

Newsletter

Big Horizons Close Community

June – July 2015

www.mpla.us

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IN THIS ISSUE

MPLA Election Information

**Meet the MPLA 2015-2016
Officer Candidates**

Mickey Coalwell
Leslie Horn Langley
Melanie Argo
Sandra E. Messick

**Open Textbooks at Oklahoma
State University: A Pilot Project**

MPLA/WLA Joint Conference

Leadership Institute Spotlight

Me and My Pet

Around the Region

Welcome New Members

Advice for a New Librarian

Calendar

MPLA Quick Links

[ADVERTISERS SUPPORTING MPLA](#)

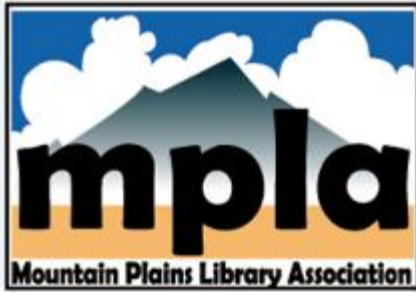
**New Mexico State University/
Doña Ana Community College**

**Stretch-a-Straws from Bill
Coleman Entertainment**



Harry Potter inspired Peeps, from the first annual Dress-a-Peep contest at the Simmons Middle School library in Aberdeen, SD. Photo courtesy of Melledy Rostad. See more Peeps on [page 20](#).

Arizona Colorado Kansas Montana Nebraska Nevada New Mexico
North Dakota Oklahoma South Dakota Utah Wyoming



Election Information

The election for 2015-2016 MPLA Officers will held online, July 27 – August 7, 2015.

An online ballot will be emailed to all eligible voters via MemberClicks. The ballot will be sent to the email listed in MPLA member profiles, so now is a good time for members to login at mpla.us and update their profiles as needed. The online ballot will feature links to all [candidate information sheets](#), in case voters need to review them.



Results will be announced on August 12, and the new officers' terms will begin at the Wyoming Library Association / Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference in Cheyenne, September 23-25. Thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve!

Candidates for President-Elect /Vice-President



Mickey Coalwell



Leslie Horn Langley



Melanie Argo



Sandra E. Messick

Candidates for Recording Secretary

Meet the Candidates



Mickey Coalwell

MPLA member since 2005

Current Position: Regional Manager,
Library Systems & Services (LSSI)

Candidate for: Vice-President /
President Elect

Vice-President / President Elect

Previous Position(s)

Library Development Consultant, Northeast Kansas
Library System, Lawrence, KS

Adult Services Supervisor, North Kansas City Public
Library and School Media Center, North Kansas City,
MO

Technical Assistant, Kansas City Public Library,
Waldo Branch, Kansas City, MO

Education (degrees earned and from where)

MLS – SISLT, University of Missouri-Columbia;
MLA – Management, Baker University, Baldwin
City KS; BA - University of Missouri-Kansas City,
Secondary Teaching Certification

Professional activities, especially those in MPLA or relevant to this position

Leadership Institute Mentor, 2012; Leadership
Institute Alumnus, 2006; MPLA Administration
Committee; Kansas State Representative to MPLA;
President, Kansas Library Association.

Continued on page 26

Meet the Candidates



Leslie Horn Langley

MPLA member since 2008

Branch Manager, Wister Public Library,
a branch of the Southeastern Public
Library System of Oklahoma

Candidate for: Vice-President /
President Elect

Vice-President / President Elect

Previous Position(s)	Oklahoma MPLA Representative
Education (degrees earned and from where)	University of Southern Mississippi, B. S. Special Education
Professional activities, especially those in MPLA or relevant to this position	Oklahoma State Representative to MPLA, Past President of the Oklahoma Library Association, ALA, PLA member

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

I believe I have strong leadership skills and I have the ability to make difficult decisions. Having held many positions in my state organization and working closely with all kinds of librarians, I feel that I have a good understanding that libraries as a whole are facing. I have worked in a rural setting for 25 years and I know that distance collaboration and information sharing is key to growing not only libraries and service, but also in building and strengthening library ties across the Mountain Plains state lines.

Continued on page 27

Meet the Candidates



Melanie Argo

MPLA member since 2011

Librarian III, Madison Public Library,
Madison, SD

Candidate for: Recording Secretary

Recording Secretary

Previous Position(s)

PT Library Assistant II, Madison Public Library
November 2007 – February 2009 (1 year 4 months)
Madison, SD

- Managing the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) services both the processing of requests as well as maintaining statistics to report to local and state agencies for funding purposes.
- Checking in received library materials.
- Managing the processing of overdue notices.
- Cleaning of audio visual material for continued patron use.

Student Library Assistant, Dakota State University
August 2004 – December 2008 (4 years 5 months)

- Circulation desk experience
- Specialized in the ILL services of the University beginning Fall 2005.
- Received and returned ILLs for both OCLC and Aleph
- Leadership skills: assisted in training new student assistants.
- Knowledge of library practices and procedures.

