



Mountain Plains Library Association

Newsletter

Big Horizons Close Community

October—November 2015

www.mpla.us

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Craig Johnson, author of the Longmire mystery series, received the MPLA Literary Contribution Award at the Wyoming Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference in Cheyenne, September 24. Johnson is pictured with Mary Ann Thompson (left), and Ellen Fockler.

Look for more
conference
highlights
beginning on
[page 6.](#)



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

A Message from the PRESIDENT

At our 2014 North Dakota Library Association conference, a three-year member of MPLA approached me regarding his struggle over whether or not to renew his membership. He was questioning the value not just of MPLA, but of any regional library association, unsure if there was still a role to be played by organizations betwixt the state and national levels. This wasn't just a question of tight budgets or ascertaining the return on investment of membership dollars, though these considerations factored in. Rather, it was an existential question about the meaning of this organization's existence, and it was not a question I had honestly anticipated.

These are challenging times for libraries and for library associations, and it seems as though we truly are at a crossroads. There is little room to debate that the technology we provide access to, the services and programs we offer, the media through which we provide them, and the metrics we use to measure them are evolving. It is my belief, however, that our core mission and identity remain unchanged. To paraphrase Patience Frederiksen, libraries are public spaces for the public good, where people and ideas are free to meet. Library associations promote professional development, cultivate leadership, and open networking opportunities. Through these associations, we advance the profession, enabling us to better serve our communities.

Even given this common footing, MPLA is not a professional organization like any other I've known. Our Leadership Institute is nationally renowned and second to none. The professional network I've garnered through MPLA doesn't feel like a collective of colleagues, it feels like my library family. I've attended national conferences and gone days without encountering someone I know, aside from those I traveled out with. When I go to an MPLA conference, no matter where it is within our 12 great states, I see smiling friendly faces from the moment I arrive. MPLA does networking in a hot tub. Our conferences are always jointly held because we never stand alone. Big horizons, close community sums us up perfectly.

Continued on page 26



Eric Stroshane

**Library Development Manager,
North Dakota State Library**

MPLA member since 2009

Previous MPLA positions:

North Dakota State Rep.,
2010-2013

MPLA's Professional
Forum judge, 2013

MPLA Administration
Committee, 2011-2012

Email: president@mpla.us

NEW



Officers

2015-2016



Mickey Coalwell

Vice-President/President Elect Mickey Coalwell is a Regional Manager for Library Systems & Services (LSSI), in Kansas. He has been an MPLA member since 2005, and looks forward to helping our organization grow by focusing on our core values of inclusion and excellence.

Recording Secretary Melanie Argo is a Librarian III at Madison Public Library, in South Dakota. She has been an MPLA member since 2011, and is excited to become even more engaged with the organization during her term of office.



Melanie Argo

Apply Now!

10th MPLA Leadership Institute

May 15 – 20, 2016

YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado
Facilitator: Maureen Sullivan

Applications & more information online
<http://www.mpla.us/quick-links/leadership-institute.html>

CONGRATULATIONS MPLA Award Winners

Awards were presented at the Wyoming Library Association / Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, in Cheyenne, September 24, 2015.

MPLA Distinguished Service Award: Jean Hatfield, Branch Manager of the Alford Branch of the Wichita (Kansas) Public Library.



MPLA Unsung Hero Award: Jean Whitehorse, New Mexico State Library Crownpoint Outreach Center.

MPLA Beginning Professional Award: Cherise Mead, Mesa (Arizona) Public Library.



The Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award: Wayne Hanway, Executive Director, Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma.

MPLA Literary Contribution Award: Craig Johnson, of Ucross, Wyoming, author of the Longmire mystery series.



Don't be afraid to join the

mpeLa

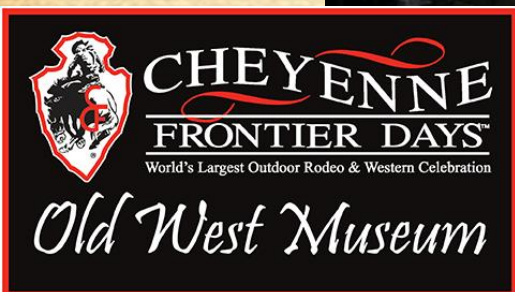
MPLA bases its success on an active, enthusiastic, sharing membership. Where our people are so few and distances are so great, each librarian, staff member and library is a vital resource.

MPLA invites you to make an investment in your future by joining and laying the foundation for your career development.

