ABOUT NEBRASKA**

Hastings was the home of innovator and entrepreneur Edwin Perkins. In 1927 he was responsible for developing Kool-Aid. In 1998 it became the official state soft drink.

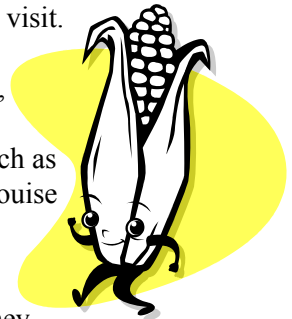
Former President Gerald R. Ford was born in Omaha. A beautiful flower garden has been established where the house originally stood and next door is the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center for the care of cultural materials. It was founded in 1995 as the newest division of the Nebraska State Historical Society. A library of reference works on conservation and collections care, a microscopy laboratory, secured storage and receiving areas, an x-radiography area, an air abrasive room, and workroom support the conservation activities.

Another world famous Nebraskan is Warren Buffett, known as the "Oracle of Omaha." Probably the world's greatest stock market investor and worth \$36 billion or so, he continues to live in a house he bought in the 50's for \$31,500. People who invested \$10,000 in Berkshire Hathaway when Mr. Buffett bought control of it in 1965, have more than \$50 million today.

Award winning movie director and screenwriter Alexander Payne ("About Schmidt," "Sideways" etc.) was born in and attended school in Nebraska, has made movies in the state and comes back often to visit.

Ted Kooser's "Delights and Shadows" received the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for poetry. Kooser, of rural Garland, is the country's newest Poet Laureate. He is a long-time leader in Nebraska literary efforts. And who can forget the great writers, historians and scholars such as Willa Cather, John G. Neihardt, Bess Streeter Aldrich, Mari Sandoz, Wright Morris and Louise Pound, among others, who were born or lived and worked in Nebraska?

Once off of the interstate, folks driving across Nebraska experience rolling hills, vast plains, the great Missouri River and the sand hills which are the gateway to the Black Hills area. They can stop and explore Chimney Rock, walk on a part of the Oregon Trail, visit Carhenge, Henry Doorley Zoo, Father Flanagan's Boys and Girls Town, Fort Robinson, the Museum of the Fur Trade and many other interesting places.



## **NEBRASKA'S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS**

The six Nebraska Regional Library Systems were formed in 1983 as non-profit organizations to improve library services to Nebraska citizens. They serve all types and sizes of libraries, each with a governing board, a full-time administrator and a part-time administrative assistant. Systems differ greatly in population, square miles and types of libraries, but cooperate on many projects to provide continuing education, training, technology, and fun to their members.

*continued on page 21*

## EASTERN LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Eastern Library System based in Omaha covers seven counties, 32 public libraries, 14 academic institutions, 89 schools districts and 32 special libraries. While the Eastern System comprises only 4% of the state's geographic area, it serves 40% of the population. Kathleen Tooker is Administrator and Nancy Meyer, Administrative Assistant. The office is located in Omaha. A complete list of the services, including a catalogued professional collection, can be found at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern).



### **Nina Little** **MPLA's Nebraska Representative**

*Like many others in the profession, Nina's interest in libraries began at an early age when she was a member of Omaha Public Library's very first Summer Reading Club. She still has the little figure made from twisted pieces of pipe cleaner that was used to show her progress up the papier-mâché mountain to read the projected summer reading goal. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade it was Nina's good fortune to have Homeroom with the teacher who also had responsibility for the library. Miss Baumgartner taught the students who helped her with the library before and after school (Nina among them) how to use special needles and special thread to rebind books. It was Miss Baumgartner who invited Omaha author Marion Marsh Brown to visit the student volunteers. Though none of the students could afford to buy the book, Mrs. Brown graciously autographed small pieces of paper. Nina still has hers and cherishes it since Mrs. Brown went on to write more books for upper elementary and middle school students and has recently passed away.*

*Nina, while still in high school, worked as a page at a branch of the Omaha Public Library and then attended Omaha University, before it became the University of Nebraska–Omaha. She managed to squeeze in marriage and her first child before graduating six years later and accepting the position of Boys and Girls Librarian at the branch library where she'd been a page. The birth of two more children followed.*