Continued on page 27

Meet the Candidates



Sandra E. Messick

MPLA member since 2004

Regional Consultant, Colorado
Library Consortium

Candidate for: Recording Secretary

Previous Position(s)

Educator, Various positions in Colorado and Kansas; School Library Media Specialist, Cheraw, Colorado; Public Library Director, Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta, Colorado

Education (degrees earned and from where)

BA, Education, Adams State, Alamosa, CO
MA, School Library Media, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley Colorado

Professional activities, especially those in MPLA or relevant to this position

I have served on many Colorado state-wide committees but have not been in a position to serve with a group outside Colorado until recently. I am a current member of the ARSL (Association of Rural and Small Libraries) Member Services Committee.

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

I have a strong commitment to libraries, and a special love for the small and rural libraries that often are under-funded and under-staffed and with little experience. I have multiple library type experience.

Continued on page 29

Recording Secretary

Open Textbooks at Oklahoma State University: A Pilot Project

by Dan Chaney



The cost of college textbooks has risen dramatically over the past thirty years, increasing more than 800% since 1978. This steep rise has outpaced the rising cost of medical services and new homes, two sectors that have also risen sharply. Research indicates that a college student will spend an average of \$1,200 a year on

textbooks. We also know that many students forego buying some textbooks due to cost. A new introductory physics book can cost \$250-\$400.

Open textbooks, or Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources released under an open license that permits their free use and repurposing by others. OER can be full courses, course materials, lesson plans, open textbooks, learning objects, videos, games, tests, software, or any other tool, material, or technique that supports access to knowledge. We have open textbooks available for many general education classes – classes that many students take.

We have research that tells us that open textbooks improve students' grades, and help them to remain in school and complete their degrees.

Over the last two years, I have had discussions with students and instructors on the high cost of textbooks during Open Education Week which takes place each March. A common comment from students is that textbook costs are outrageous, and they often don't buy them.



Continued on page 24



KEEP CALM AND SUPPORT MPLA

Buying and reloading a grocery gift card purchased through MPLA raises funds for MPLA's programs.

[Click here for more info!](#)



WLA-MPLA Conference

Cheyenne, Wyoming • September 23–25



The 2015 Wyoming Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference will be held at the beautiful [Little America Resort](#) in Cheyenne, September 23-25. The conference theme is *Changing Libraries in the New West*.

Visit the [official conference site](#) for details.



Highlighting MPLA

Wendy Wendt, 2010

What are you doing now?

I am currently the Director of the Grand Forks Public Library. At the time I participated in the MPLA Leadership Institute, I was fairly new to the job. The Leadership Institute really helped clarify my leadership skills and gave me the confidence to move forward with ways to empower staff and plans for a new building. In the past five years, I have also served as MPLA President, and the North Dakota Library Association President-Elect. I am also serving as a mentor in various projects, which is incredibly rewarding.

What was the most valuable element that you took from the Leadership Institute?

While the Leadership Institute was chock-full of terrific insights and inspiration, the most valuable aspect for me was my new connections with library colleagues across the 12-state region. I run into these people at conferences throughout the year, stay in contact via e-mail and Facebook, and see them at the annual MPLA conference. They are a constant resource for me as I face new challenges, need a sounding board, and celebrate successes. The best part? My roommate at the Leadership Institute is one of my dearest friends today.

What one piece of advice did you learn from LI that you could share with other MPLA members?

Leadership is not about being “the boss.” It’s about knowing yourself, moving projects forward,



connecting your community, and inspiring others. One of the best ways to do this is to get active in your local and regional library associations. Chair a committee, volunteer at conference, run for office. Don’t wait until you “have more experience.” Do it now.

Leadership is 90% about showing up. Please, show up. You, and the library profession as a whole, will be all the better for it!

Leadership Institute Alumni

Apply Now!
2016 MPLA Leadership Institute
When: May 15 – 20, 2016
Where: YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park CO
Facilitator: Maureen Sullivan
Applications & more information online
<http://www.mpla.us/quick-links/leadership-institute.html>

Highlighting MPLA

Heidi Adams, 2007

What are you doing now?

I am the Lead Medical Librarian in a hospital which is also a regional trauma center in beautiful, mountainous Northwest Montana. MPLA represents some truly spectacular geographical areas!

I was a solo medical librarian at the time of my attendance at the MPLA Leadership Institute, at the equally beautiful setting of Ghost Ranch, in New Mexico. Now I am leading a team of talented and skilled information professionals and volunteers, all working together in cadence to provide information services to health care providers.



What was the most valuable element that you took from the Leadership Institute?

The most valuable element I learned at Ghost Ranch was the different styles of communication among people, and all the different styles' strengths. During my attendance we had an exercise where a very large square representing different styles was drawn out on the floor. All of the attendees were asked to go stand in the marked square of the style that most resonated with our preferred personal style. We had an abundance of librarians in the collaborative square, with a few of the other squares also represented by our highly respected librarian colleagues.

Back at my organization, I found myself feeling some inner challenges leading a multidisciplinary team. This multidisciplinary team consisted of leaders from different areas of my organization, all from different industries. I was the only librarian. I recalled that exercise from Ghost Ranch, and realized that some of my challenges were presenting because I was used to working with librarians and those of a highly collaborative nature. Not only did I come away from Ghost Ranch with an awareness of styles, I also incorporated knowledge on how to effectively and efficiently work with different styles, bringing us all to a common goal while respecting and enhancing each individual's preferred style. Now I thrive on assessing and appreciating all the different styles there are!

What one piece of advice did you learn from LI that you could share with other MPLA members?