<http://mpla.us/services/membership>

WLA-MPLA CONFERENCE 2015 ROUND UP

Anali Perry took the reins at the opening reception, held at the fascinating Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum.



MPLA member Emily Dust Nimsakont had the coolest shoes at the reception—made from withdrawn books. MPLA tattoos were in demand throughout the conference.





Scott Ginsberg, the Nametag Guy, wowed attendees with his funny and thought-provoking keynote address, *The Power of Approachability*. Look for Ginsberg's books and his TEDx Talk on his [website](#).



Who says business meetings are dull? Eileen Wright, Mary Ann Thompson, Sharon Osenga, and Annie Epperson strike a pose, left.



The New Members Reception was a nice break for members new and not-so-new.

MPLA Webmaster Dan Chaney with Wayne Hanway (left), and Paulette Nelson, Aubrey Madler, Kris Johnson, and Ashley Jo Will (below).



This year's conference was hot tub free, but the Hot Tub Round Table attendees were undeterred.

The group played Cards Against Humanity and Exploding Kittens while the traditional rubber ducks enjoyed their own tiny hot tub.





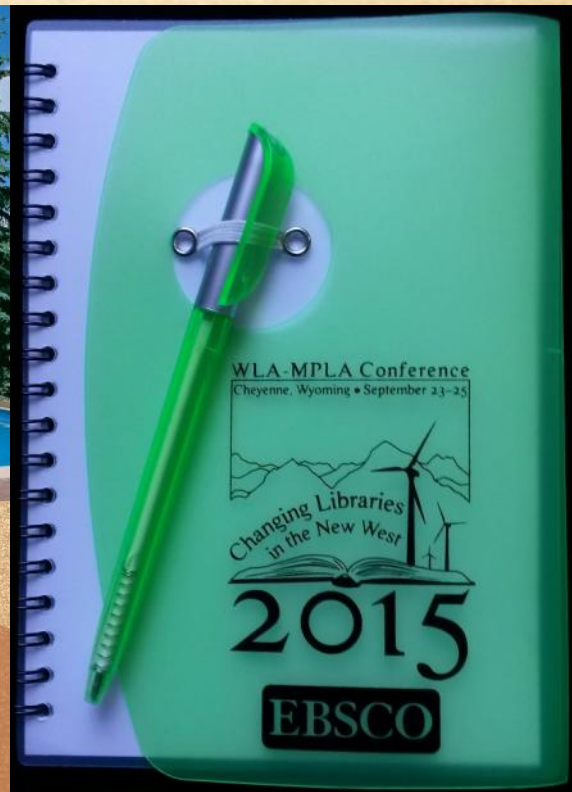
Nebraska State Representative Jake Rundle showed off his wild new tattoo.

North Dakota State Librarian Mary Soucie gave an inspiring talk at the Legislative Luncheon.



Little America Cheyenne was a beautiful setting for the conference.

Thanks to the Wyoming Library Association, Conference Chair Stephen Boss, Little America, and the generous sponsors for a wonderful program.





The MPLA Executive Board (above), and MPLA President Annie Epperson presenting certificates of appreciation to board members who served during her term, including WLA/MPLA Conference Chair Stephen Boss, Brenda Hemmelman, Diana Weaver, Ellen Fockler, Nicole Sump-Crethar, and Executive Secretary Judy Zelenski (clockwise from left, below):





2015-2016 MPLA President Eric Stroshane took office at the MPLA Business Meeting on September 25, 2015, with the passing of the gavels.

Annie Epperson, MPLA President 2014-2015, presented the gavels.



Stroshane accepted the gavels, along with his new title.

He presented Epperson with an engraved gavel as a thank you for her service during her presidential term.



Build a stronger



SUPPORT THE MPLA

GROCERY CARD PROGRAM

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

A full **5%** of your purchases made using the card at participating stores goes directly to MPLA.

Visit the MPLA website for details, and remember MPLA/King Soopers/Kroger grocery cards make great gifts!



Highlighting



Lauren McMullen
2014

What are you doing now?

I am currently working as Statewide Consulting Librarian at the Montana State Library – I haven't changed positions since last year.

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

There were two: First, I came home with a new perspective on organizational culture and development, especially when it comes to innovation and risk taking. If you want your organization to stay current with, or ahead of, change, you must provide encouragement and safety for employees to explore new ideas and take risks – knowing that nobody will be punished if they don't succeed (or they make mistakes!!!). Each employee has a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves, and everyone is valued; it's a little different from a family – maybe more like a "tribe." I try to communicate the value of this perspective when I work with public libraries on organizational development.