*Other positions Nina has held: Summer librarian at several Omaha public elementary schools, 5 years as founder, director, and teacher at Morningside Preschool, 11 years with Omaha Public Schools at her former high school as Library Media Specialist and then Humanities Curriculum Specialist, 15 years as the Supervisor of Library and Instructional Information Services for OPS, and three years as the Director of the public library in a small community outside of Omaha. Somehow along the way Nina managed to complete an MS in Special Education, an EdS in Administration, and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction (UNL). Nina likes to tell people she graduated with a BS the year her oldest child began kindergarten and with a PhD the year her youngest graduated from high school. Finally, in 1993, Nina was able to make a lifelong dream come true by completing an MLS when Emporia State University brought its School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) program to Nebraska.*

*Currently Nina works part time as the librarian/cataloger for a commercial and fine arts photographer; substitutes at the school in her community, and volunteers in the library at the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha.*

## REPUBLICAN VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

*Equitable service. Cooperation. Consultation.* These are the hallmarks of the role the Republican Valley Library System plays in the operation of libraries in the south central region of Nebraska. The service area includes 20 counties that cover 15,357 square miles and have a population of 142,989. Membership includes 46 public libraries, 67 public school districts, five academic libraries, four special and institutional libraries and three educational service units. Thirty-one of the 46 public libraries are located in towns of less than 1,000. The system offers staff development; resource sharing and cooperative purchasing; strategic planning assistance; technology planning and coordination; training and consultation; advocacy for libraries, particularly smaller ones; and promotion of and cooperation among libraries of all types and sizes. Other services include subsidized bulk loans of large print materials cooperative orders of puppets. RVLA also owns a Spanish title collection called "We Speak Your Language." Administrator is Sherry Houston; Susan Franklin is Administrative Assistant. See <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/index.html>.

continued on page 22

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*continued from page 21*

## **NORTHEAST LIBRARY SYSTEM**

“We can do it!” There’s no holding back the small rural libraries in Northeast Nebraska. New buildings are popping up like mushrooms in northeast Nebraska. St. Edwards, South Sioux City, Little Priest Tribal College/Winnebago and Wakefield have moved into new libraries. Atkinson has broken ground, while Battle Creek, Shelby, Randolph, Meadow Grove and Schuyler are at the fund-raising stage. DearReader.com is a big hit at the Battle Creek Public library. The library has over 235 people signed up for the email book club. Every day readers receive a five-minute excerpt from a book. By the end of the week, patrons will have read two or three chapters. If it’s a book patrons just have to finish, they visit their local library to pick up a copy.

The newly formed Thurston County Library Association (Winnebago, Walthill, Pender) held a “Read To Me” night at all the libraries, with . “Adults were reading to children in every nook and cranny of the library,” reported Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College librarian. During the last two years the third through fifth graders reading average has jumped from 6% above the national average in 2001 to 65% above the national average in 2004 largely due to the combined efforts of the Winnebago Schools and the public library.

The Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library was selected to host the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History’s “Listening to the Prairie - Farming in Nature’s Image” exhibit. The exhibit was a part of Tilden’s Prairie Days celebration. The Antelope County Library Association joined the celebration by sponsoring a “Prairie Walk on the Cowboy Trail” on July 4th. Over seventeen people walked the thirteen miles from Tilden to Neligh beginning at 6 am to avoid the sweltering July temperatures.

“A Meeting of Two Cultures: The Lewis & Clark Expedition” was the subject of nine programs sponsored by the Wayne Libraries (Wayne Public Library, Wayne State College Conn Library, and the three Wayne Public School Libraries). Over a thousand people attended the series sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council and local foundations.

Central City Public Library held their third successful “Table Settings by the Book.” Groups, businesses and organizations were invited to select a favorite book and create a table setting to go with it. Prizes were awarded to the table settings given the most votes by public viewers.

Kathy Ellerton is Administrator of the Northeast Library System.



## **PANHANDLE LIBRARY SYSTEM**

The Panhandle Library System covers the 14 western counties of Nebraska, bordering the states of South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado. In this area, there are 30 public libraries serving populations from 150 to 15,000. The school libraries are in buildings that hold from 50 (or fewer) to 950. Included are three campuses of Western Nebraska Community College, Chadron State College and Platte Valley Bible College. Special library collections are found at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center, Regional West Medical Center, the Farm and Ranch Museum, the Museum of the Fur Trade and West Nebraska Family Research and History Center.