I highly, highly recommend seizing opportunities for leadership institutes; for the chance to explore your existing knowledge and to expand your knowledge even further. You will learn far more than you ever expected. "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear".... MPLA Leadership Institute is one such phenomenal teacher.

Would you like to be part of the 2016 MPLA Leadership Institute, May 15-20 in Estes Park, CO? Details are available [here](#), and applications will be accepted June 1—October 31, 2015.

Leadership Institute Alumni

Me and My Pet



MPLA Webmaster Dan Chaney with his dog, Jenny, at Oklahoma State University (above), and MPLA Montana Representative Eileen Wright's dog, River, on an especially good hair day (left).

You can see your pet here, too.

Just send a photo or two, and a brief description of what makes your pet special, to editor@mpla.us.

Around the Region

ARIZONA

Luis Morales and Jamie Larson, two teens from Glendale Public Library, created a winning video for the Collaborative Summer Library Program's Teen Video Challenge, "Unmask!" Each winner received a monetary award of \$150, and their library will receive prizes from Upstart and Candlewick. View the winning videos at cslpreads.org.



Eight Pima County Public Library branches that were facing a reduction in hours got a temporary reprieve on May 26. Reducing hours at the branches is one of several measures the library has considered in response to an ongoing budget crisis. Library programming has been reduced, and PCPL stopped purchasing new materials in March, rather than waiting until later in the budget year. Read more [here](#).

The Scholarship Showcase Collection, at [Arizona State University Libraries](#),

features a growing collection of more than 400 recently published articles written by members of the ASU community.



Florence Public Library has been awarded a grant from the Arizona State Library, Archives, & Public Records, to offer a series of cultural programs. The LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant, which totals \$11,400, will cover the cost of performers and library materials representing various cultures and traditions. Read more in the [Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune](#).

COLORADO

MPLA member and 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute fellow Michael Cox has accepted a position as Deputy Director of the Whatcom County Library System, in Bellingham, WA. Cox previously served as Director for Public Services for the Pueblo City—County Library District.



[Pine River Library](#), in Bayfield, has introduced new Backpack Book Packs. Each kit consists of five books on the theme, especially selected especially for young children by "Miss Liz" von Tauffkirchen. The library's Imagination Room is also home to a number of giant stuffed animals, and a doll house to encourage imaginative play.



The Colorado Association of Libraries received more than 170 program proposals for their 2015 conference, scheduled for October 22-24, in Loveland. Look for program details [here](#) in June.

KANSAS

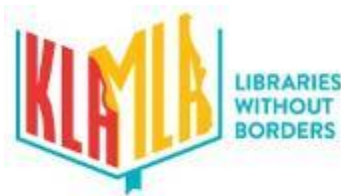
Laura DeBaun, an MPLA member since 2002, has been selected as the Director of the Northeast Kansas Library System, where she has served as Interim Director since late 2014. DeBaun has worked in the NEKLS system for 19 years, and brings a wealth of experience and insight to her new position.



Bethel College Library, in Newton, Kansas, was featured in the New England Historic Genealogical Society's *Weekly Genealogist* newsletter in April. The [article](#) highlights the library's collections and indices related to Mennonite communities in Kansas.

KANSAS, continued...

Steve Hanschu, who oversaw Interlibrary Loan for many years at Emporia State University, passed away in April. He was 62 years old. In addition to his work in the library, Hanschu was active in theatre, historic preservation, and many more aspects of life in Emporia. Read a remembrance by Bobbi Mlynar in the [Emporia Gazette](#).



The Kansas Library Association and the Missouri Library Association will hold their first ever joint annual conference,

Libraries Without Borders, in Kansas City, MO, September 30—October 2. Details can be found [here](#).

HANDS-ON LIBRARY PROGRAMMING – STEM



STRETCH-A-STRAW™

from



Stretch your imagination with

STRETCH-A-STRAW™

Waste plastic connectors

and drinking straws



Connect ordinary drinking straws into imaginative projects using die-cut waste plastic from household waste such as milk cartons, ice cream cartons, cat litter jugs and other soft plastic containers.

One hour Program Demo includes using a die cutter to demonstrate cutting reusable connectors from milk cartons and the like, discussing briefly the difference between recycling and repurposing, and hands on activity with each artist getting a supply of reusable connectors and straws to assemble and additional supplies to take home.

\$250 for each session, plus mileage when appropriate
Donations of clean plastic milk jugs or ice cream cartons, cat litter jugs or other clean, dry plastic containers welcomed.

Additional supplies for take home may be available for purchase.

We are now accepting bookings for this program.
Currently booked with Arapahoe Libraries and also in Estes Park.

Please call or email to reserve your dates.

Bill "Stretch" Coleman – Bill Coleman Entertainment
303-922-4655 303-907-3855

<https://www.stiltwalker.com/stretch-a-straw/>

KANSAS, continued...



Children learned about worm composting through hands-on activities at Hays Public Library in April. The composting program was one of many recycling themed events offered in conjunction with Earth Month.

MONTANA

The Montana Library Association annual conference was held April 8-11, in Bozeman. The theme was *Access for All: A Montana Value.*



The Sheila Cates event at the Montana Library Association conference was fun for all, and raised more than \$4,000 for the Sheila Cates Scholarship

MONTANA, continued...

fund, which supports librarians pursuing advanced library or media specialist degrees. The fundraising event featured librarians dressed up as celebrities, competing in a version of Hollywood Squares.