Second, we can never overstate the value of professional networking at gatherings like this. It was thrilling to get to know colleagues from all types of libraries in neighboring states, and across the MPLA region. Brainstorms happen all the time during formal sessions, as well as informally during meals and other activities; comparing experiences, sharing new ideas, solving problems together. The new professional friendships that you make continue to support and connect you through your library career.

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Leadership Institute Alumni

Me and My Pet Jack Moore, a Gentle Giant



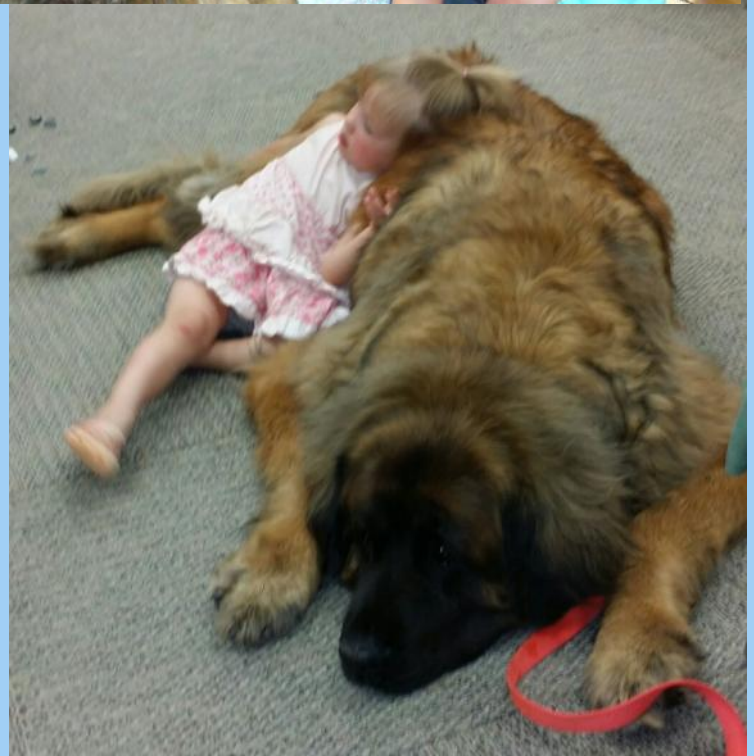
Jack Moore is a Leonberger. He is a certified therapy dog, and his person is Cindy Moore, County Librarian for Albany County Library, in Wyoming.

MPLA: How old is Jack?

CM: Jack turned seven this summer. Because he is such a big dog, he is starting to show his age.

MPLA: When did Jack become a therapy dog/reading buddy?

CM: We were certified as a therapy dog team four years ago, in Cody, Wyoming. Jack was able to work in libraries even before that, thanks to dog-friendly library directors.



Continued on page 28

Around the Region

AZ ARIZONA



The Arizona State Library, Archives, & Public Records has a full slate of workshops and events this fall, including a tour of the Gene & Cathie Lemon Art Research Library, at the Phoenix Art Museum, on October 8. Register [here](#), or view all upcoming events [here](#).



The Arizona Library Association annual conference will be held in Flagstaff, November 18-20. The theme is *Making Connections*, and the program will feature keynote speakers Patrick Sweeney, of

EveryLibrary, and Dr. Michael Stephens, of San Jose State University. Conference details and registration are available on the AzLA [website](#).



The annual [ONEBOOKAZ](#) program will be accepting submissions from Arizona authors from October 1-14. Winning ebooks for children, young adults, and adults will be digitally published by the Arizona State Library, Archives, & Public Records, and read in communities throughout the state in spring 2016.

CO COLORADO

In September, Denver Public Library collaborated with area breweries, coffee roasters, and tea shops to offer a series of events called [BrewHa!Ha!](#) Many programs took place outside the library, and were intended to attract new and nontraditional audiences for library programming. BrewHa!Ha! was part of a national library effort called [Outside the Lines](#).



The Colorado Association of Libraries annual conference will be held in Loveland, October 22-24. Look for program details [here](#).

Tom Perrotta, bestselling author of *The Abstinence Teacher*, *Election*, and other acclaimed novels, spoke at Durango Public Library in September as part of the library's annual Literary Festival.



MPLA Past President Annie Epperson has accepted a newly defined position within the University of Northern Colorado Libraries; she is now the Coordinator of Engagement and Academic Programming and will report to the Dean. In this position, she will expand the Libraries

student programming, continue community engagement on the part of the Libraries, and continue her role as science liaison librarian.