Workshops are well attended. The summer reading workshop in March had participants from 80% of the public libraries in the system and 75% of the library directors attended a planning workshop in January. A special system event called a Jobalike is a professional social time that crosses library types and job titles. Three times a year anyone working in a library is invited to share dinner and an evening of conversation, plus a short program featuring something new in the library world. Cherie Longmier is System Coordinator.

*continued on page 23*

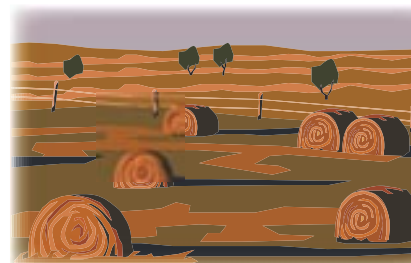


## **MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM**

The Meridian Library System covers the 17 counties of north central Nebraska with a population of around 155,000 in the 19,634 square miles. Membership consists of 40 public libraries, over 125 school districts, two college/university libraries and three special libraries. Services include:

- Audio book collections: Ten collections of audio books for children through adults are available with three-month loan periods.
- Accu-Cut cutting machines: Two cutting machines, each with a different set of dies, are available for a one-month loan period.
- Golden Sower book loans: One set of the current year's Golden Sower nominated books are available for a one month loan period.
- Youth Services Grants: Four \$500 grants are given annually for a program or service that impacts children and/or teens.
- System Awards: Awards recognizing exemplary service by library employees and volunteers are given by the System each year.

Sharon Osenga is the System Administrator



## **NebraskaAccess**

NebraskaAccess provides residents free online access to a databases and services including thousands of full-text articles as well as genealogy information. The Nebraska Library Commission provides the resources with state funding. It is used by patrons of public and academic libraries as well as school students. Residents can access the program by using their Nebraska driver's license or state identification number. Others can visit their local library for passwords. The Nebraska Library Commission's cost for licensing the 2004-2005 subscription resources was \$381,274. If all the libraries registered for the NebraskaAccess program were to purchase the same database resources on their own, the costs to the libraries would be nearly \$20,000,000.

## **OTHER LIBRARIES IN NEBRASKA**

The McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha is the only state-supported medical library in Nebraska. Director of the McGoogan Library is Dr. Nancy N. Woelfl. As part of its mission, the library initiated a cooperative program with the McGoogan Library of Medicine, the Nebraska Library Commission and more than 70 public libraries to provide free health information to residents. The library's Consumer Health Information Resource Services (CHIRS) is celebrating its 20th year.

## **CENTER FOR BIOPREPAREDNESS EDUCATION LIBRARY**

The Center's mission is to "Prepare the responder community for intentional and unintentional public health emergencies by providing resources, training and technical assistance." Its Library's mission is:

- to provide access to print and non-print books, journals, journal articles, and reports on bioterrorism, public health response, and all preparedness issues relevant to responders in Nebraska.
- to create a repository and make available for loan, videos and all library materials,
- to serve as a resource for, and to network with, public health and response organizations, and constituents in Nebraska to assist in their information needs,
- to facilitate communication via calendars and web postings
- to maintain a dynamic web site that supports these endeavors.

The Center's web address is <http://bioprep.org> There may be other Centers for Biopreparedness Education in other states, but Nebraska's Center is the only one with a library.



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**Maureen Sullivan**, *continued from page 11*

*What can individuals planning to attend a leadership training program do to prepare for such an experience?*

Focus on the mental preparation necessary to leave work behind for a week and to give full attention to one's own development. See this as a time for learning, reflection, renewal, and improvement of your leadership practice. Recognize that this is a gift to yourself – one that you deserve and that you will enjoy.

Beyond this, you might also read one or two articles on leadership. I usually recommend the January 2004 issue of the *Harvard Business Review* as an excellent source. This issue focuses on leadership. Subsequent issues of HBR also contain some very good articles.

One other useful step would be to have a frank conversation with one's supervisor. This would

focus on the identification of one's strengths; any areas for development; how the individual might apply learning after the Institute; and how the supervisor can help and support the person, both in the library and in MPLA.

*What are some of your current major projects?*

I have just returned from a day with the Wyoming Directors in their annual retreat. I led a work shop on appreciative inquiry and one on creating staff development plans. I've recently worked with the Boston Athenaeum, the Boston Public Library, the University of Massachusetts Medical School Library, and the Sheridan Libraries at Johns Hopkins University on planning for the future. I presented a series of one-day workshops on leadership for the Brooklyn Public Library in the spring. I especially look forward to my return to Ghost Ranch for the 2005 MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute in October.