Celebrities pictured in the Hollywood Squares photo (lower left) include Cher (Kim Crowley), Molly Ivins (Beth Boyson), Phyllis Diller (Lyn McKinney), Paula Deen (Alice Meister), Sheila Cates (Darlene Staffeldt), Library Catwoman (Sheila Bonnard), Nancy Pearl (Jennie Stapp), Florence Henderson (Honore Bray), and Julie Andrews (Marilyn Prosper).



Throughout the month of May, ImagineIF Libraries, in Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Kalispell, and Marion, challenged workers across the Flathead to get to work by foot, bike or bus. Prizes and promotions in the Flathead included an individual grand prize of a bicycle donated by MAS Bikes in Kalispell.

NEBRASKA

MPLA member and 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute fellow Debbie Aden has accepted a new position as Director of Fairbury Public Library. Aden previously worked at Love Library, at the University of Nebraska, in Lincoln.



NEBRASKA, continued...

Students at McCook Community College, a division of Mid-Plains Community College, have been making adjustments as their cafeteria and lounge area are renovated.



McCook Community College's von Riesen Library staff have tried to provide extra opportunities for students to relax and have fun despite the construction. During National Library Week, the library provided puzzles and games for student use.



The Nebraska Library Association annual conference will be held in Lincoln, October 14-16.

NEVADA

After five years as Deputy Director of Carson City Library, Tammy Westergard has accepted a position as Director of Oregon's Jackson County Library District. She will begin work in Oregon on June 1, overseeing 15 libraries throughout Jackson County.



Beate Weinert, Program Coordinator for the Washoe County Library, was one of five award winners honored by the Sierra Nevada Council of the International Literacy Association, at an award ceremony on May 7, in Sparks, NV.

NEVADA, continued...



Weinert was recognized for her role as a key partner in supporting the Striving Readers Family Engagement Projects with the Washoe County School District. She has a passion for early literacy, and working to get children excited about reading and learning is something she has been deeply involved with during her 26 years with the Library System.

NEW MEXICO

Carlsbad Unified School District boosted library collection budgets to more than \$146,000 for fiscal year 2015-2016.

This represented a significant increase from past years, when each principal set their own school's library spending. School librarians from the district advocated for increased library funding as part of the budget process.



On April 21, the Embudo Valley Library & Community Center, in Dixon, NM, received the 2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor for library and museum service. It is awarded annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



LIBRARY SCIENCE PROGRAM



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NEW MEXICO, continued...



In April, Rio Rancho Public Library was home to seven chicken eggs and an incubator, courtesy of Galloping Grace Youth Ranch. The library offered a number of family events so that patrons could learn about chickens, along

with a live webcam feed so that patrons could observe the chicks from home.

Linda Keulen, Marian Royal Vigil, and Lorie Mitchell, all members of the [NMLA Advocacy for School Libraries Special Interest Group](#), have been awarded an \$1,800 ABC-CLIO grant through the American Association of School Libraries (AASL). ASL-SIG will use the grant to create a mentorship and training program for school librarians throughout the state.

NEW MEXICO, continued...

The Border Regional Library Association has selected thirteen recipients to receive the Association's 2014 Southwest Book Award. A number of this year's winners were published in New Mexico. The winning books are listed [here](#).

New Mexico celebrated National Library Week (April 12-18) with a variety of activities.

This year's theme was "Unlimited Possibilities

@ Your Library." The State Library encouraged all libraries to participate in a Snapshot Day during that week. UNM Gallup Library had a "dress as your favorite literary character" day, and a scavenger hunt. Thomas Branigan Library in Las Cruces featured storytellers. UNM Valencia Campus Library had students "Post a Possibility."



NORTH DAKOTA



ILEAD (Innovative Librarians Explore, Apply, and Discover) USA North Dakota participants held their first in-person meeting at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, March 23-26. Three teams from North Dakota are working on projects ranging from training and support for library content to circulating Makerboxes, and a kit to support video editing and production. Read more about ILEAD USA, and watch video trailers for the North Dakota projects, [here](#).



The North Dakota State Library hosted its annual Spring Workshop, April 6-7, in Bismarck. The featured speaker was Pat Wagner, a trainer, educator, and consultant. Materials from this year's workshop are available on NDSL's [Spring Workshop Resources Archive](#) page.

Minot Public Library has opened a state of the art Makerspace, with grant funding from the Otto Bremer Foundation. The Makerspace includes new computers, video production equipment, a poster printer, and 3-D soldering irons.



Here, State Librarian Mary Soucie tries out a 3-D Doodler.

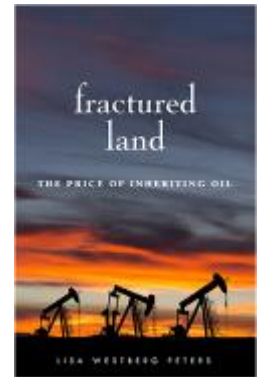
NORTH DAKOTA, continued...

Marilyn Barbie, Administrative Assistant at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, has retired after 28 years of service with the Library and City of Bismarck.

Former North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Susan Wefald was the keynote speaker at the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library annual meeting on April 14. She spoke about her life in public service, and her new book, *Important Voices: North Dakota's Women Elected State Officials Tell Their Stories, 1893-2013*.