KS KANSAS

Lawrence Public Library (pictured above) was recognized as one of 11 Landmark Libraries by *Library Journal* in August. Library Director Brad Allen told the [Lawrence Journal-World](#), “It’s nice to get some recognition on a job well done.”

Hesston Public Library is the 2015 Best Small Public Library in Kansas.



The library worked with the Kansas State Historian and community partners to organize a week-long series of remembrance activities for the 25th anniversary of a tornado that swept through Hesston. Library Director Libby Albers and other HPL staff will accept the award at the Kansas Library Association/Missouri Library Association joint conference in Kansas City, MO, September 30-October 2.

MT MONTANA



The Montana Library Association Conference, *Find your Inner Superhero: Protect! Empower! Inspire!* will be held April 6-9, 2016, in Missoula. MLA is accepting program proposals, which are due by October 10. You may submit proposals [here](#).

MPLA members may attend the conference at the Montana membership rate. So, put in a program proposal, save the date, and join the fun in Missoula.

The Montana Book Festival was held September 10-13, in venues around Missoula. This year’s festival featured area favorites like James Lee Burke (pictured right) along with emerging talents including Smith Henderson.



Missoula Public Library offered multiple events in conjunction with the annual festival.



NE NEBRASKA

Superior Public Library, in Superior, was awarded a grant of \$1,050 by the Libri Foundation, for the purchase of children's books. The grant was made possible by an anonymous donor, and the library was able to purchase more than 60 high quality books for their collection.



On August 25, the Runza restaurant in Scottsbluff held a fundraiser called 'Great Books for Great Kids,' to benefit the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. The restaurant donated 15% of that day's sales to the library, and the total donation came to nearly \$1,000.

MONTANA, continued...

Belgrade Community Library, in Gallatin County, was named 2015's Best Small Library in America by *Library Journal*. "What might seem like limitations to others seems to inspire the Belgrade team to try new things, make new partnerships, redefine services, and always keep community needs front of mind," said Rebecca T. Miller, editorial director of *Library Journal*. "And that community extends to libraries across the state, which have benefited from the Belgrade's leadership, and now the nation's libraries. There's much to be learned from Belgrade, and we are very proud to give them this award."



The Nebraska Library Association annual conference, *Libraries Are the Heart of the Community*, will be held October 14-16 in Lincoln. Terri Grief, Past President of the American Association of School Librarians, and Sari Feldman, President of the American Library Association, will be the keynote speakers.



University of Nebraska's Love Library welcomed students back to campus in August with a Big Red Ruckus, featuring music, games, and food.

NEVADA LIBRARIES SHAPING THE FUTURE



**69th Annual Conference
October 13th & 14th, 2015**

**Fallon Convention Center
Fallon, NV**

The Nevada Library Association annual conference, *Nevada Libraries Shaping the Future*, will be held in Fallon, October 13-14. The program will feature Nevada authors, along with keynotes by Dale Erquiaga, former Superintendent of Public Instruction and newly appointed Chief Strategy Officer for the State of Nevada, and library historian Dr. Wayne Wiegand. Look for conference details [here](#).

The 2015 Nevada Library Institute, *Be a Catalyst for Change*, was held at the Sahara West Library in Las Vegas, September 17-18. The Institute was presented by the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records, and featured Rivkah Sass, 2006 Library Journal Librarian of the Year, and Felton Thomas, President-Elect of the Public Library Association.



Throughout the month of September, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District partnered with the National Atomic Testing Museum to offer special incentives for library card holders. New card holders, and existing patrons who liked the library on Facebook, were entered to win a copy of the book *100 Suns*, by Michael Light. Library patrons also received discounted admission to the museum.

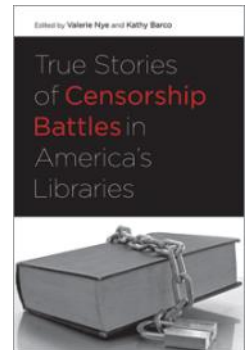
The New Mexico Library Association annual conference, *Create, Connect, Transform*, will be held October 21-23, in Albuquerque. Look for details [here](#).



The New Mexico State Library hosted a joint lecture featuring historian and attorney Malcolm Ebright and New Mexico State Historian Rick Hendricks in August. Ebright's lecture related to his upcoming book, *Making Water*

Run Uphill: The Mora Acequias de la Sierra vs. Picuris Pueblo: A Tale of Two Watersheds and the Mora Land Grant. The lecture by Hendricks focused on "Albino Perez, Mexican Governor of New Mexico."