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# AROUND THE REGION



## ARIZONA

**AzLA Arizona Highways Nonfiction and Fiction Book Awards** for adult books which contribute to a greater understanding of Arizona and the Southwest. Winners of the 2005 awards are:

- Ann Lane Hedlund's *Navajo Weaving in the Late Twentieth Century: Kin, Community and Collectors*, published by the University of Arizona Press, won in the nonfiction category.
- Jon Talton's noir mystery *Dry Heat*, published by Minotaur Press, was chosen for the award in the fiction category. It is the third book in the David Mapstone series.

**AzLA 2005 Service Awards Announced.** The following individuals will be recognized for their contributions to the Arizona Library Community at the AzLA annual conferece.

- **Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award:** Presented to **Patricia Auflick** for her significant accomplishments and leadership in the promotion of libraries and library services in Arizona.
- **Library Leadership Award:** Presented to **Betsy Stunz-Hall** for her significant accomplishments and leadership over the past three years in Arizona.
- **Outstanding Library Service Award:** Presented to **Mary E. Howard Harris**, City of Mesa Public Library, and **Frieda Ling**, Glendale Public Library.
- **Outreach Services Award:** Presented to **Elizabeth Miner**, Arizona Department of Corrections, for exemplary library outreach services to under-served or minority populations.

- **Outstanding Decision Maker Award:** Presented to **Senator Marilyn Jarrett** for her support of the state archives building. Without her efforts, funding for this important building would not have been possible.
- **Rising Moon Outstanding Youth Services Librarian Award:** Presented to **Elizabeth Burks**, Apache Junction Public Library, for serving as a model for the important role Youth Services plays in public libraries.
- **Follett School Librarian Of The Year Award:** Presented to **Sharon Ewers**, teacher-librarian, Scottsdale Unified School District, for outstanding performance in the areas of collaboration, mentoring, technology, and advocacy.
- **Sharon G. Womack Outstanding Library Technician Award:** Presented to **Michelle Schrade**, Glendale Public Library, for serving as a model paraprofessional in providing quality library service.
- **Outstanding Library Board:** Presented to the **Tucson Pima Library Board** in recognition of their support of the library through advocacy, lobbying for funding, and policies that promote excellent library services.
- **Library Support Staff Scholarship Award:** Presented to **Daphne Gill-Barber**, Arizona State University. The \$500 award is given annually to support continuing education to a non-M.L.S. library staff member in Arizona.
- **Emerging Leader Award:** Presented to **Tom Sommer** of the Oro Valley Public Library, for his efforts in promoting library service, fundraising, and community activities.

## COLORADO

### **Updated Wildlife Information List Available Online.**

The Publications Library of the Colorado State Library announced a completely revised online resource list of wildlife information available from state government agencies, especially the Colorado Division of Wildlife. For all ages and interest groups, it includes selected Internet sites and print publications on topics ranging from specific species details to hunting and fishing information to wildlife viewing and identification to habitat protection programs. See <http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo/slstpbiwildlife.htm>.

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**Sarah Myers** has been appointed director of Red Feather Lakes Community Library. She has an MLS from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**Jefferson County Belmar Library turns “wild” at five!** Around 150 people attended the event which featured “Rowdy Reads” for children, who were also able to run “wild” and have their photo taken with a “Wild thing” from the children’s book *Where the Wild Things Are*.



*“Wild Thing” with, from left, Jefferson County Librarian Bill Knott, Lakewood Mayor Steve Burkholder, and City Councilor Barbara Green Martin.*

**Nancy England**, librarian at Centennial Elementary School in Broomfield, was named Colorado’s Teacher of the Year. She was selected by the Phi Delta Kappa education association for the award, which is sponsored by Wal-Mart. She received a \$10,000 education grant for the school.