Libraries throughout the state participated in Snapshot Day in April. The North Dakota Library Association shared more than 150 photos in an album [here](#). Snapshot Day also produced some impressive statistics about North Dakota Libraries. More than 4,300 patrons visited participating libraries on Snapshot Day, and the libraries reported over 150,000 cardholders.

This year's selection for the One Book, One Community reading project at Fargo Public Library, Moorhead Public Library, and West Fargo Public Library, is *Fractured Land: The Price of Inheriting Oil* by Lisa Westberg Peters.



OKLAHOMA

The 108th Annual Conference of the Oklahoma Library Association was held April 29 – May 1, in Midwest City. The well attended conference offered many fine pre-conference and session opportunities. Special guests included MPLA president Annie Epperson and ALA president Courtney Young. Pictured: MPLA Oklahoma Representative Leslie Horn Langley, with Annie Epperson.



OKLAHOMA, continued...



An Oklahoma delegation attended the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day in May. Pictured: Tim Miller, Anne Masters, Lisa Wells, Susan McVey, Tim Rogers, and Gary Shaffer.

An Oklahoma delegation attended the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day in May. Pictured: Tim Miller, Anne Masters, Lisa Wells, Susan McVey, Tim Rogers, and Gary Shaffer.



Libraries across OK celebrated National Library Week. The Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma celebrated with cupcakes!



Nearly 15,000 Oklahoma kids and teens cast their votes to choose the winners of the Sequoyah Book Award, sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association. The honorees are *The Fault In Our Stars*, by John Green (High School), *The False Prince*, by Jennifer A. Nielsen (Intermediate), and *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate (Grades 3-5).



FOLIO Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO), the Pioneer Library System, and United for Libraries, among other partners, hosted a dedication ceremony on May 3, 2015, designating the Norman Public Library Central as a National Literary Landmark honoring Newbery award winner Harold Keith.

SOUTH DAKOTA



Staff dressed up for Read Across America Day at Yankton Community Library.

Theresa Schaefer is the new librarian at the Wall Community Library.

Julie Landis is the new librarian at the Dewey County Library in Timber Lake.

Doris Ann Mertz of the Custer County Library was one of the featured presenters of the Nebraska Library Commission's [Big Talk From Small Libraries conference](#). She spoke on *The Senior Connection: Helping Technology Make Sense to Seniors*.



Huron Public Library hosted a drone video contest for teens during Teen Tech Week. Teens competed to win their own

flying drone as a grand prize. The theme for 90-second video entries into the drone video contest was "It happened on the way to the library." Photos and video of the entries is available [here](#).

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

Yankton Community Library and Vermillion Public Library recently migrated to the Atrium Integrated Library System software. Watertown Regional Library has chosen the ILS system offered by The Library Corporation (TLC).



Vermillion Public Library hosted fiber artist Phyllis Packard as part of their Artists & Authors series in March.



Award winning author Ben Mikaelson presented "Finding the Heart of the Story" at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library in March. Mikaelson also visited local middle and high school English classes during the day to offer writing workshops.

Siouxland Libraries now offer 3M Cloud Library. Cloud storage makes it simple for patrons to access the same book on multiple devices. To help users get to know 3M Cloud Library, Siouxland Libraries will offer multiple digital services training sessions called "Free Advice for Your Device."

Rawlins Municipal Library, in Pierre, hosted its first annual Breakfast with the Bunny event in April.



SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...



Melody Rostad reports that Simmons Middle School library, in the Aberdeen School District, sponsored its first Dress-A-Peep contest for students, teachers, and homerooms. They got the idea from the Huron school library. The students really loved it, and the library plans to make it an annual event.



The Dell Rapids Public Library, in eastern South Dakota, has reopened after an extensive renovation and expansion project nearly doubled its size. Read more in the [Argus Leader](#).

South Dakota State University's Hilton M. Briggs Library hosted a number of special events during the spring semester. In March, author and University of

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...



New Mexico Professor Santiago Vaquera-Vazquez read from and signed his recently published book, *One Day I'll Tell You the Things I've Seen: Stories*.



Also at Hilton M. Briggs Library, a March 17 Book Launch and Reception celebrated the publication of *Action, Influence and Voice: Contemporary South Dakota Women*.

SDSU's Agricultural Heritage Museum published the book and co-hosted the event, which featured the book's editors Meredith Redlin, Christine Stewart-Nunez, and Julie Barst.

For National Library Week in April, the Jones County High School library in Murdo offered a contest inviting students to guess the number of gumballs in a vase.



In March, Jones County High School librarian Kelcy Nash offered a March Madness inspired event called the Tournament of Books.

UTAH

Colleen Eggett, formerly of the Utah State Library Division, is the new director of the American Fork Library.



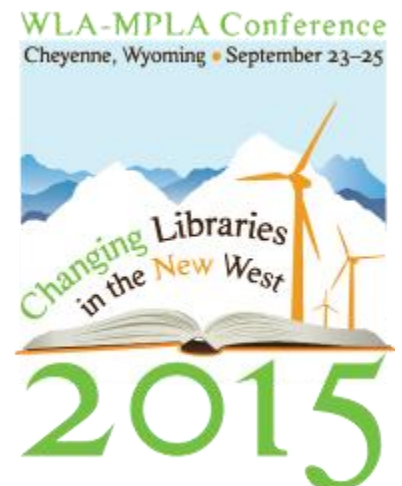
The Sanpete County *Pyramid* ran an article in April about the history of the Carnegie libraries in Manti, Richfield, Mount Pleasant, Ephraim, and Panguitch. Read more in [Realizing the Dream of Public Libraries](#).