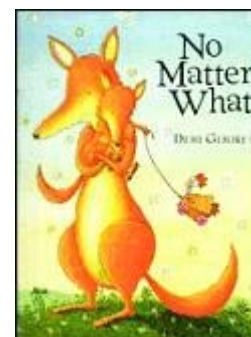
**BCR (Bibliographical Center for Research) Board of Trustees** reelected **Stephen Rollins**, dean of Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage, to serve as president for the July 2005-June 2006 fiscal year. **Brenda Bailey-Hainer**, director of Networking and Resource Sharing at the Colorado State Library, was elected vice-president. They join **Melisa Nicoud**, librarian, National Museum of Wildlife (WY); **Sandra Barstow**, assistant dean for Administration and Finance, University of Wyoming Libraries; **Teresa Garrison**, assistant director of libraries, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools/Kansas City Kansas Public Library; and **David Brunell**, BCR executive director and Board treasurer.

**Gilpin County Public Library** recently presented its second annual Library Book Night at Barnes and Noble. Gilpin County Manager Roger Baker, former Executive Secretary of the Colorado Library Association and previously Gilpin County Library Director, signed his newest book *Black Hawk*. The Gilpin County Library received up to 25% of sales throughout the store during the event.

## KANSAS

**R. Crosby Kemper III** has become the Kansas City Public Library system’s Executive Director. Kemper, the former chairman and CEO of UMB Financial Corp., has served as the interim director since January.

**Read to a Tot, No Matter What.** The Kansas State Library has launched a one-book, one-state reading program entitled “Read to a Tot, No Matter What” to highlight the importance of reading to preschoolers. It will be held during National Children’s Book Week in November and will feature the title “No Matter What” by Debi Gliori. Governor Kathleen Sebelius has signed-on as Honorary Chair for the program which aims to have the title read aloud to 226,453 Kansas children from birth to age 5 during the week. For more information, check out the program website at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/kansasreads>.



**Celebrate the Book: A Regional Readers’ Advisory Conference.** The Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS) and the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library present the second annual *Celebrate the Book!* conference, November 4, at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Featured speaker is science fiction author Connie Willis, winner of six Nebula and Six Hugo Awards (more than any other science fiction writer). Experts will give 45 minute sessions on various aspects of Reader’s Advisory work. Cost is \$30 and includes breakfast and lunch. Registration forms can be printed from [www.tscpl.org/regform.pdf](http://www.tscpl.org/regform.pdf).

## MONTANA

**New statewide marketing campaign.** The Montana State Library, in partnership with the Montana Library Association, will launch a new statewide marketing campaign this fall. Called "What's Your Story? Find it at the Library!" it will be a multi-year effort targeting various populations each year beginning with Montana's senior citizens. Additional support of the campaign comes from Mountain West Bank, AARP and OCLC. Mountain West Bank will help support the marketing efforts, and will reach out to customers with library-related materials in newsletters, statements, and events. AARP will help with messages on how to use the library and why libraries are vital, will host events in library meeting rooms, and will carry the library message to conferences. OCLC will print some of the professionally-designed promotional materials.

**"Pennies for Peace"** is project of the Montana Library Association's to fight terrorism by helping build schools and libraries and foster literacy in Central Asia. Montanans have raised \$7600 for the Central Asia Institute that is building the schools and libraries in Pakistan or Afghanistan. The villages donate land and labor and a school can be built for about \$20,000. For more information go to [www.ikat.org](http://www.ikat.org) or [www.mtlib.org/pennies](http://www.mtlib.org/pennies)

## NEBRASKA

**Nebraska's third Library Leadership Institute** was held July 25-29. **Becky Schreiber** and **John Shannon** were the facilitators. They have more than 50 years of combined experience in helping people become more effective in their chosen fields. **Sharon Osenga**, Meridian Library System Administrator and MPLA President-Elect, was in charge of local arrangements. Mentors were: Jim Bothmer, Creighton University; Kris Rogge former Nebraska Library Commissioner; Nancy Busch, University of Nebraska Lincoln; Ted Smith, Norfolk Public Library; John Dale, Nebraska Library Commissioner; Myrna Tewes, Lincoln City Libraries; Brenda Ealey, Southeast Library System; Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System; Becky Pasco, University of Nebraska Omaha; Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission.



*Participants in Nebraska's 2005 Leadership Institute: Kristel Mayberry, Evonne Edgington, Joni Wilder, Rebecca Wymer, Mary Gubbels, Jan Bolte, Angela Kroeger, Sarah English, Andrew Ireland, Geraldine Williams, Terry Hartman, Karrie Ellermeier, David Buffington, Jody Howard, Marvel Maring, Gayle Roberts, Devin Flint, Susan Steider, Charlotte Kyriss, Marcia Dority, Sean Story, Lisa Voss, Kathy Ellerton, Kathy Jacobs, Jolene Klein, Michelle Self, Sharry Houston, Lori Long, Carol Eshleman, Diane Downer.*

## NEVADA

**Douglas County Public Library** is looking forward to Library Benefit Days at Borders® Bookstore. Ten percent of purchase price of items bought September 24 and 25 will be donated to the library.

**Las Vegas Clark County Library District** set a circulation record for the fifth year in a row with 10.76 million items circulated in fiscal year 2004-05. The Director, **Dan Walters**, recently began his term as president of the Public Library Association.

**University of Nevada Las Vegas Libraries** have an extensive digital collection of photos and maps dealing with Las Vegas, southern Nevada and women and water. See <http://www.unlv.edu>. It includes such collections as *Early Las Vegas* and *The Howard Hughes* collection.

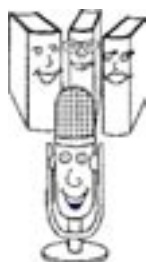
**Washoe County Library System** has hired **Beate Weinert** to be the first Programming Coordinator. She has worked in outreach and community connections at the branch level for many years. Another first at the library is *Staff Day* at the Nevada Library Association conference in October. All branches will be closed the first day of the conference and the library has paid registration for all staff to attend at least one day of the conference.



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## NEW MEXICO

**Talking Books/Los libros nos hablan/Naaltsoos Bahane' hólóní**, was New Mexico's summer reading program theme developed and promoted the State



Library. The theme was used by youth service librarians in large and small libraries around the state and featured characters including Presley the printing press, Miranda the mirror, and Mike and the Booktones. New Mexico's children participated in programming that included Sign Language, Braille, pop-ups and a variety of hand-made books

projects. See <http://www.stlib.state.nm.us/Nmsrp/index.htm>

**Awards Abound in Belen.** The Belen Public Library was one of 12 libraries nationwide invited to attend "Reading Powers the Mind," a family literacy workshop at the Library of Congress. Awards were given to the public libraries and local community groups that partner with them to offer literacy programs. Belen's partners were the Valencia County Shelter for Domestic Violence and Infinity High School. The Belen Public Library was also New Mexico's winner of an autographed copy of *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* awarded in Scholastic's nationwide public library sweepstakes. Library Director, Beverly McFarland, reports that the Friends of the Belen Public Library hope to raffle the book off to raise money for the Library's Summer Reading Program, which is in jeopardy because of cuts to State Aid funding.

**New Mexico History On-line.** The Office of the State Historian launched a new website on to showcase historical documents such as letters, maps, treaties, compacts, and proclamations that have changed the face of New Mexico over the centuries. The Office of the State Historian is working with students from universities throughout the State including Highlands University, the University of New Mexico, and New Mexico State University. Visit [newmexicohistory.org](http://newmexicohistory.org).

**Aztec Public Library celebrates new building.** A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place September

16 and a Grand Opening will be held September 24, complete with a hot air balloon ascension, music, food, and a magic show. The new library will operate as the public library, a branch library for San Juan Community College, and a school library for Aztec's alternative high school. It is a \$1.9 million project.

**Books for Ghana.** The University of New Mexico's Director of African American Studies, **Shiame Okunor**, used his 2004 Alumni Association Teacher of the Year Award to establish a library in Ghana, West Africa. Okunor describes it as "a place to help educate future Ghanaian leaders – to ensure that peace, harmony and social justice for all is the underlying philosophy of future decision-making in regard to economics, religion and culture."

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Behind Barbed Wire**, a traveling Bus Museum, explores the experiences of Midwest prisoners of war (POWs) in Nazi Germany during World War II and the human context in which their experiences took place. It visited the Fargo and Grand Forks Public Libraries in April. The Iowa-based, non-profit educational organization TRACES created the exhibit, which is housed in a converted school bus, and consists of display panels illustrated with photographs, documents, audio and DVD documentaries, artifacts, and more. Visitors gain insights into the conditions experienced by POWs, the assistance given by Germans and Austrians, how art, free time, and religion helped POWs survive, how liberated POWs later came to terms with their experiences, and much more. For more information see <http://www.traces.org/buseum.html>.

**Norwegian Heritage in the United States: Resources and Research Experiences Conference** will be held in Grand Forks October 10–11, 2005. Participants and experts from Norway and around the country will discuss immigration, family history and genealogy. Conference goers will discover immigration resources and genealogical organizations found in Norway and learn what resources U. S. libraries and associations are collecting. See <http://www.conted.und.edu/norwegianconference/>.