On June 23, the Utah State Library Division will present a webinar entitled *Customer Service in Social Media: Delight Your Followers and Friends*, featuring Andrew Sanderbeck, of the People Connect Institute. Look for details and register [here](#).

WYOMING

The Wyoming Library Association/ Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference will be held September 23-25, in Cheyenne. Read more about the conference [here](#).

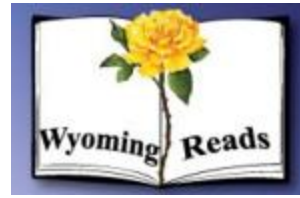


Wyoming, continued...

The Laramie County Library System presented a National Issues Forum on Immigration in May. The structured community discussion was moderated by Bill McIlvain.



Wyoming, continued...



The [Wyoming Reads](#) program distributes about 8,000 books to children throughout the state each spring. This year's Wyoming Reads Day was

held on May 19, with events around the state. In Sheridan, 400 first graders received new books at the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library. Read more [here](#).



The Natrona County Public Library presented

class on using Pinterest in May. Participants learned to open an account, search for pins, and follow other pinners.

Send us your news!

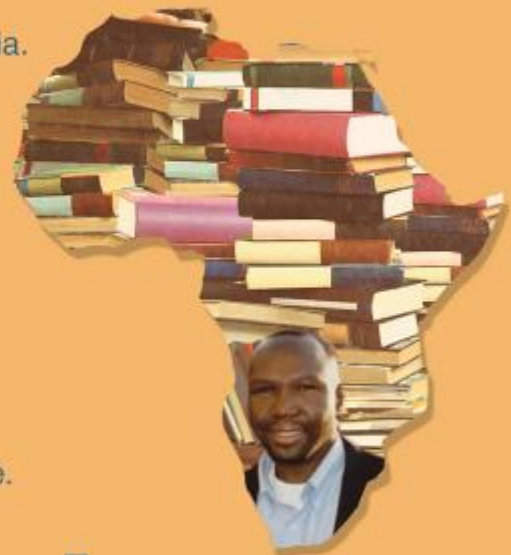
The deadline for news and advertising for the August—September issue of the *MPLA Newsletter* is July 1. Write to editor@mpla.us.

The AJARA Project

Ajara is located in the borders of Benin Republic and Nigeria. It is a vast territory that comprises scores of villages, such as Zinvie, Vetho, Gamathen, Aggelaso, Agathangba, and Dokoh, to mention a few.

Though faced with many challenges, the people of Ajara are hungry for an education. They need resources. A library will go a long way in helping them.

To learn more about Peter Opa, the Ajara Project and donation opportunities please visit the Ajara Project website.



ajaraproject.org

Welcome, New Members!

Denise Ard

Director North Valley Public Library
Stevensville, MT

Sandi L. Bates

Bismarck State College, ND

Janis Bruwelheide

Professor Emerita Library Media
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT

Pam Carlton

Youth Services Librarian
Missoula Public Library
Missoula, MT

Pam Elise Carswell

Teen Services Librarian
Minot Public Library
Minot, ND

Jackie Crepeau

Readers' Advisor
Montana State Talking Book Library
Helena, MT

Lisa Droz

Library Assistant
Rapid City Catholic School System
St. Elizabeth Seton Library
Rapid City, SD

Jessica Ketola

Director
Meagher County City Library
White Sulphur Springs, MT

Deanna King

Library Assistant
Ronan Library District
Ronan, MT

Jenelle Kirchoff

Director of Library Services
Rapid City Catholic School System
St. Thomas More
Rapid City, SD

Todd Knispel

Director
Dawson Community College
Glendive, MT

Angie Kittrell

Locke Research and Instruction Librarian
Wichita State University
Ablah Library
Wichita, KS

Sonja Mann

Assistant Director
Madison Valley Public Library
Ennis, MT

Hannah McKelvey

Adjunct Research & Instruction Librarian
Montana State University Library
Bozeman, MT

Steph A. Myers

Librarian
High Plains Library District
Erie Community Library
Erie, CO

Richard Sandstrom

Technology Specialist
Emporia Public Library
Emporia, KS

Janet M. Sears

Director
Kimball Public Library
Kimball, NE

Sarah Uhl

Library Assistant
Rapid City Catholic School System
Rapid City, SD

Jessica M. Weatherby

MLIS Student
University of Denver
Erie, CO

To help, the OSU Library purchases a copy of each assigned textbook that costs over \$125, or is assigned for a class with more than 125 students enrolled. These books are placed on Reserve for two hour loan.