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## OKLAHOMA

**Gates Foundation to Replace Old Computers.** It was announced in August that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through a grant to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, will offer grants to Oklahoma's public libraries to replace the public access computers that the libraries received through an earlier Gates Foundation grant in 1999. Oklahoma is one of 18 states to receive such grants

**Choctaw Book Makes a Hit.** The second year of *Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma* author tours is underway, and the personal appearances by Tim Tingle, author of *Walking the Choctaw Road*, have been successes at libraries around the state. The book has the distinction of being the only book selected for a one book/one state program by two states (Oklahoma and Alaska.) The author tours have been funded by a mix of state funds and private sector donations. *Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma* is one of the most visible programs preparing for the state's 2007 centennial celebration.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

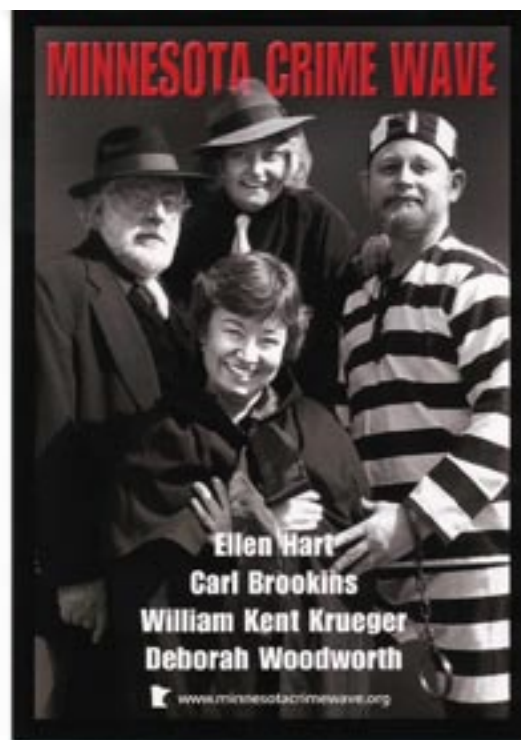
The "One Book South Dakota" is coordinated by the state's Humanities Council. Many South Dakota libraries and other organizations are offering this reading and discussion opportunity in communities across the state. The *Work of Wolves* by Kent Meyers has been selected for the 2005 "One Book South Dakota" program. Meyers visited several communities in June, 2005. He will also be a participant at the Third Annual Festival of Books, Sept. 23-25 in Deadwood. The Humanities Council provides scholars to lead discussion groups.

**HOP (Hands-On Partnership) Project** is providing Traveling Exhibits for South Dakota Libraries. The Project was developed by the SD School of Mines University (Rapid City), the Dahl Art Center (Rapid City), the SD Discovery Center (Pierre), the South Dakota State Library (Pierre), and the Rawlins Municipal Library (Pierre). Funded by an IMLS grant, the project was developed to bring science, art and literature together as a learning tool for all ages, with a special focus on pre-school and elementary school children. It also assists teachers in reaching the South

Dakota Science and Visual Arts Standards and No Child Left Behind requirements. Art, literacy, and science kits will remain with each library at the end of the display.

### **"Minnesota Crime Wave" to Visit South Dakota.**

"Minnesota Crime Wave," a foursome of Minnesota mystery/crime authors, will be presenters at the South Dakota Festival of Books held in Deadwood, September 24. While the "Minnesota Crime Wave" authors travel home to Minnesota they will make appearances at the Rapid City Public Library, the Pierre Municipal Library, and the Huron Public Library. "This dangerous quartet of writers will be armed, are dangerous, and should not be approached without a degree of humor. If the local police do not interfere, their M.O. is to engage readers in amusing repartee, then relieve all and sundry of disposable cash and leisure time in exchange for terrific mystery stories. Between them, the members of this gang have committed 36 crime novels and won more than 16 national and regional awards."



*The "Minnesota Crime Wave" authors include Carl Brookins, Ellen Hart, William Kent Krueger, and Deborah Woodworth*

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**Groundbreaking for \$8.5 million McGovern Library took place June 23.** As the signature building on the Dakota Wesleyan University campus, the George and Eleanor McGovern Library and Center for Public Service, the 49,000-square-foot facility is expected to open late August 2006.



*George McGovern at Library Groundbreaking  
photo by Kevin Kenkel*

**Rapid City Public Library** has been named Innovator of the Month by Tutor.com, the company that provides Live Homework Help services. The award was for their Live Homework Help promotion efforts during the summer months. With the help of their Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, Rapid City Public Library brought every high school summer school student to the library for a tour and demonstration of their homework help resources.

## UTAH

The Fremont Elementary School began a take-home library program that helped first- through third-graders pass No Child Left Behind language arts requirements after previously failing them. Fremont's principal Lynn Cooper created a library that allows first- through third-graders struggling with reading to take home a book every night to read with a parent. Every two weeks, the children are tested, then mentored based on performance until they're reading at grade level. "It's

rare that the students don't improve," Cooper said.

**Dr. Frank Bruno** is the new Library Director at Uintah County Library. He was most recently director of libraries at the Port Arthur Texas Public Library.

**Fatma M Hqaiq**, Libyan publisher and owner of the Tripoli International Bookshop traveled to the US as part of a group of women entrepreneurs from North Africa and the Middle East. Her tour through Utah and visit to the State Library was facilitated by the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy. She was accompanied by a translator from the State Department.



*Fatma M Hqaiq, with translator, visits Utah State Library*

## WYOMING

**Laramie County Library System Selected To Host World War One series.** Beginning in September, the Laramie County Library System will host a free six-part film viewing and discussion series called "The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power." The series explores the political and social history of the United States in the early 20th century, and brings to life the stories of ordinary and extraordinary Americans who participated in the tumultuous events of the war years. LCLS is one of 50 libraries nationwide selected to participate in this program, which is a pilot program organized by National Video

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Resources in partnership with the American Library Association. It is supported by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Natrona County Public Library Surpasses 500,000 Checkouts.** On June 20 the Natrona County Public Library reached a milestone when 7-year-old Alyssa Wesnitzer checked out a book about Venus and NCPL surpassed the half-million annual checkout mark. This is the first time in the library's 95-year history that so many items have been checked out. The milestone was celebrated with balloons, prizes for Alyssa, and an acknowledgment to the librarians for their extraordinarily hard work this year.



*Alyssa Gray at Natrona County Public Library*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2005

- Oct. 5-7      **South Dakota** Library Association Annual Conference, Pierre
- Oct. 11-15    **Arizona** Library Association Annual Conference, Mesa
- Oct. 20-22    **Nevada** Library Association Annual Conference, Reno
- Nov. 10-13    **Colorado** Association of Libraries Annual Conference, Denver

### 2006

- Jan. 20-25    **ALA** Midwinter, San Antonio, TX
- March 29-31   **Oklahoma** Library Association Conference, Tulsa
- April 5-7      **Kansas** Library Association Annual Conference, Wichita

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## UPCOMING MPLA CONFERENCES

- 2005: (Oct. 12-15) Jackson Hole, WY  
(joint with Wyoming Library Association)
- 2006: No conference  
(transition year to spring conference)
- 2007: Albuquerque, NM  
(joint with New Mexico Library Association)
- 2008: (April 30-May 3) Salt Lake City, UT  
(joint with Utah Library Association)
- 2009: Overland Park, KS  
(joint with Kansas Library Association)
- 2010: Oklahoma  
(joint with Oklahoma Library Association)



# MPLA Newsletter

I.D. Weeks Library  
414 East Clark Street  
University of South Dakota  
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390



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## Librarians Benefit with MPLA

- Opportunities for professional development
- News of people and programs in member states
- A forum for the exchange of ideas
- Professional development grants
- Support of regional library efforts

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## *Special! 1/2 Price New Member Offer*

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**RETIREE, STUDENT, TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP** - \$15/yr.

**INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP** - Libraries, business firms, and other institutions supporting the Association. Institutional members also receive FREE advertising for job openings in the newsletter! Membership fee is based on total annual budget

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☐ New Members Roundtable ☐ Children's & School ☐ Preservation, Archives & Special Collections ☐ Government Documents

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**I am interested in serving on the following committee(s)** ☐ Awards ☐ Finance ☐ Bylaws & Procedures ☐ Continuing Education  
☐ Electronic Communications ☐ Intellectual Freedom ☐ Professional Development ☐ Public Relations/Membership

☐ I am willing to be nominated for an MPLA office

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