As part of this ongoing conversation, I placed a large whiteboard in the library lobby, with a table display. We asked students to tell us how much money they spent on textbooks. This is what they told us:

Textbook Cost	Number of Students
\$1,000+	145
\$900+	15
\$800+	22
\$700+	34
\$600+	26
\$500+	24
\$400+	25
\$300+	15
\$200+	14
\$100+	0
\$0	11
Too much	11
\$11.2m	11
\$0	11

Oklahoma State University Library has embarked on an open textbook pilot program to help students afford the high cost of textbooks. Modeled on a similar program at Kansas State University Libraries, and funded through a generous donation from Dr. James Wise, the OSU Library has created the Wise OSU Library Open Textbook Initiative, which will offer financial incentives to instructors who adopt an open textbook and commit to using that open textbook for two years. The financial incentives are available in two levels:

- \$2000 – if they adopt an existing open textbook
- \$5000 – if they create their own open textbook, licensing it for open distribution via Creative Commons CC-BY

Initially, we focused on general education courses where there are many students enrolled, and often the textbooks can be quite expensive – Introductory Psychology, Introductory Sociology, American History, American Government, English Composition, etc. Instructors were contacted, and several expressed interest in participating.

We have a Psychology instructor who is planning to use an OpenStax textbook, and the coordinator for Composition for international students plans to create an open textbook. There is an Animal Science professor interested in creating an open textbook for his Genetics class. Further, we identified an Economics professor who is already using an OpenStax textbook in his Microeconomics class. While the Economics professor is not eligible for the pilot program, we reached out to him and are working with him to produce a video to share his story as a part of our pilot program. We have three French professors interested in adopting an open textbook available from the University of Texas. We have only been at this for four months, and already have six instructors interested in the program. I have reason to think there are others out there we have not reached yet.

Continued on page 25

We are preparing to meet with the interested instructors to begin their participation in the program. We will offer an Open Textbook Instructor reception in the fall to highlight the instructors who have implemented an open textbook in their classes, and we are planning a series of videos to tell their stories. There are also plans for an instructor workshop in the spring to further advocate open textbooks on campus and gain participants.

We are excited about the initial interest in the pilot program, and look forward to working with the instructors we have identified to help lower the costs of college for OSU students.

Links:

Open Textbook Week video:

<http://www.ostate.tv/play/bKvXrBmPhzjyv2KiXAMqXnAhssFYVMUK>

Wise OSU Library Open Textbook Initiative:

<http://info.library.okstate.edu/wiseinitiative>

Open Textbooks/OERs (links to open textbooks):

<http://info.library.okstate.edu/open>



Dan Chaney is a Social Science Librarian at Oklahoma State University. He is the MPLA Webmaster, and has been a member of MPLA since 1996.

Advice for a New Librarian

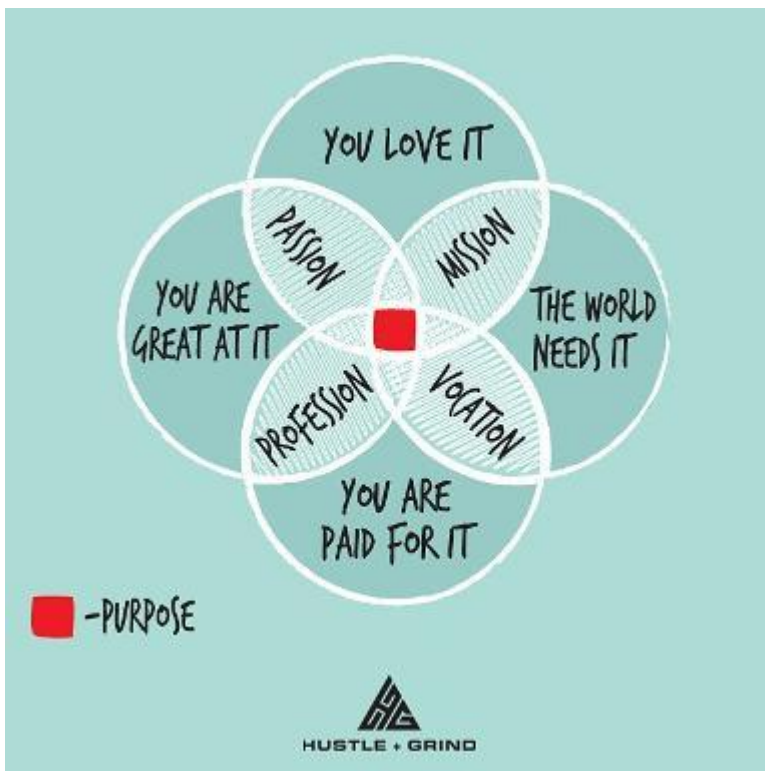
by LeAnn Weller

Find something to do that you love and are good at (for me that's finding answers to people's questions).

Figure out how that can make a difference in people's lives (the answer to the question solves a problem for them).

Get the education and training you need to be able to do that the best you can where ever and whenever you can (lifelong learning).

I certainly don't use the same tools I did 35 years ago--but I still listen to the question and do my best to have the person walk out the door (hang up the phone or read the email) with a satisfactory answer.



Meet the Candidates



Mickey Coalwell, continued from page 3

Vice-President / President Elect

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

I have been active in MPLA for many years now, and I have become acquainted with librarians from across the 12-state MPLA region.

I have the highest regard for the energy, commitment and professionalism of the people in MPLA, and I believe I can help our association grow by focusing on our core values of inclusion and excellence.

I have been Conference Chair and Exhibits Coordinator for two Kansas state association conferences, so I know how to work with others to plan and coordinate events. As KLA President, I reached out to form conference partnerships with Missouri (2015) and MPLA (2018). Our Youth Services and Trustee Sections were revitalized under my leadership, and the organization emerged from financial crisis solidly in the black.

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office?

I want to continue to strengthen MPLA's role as a vital and influential regional library association. I believe in cooperation and coordination by librarians of all types across state boundaries. Connecting with state associations is my highest priority.

Meet the Candidates



Leslie Horn Langley, continued from page 4

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office?

As close as the ties between the MPLA states are now I believe that they can be further strengthened and an increasing sense of community between the many kinds of libraries and members in 12 states can be achieved. Continuing to promote and cultivate membership throughout the MPLA region is, now more than ever, necessary for the vitality of the organization just as the continuing educational and professional collaborative benefits of MPLA is to members .



Melanie Argo, continued from page 5

Education (degrees earned and from where)

University of North Texas
Masters, Library and Information Science
2011 – 2013

Dakota State University
Bachelors, English for Information Systems
2004 – 2008

Professional activities, especially those in MPLA or relevant to this position

In 2013, I wrote a grant application for the ALA traveling exhibit "Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry," which will be traveling here in November of this year. I am the project coordinator and handle the organization and promotion of the events as well as the evaluation portion.

Vice-President / President Elect

Recording Secretary

Continued on page 28

Meet the Candidates



Melanie Argo, continued from page 27

Recording Secretary

Professional activities, especially those in MPLA or relevant to this position

I did serve on MPLA's Professional Development Committee and am currently serving on the Membership Committee.

Besides MPLA, I also hold current memberships with the following organizations:

- 1) South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) 2011 – Present
- 2) Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) 2012 – Present

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

The greatest strength that I bring to this position is my willingness to serve. As a freshman in my career, I see the value and importance of professional organizations and I just want to be a part of a broader picture within the library community and the most opportune way to do this is to give my time and talents.

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office?

Becoming the recording secretary presents an opportunity to become more engaged in the inner workings of such a wonderful organization. I'd take this chance to connect and learn from my peers as well as stay current with relevant issues to the profession.

Meet the Candidates



Sandra E. Messick, continued from page 6

Recording Secretary

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

I respect and value all library staff, regardless of their education levels and am committed to furthering the mission of libraries as a whole while being available to individuals as possible.

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office?

'My biggest goals for myself during my term are to accurately and efficiently maintain the records of MPLA and make those available as possible to members in a timely manner. I also want to be a resource upon which libraries may call for information and connection to others.

Awards Committee Seeks Nominees

The MPLA Awards Committee is seeking nominees for the following awards:

- Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award**
- MPLA Distinguished Service Award**
- MPLA Literary Contribution Award**
- MPLA Beginning Professional Award**
- MPLA Innovator Award**
- MPLA Unsung Hero Award**



Award descriptions and nomination form are available [here](#).

The deadline for nominations is July 15, 2015, and the awards will be given out at the MPLA /Wyoming Library Association conference in September.

2015-16 Calendar



American Library Association annual conference

June 24-30; Chicago, IL

Wyoming Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference

September 23-24; Cheyenne, WY

South Dakota Library Association conference

September 23-25; Rapid City, SD

Kansas Library Association conference

September 30-October 2; Kansas City, MO

Nevada Library Association conference

October 13-14; Fallon, NV

Nebraska Library Association conference

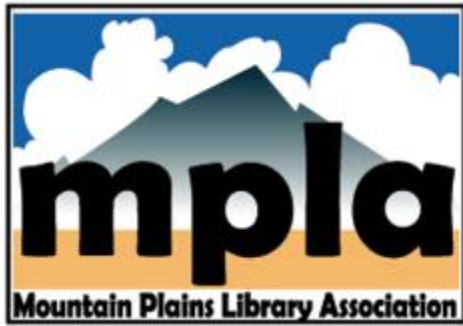
October 14-16; Lincoln, NE

Arizona Library Association conference

November 18-20; Flagstaff, AZ

American Library Association Midwinter Meeting

January 8-12; Boston, MA



The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

Quick Links:

Website: www.mpla.us

Executive Board – Officers, State Representatives and Staff:
www.mpla.us/personnel/executiveboard.html

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:
www.mpla.us/membership/index.html

Professional Development Grants:
www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grantslinks.html

Calendar: www.mpla.us/calendar.html

Awards Nomination Form:
www.mpla.us/forms/awardsnom.html

Grocery Card Program: www.mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html

Send Newsletter Information:
www.mpla.us/forms/newssubmission.html

Donate to MPLA: <http://www.mpla.us/forms/lidonation.html>

Professional Forum information:
www.mpla.us/events/mplaprof2014.pdf

MPLA on Facebook: [www.facebook.com MPLALibraries](http://www.facebook.com/MPLALibraries)

The MPLA Newsletter is published bimonthly online by the Mountain Plains Library Association:

<http://mpla.us/documents/newsletter/index.html>

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Durango Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

- **January 1**
- **March 1**
- **May 1**
- **July 1**
- **September 1**
- **November 1**

Advertising:

There is no charge to MPLA personal or institutional members for classified advertising.

Non-members are charged \$1.25/line. Display advertisement copy rates are available from editor@mpla.us.

MPLA Membership:

For matters pertaining to individual or institutional memberships and address changes, contact:

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