Val Nye and Kathy Barco took part in a Meet the Author event in the ALA Store at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in June. Their book, *True Stories of Censorship Battles in America's Libraries* has sold over 800 copies since being published in 2012. It is featured in the Bestsellers section of ALA Editions' Spring/Summer 2015 catalog. Nye and Barco are both longtime MPLA members.



The Sunland Park Library has reopened, nearly three years after it was closed due to budget shortfalls and political turmoil in the city government. Staff will consist of a full time librarian and volunteers. Before it closed in 2012, the Sunland Park Library had as many as 2,500 visitors a month visited the library, including 750 computer users.

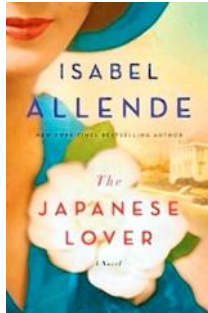
NEW MEXICO, continued...



Farmington Public Library will present the annual [Four](#)

[Corners Storytelling Festival](#), October 9-10. The program will feature Joe Hayes, Dovie Thomason, Sid Hausman, an other national and regional tellers.

Bookworks, the Friends of the Albuquerque Public Library, and the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Public Library System will present a [special event](#) with author Isabel Allende, on November 19. Allende is touring in support of her new novel, *The Japanese Lover*, and she will appear at the KiMo Theater for a conversation with carol Boss, of the NPR program *Women's Focus*.



NEW MEXICO, continued...

Deanne Dekle, a youth services librarian at Roswell Public Library, has accepted the position of Youth Services Consultant at the New Mexico State Library, in Santa Fe. Dekle told the [Roswell Daily Record](#) that she looks forward to helping other libraries and librarians across the state.



Placitas Community Library held an end of summer celebration on August 22, featuring a number of musical guests, and children's

activities provided by the Placitas Fire Brigade.

The logo for the Doña Ana Community College Library Science Program, featuring the text "Doña Ana Community College" and "LIBRARY SCIENCE PROGRAM" in large, bold letters. To the right is an icon of an open book with a magnifying glass over it, and a stylized atom symbol.

For more information or a list of class offerings call 800-903-7503, ext. 7567 or email: spinkert@nmsu.edu.

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The logo for Doña Ana Community College (DACC), featuring the letters "DACC" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

ND NORTH DAKOTA

The North Dakota Library Association annual conference was held in Jamestown, September 16-18.

Keynote speakers were Jacob Soll, author of *The Information Master*, and Dr. Mark Herring, author of *Fool's Gold: Why the Internet Is No Substitute for a Library*, and *Are Libraries Obsolete? An Argument for Relevance in the Digital Age*.



Sally Dockter will serve as Interim Director of the University of North Dakota's Chester

Fritz Library, and Shelby Harken will serve as as Interim Assistant Director until the new Dean of Libraries and Information Resources position is filled.

NORTH DAKOTA, continued...

Dockter has been the Department Head of Reference & Research Services since 2007, and has been with the Chester Fritz Library since 1990. Harken has worked in UND libraries since 1969, when she accepted a position as a cataloger. She was appointed Department Head of Cataloging in 1971, and Department Head of Acquisitions/Bibliographic Control in 1991.



ILead North Dakota participants (below) had their picture taken by a hovering drone during a session in Bismarck. In addition to attending a variety of sessions, participants worked in teams to create cutting edge programs including the first library-loaned drone program outside of academia, the first circulating robot collection in North Dakota, and an ambitious tri-state video tutorial creation and curation project.



NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



Casselton Public Library hosted a Super Hero Animal Sleepover as part of their summer reading program.



Children in Wahpeton learned some superhero-worthy martial arts moves during the summer reading program.



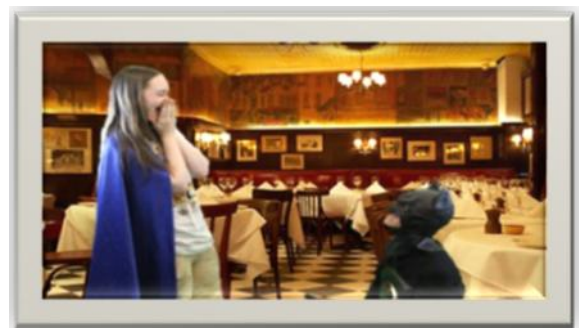
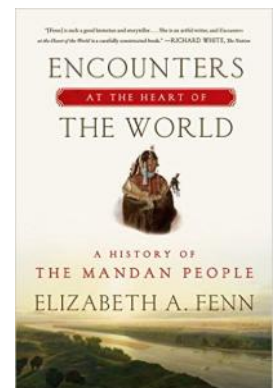
Leach Public Library in Wahpeton also has a new 3D printer, which was used to create all of the items pictured above. It was purchased with a generous donation from the (former) Masonic Lodge of Wahpeton.

NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



Minot Public Library hosted Llama Llama (star of the popular picture book series by Anna Dewdney) and Spider-Man as part of the *Every Hero Has a Story* summer reading program.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Elizabeth Fenn spoke about her book *Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People* at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library in August. The event drew a full house of extremely interested and enthusiastic patrons.



Minot Public Library's Makerspace has been busy. Teens have created one-minute movie trailers, like ["Typical Superhero Man!"](#) and ["Omega Geeks."](#) You can see more of their creations on the [Minot Makerspace](#) page on YouTube or visit them on [Facebook](#).

NORTH DAKOTA, continued...

Minot teens enjoyed other Makerspace offerings like Photoshop events, game creation with Game Salad, poster making, Minecraft demos, 3-D doodlers, and more. Their motto? So much to learn and have fun with, but so little time!



Enid Hyde, of Pierre, has been honored by the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library as the first member of the 10 squared Club. The 10 squared Club was established by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (a division of the Library of Congress) to honor lifelong readers who are 100 or more years of age.

Hyde, 102, has a long affiliation with the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library. Her first exposure was when her mother, who had vision problems, signed up to get talking books. A familiar face in the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library for many years, Hyde volunteered in the recording studios. She recorded many of the books in the cassette collection. In later years, she became a patron of the library.

Michael Wingen of Vermillion, Sarah Huston of Midland, and Jeren Scheff of Montrose were all winners in the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library Summer Reading Program. Each was awarded a \$50 Amazon gift card. They were among the 42 youth who kept their reading skills sharp by participating in the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Summer Reading Program.



The Oklahoma Library Association's 2nd annual Banned Book Week Photo



competition will be accepting submissions through October 16. Simply create a banned books display and send a photo to the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee [here](#). The winning photo will appear in the *Oklahoma Librarian* and any surrounding newspapers, and the winning library will receive a challenged book for their library's age range.



The Oklahoma Library Association will hold its 109th annual conference in Tulsa, March 30—April 1, 2016.

Oklahoma State University unveiled the new Edmon Low Creative Studios in August. The suite of new tools includes the Mac Creative Studio and the Windows Creative Studio, each with three workstations. Both studios feature the full Adobe Creative Suite and Blender. The Mac Creative Studio also features Final Cut Pro.



A presentation studio is decked out with cameras and a green screen. The Tech to Go desk features check-out hardware such as GoPros, point-and-shoot cameras and audio equipment.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

South Dakota First Lady Linda Daugaard held the third annual book walk for children in the backyard of the Governor's Mansion in Pierre on August 12.



SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

Huron Public Library hosted a food for fines program during the month of August.

In Vermillion, a \$1,500 grant allowed for the purchase of a 3D printer for use in producing prosthetic devices for the eENABLE organization. The grant was awarded to the Vermillion Area Robotics Club, but through a collaboration with the public library, the 3D printer will also be available for public use.

The 10th annual Storybook Land Festival was held in July in Aberdeen. The festival helps promote children's literature, with book-themed events and performances.



Award winning mystery author William Kent Krueger toured the state in July, August and September to discuss the 2015 One Book South Dakota selection, *Ordinary Grace*. Krueger's tour culminated in a keynote appearance at the 2015 Festival of Books in Deadwood, September 25-27.

Siouxland Libraries held its fourth annual Children's Book Walk at the Downtown River Greenway Amphitheater in July. The event featured children's books *One Duck Stuck*, by Phyllis Root, and *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*, by Charles Shaw.



The Pierre Indian Learning Center received a \$2000 grant from author James Patterson. Patterson is issuing grants to school libraries in conjunction with the Scholastic Reading Club.

A new elementary school opened in Pierre in August. The library at Kennedy Elementary is right in the center of the building, very spacious, has two 'nooks' for reading, programs, or just hanging out, and an attached computer lab.

The Yankton Community Library has made Zinio for Libraries, the world's largest magazine newsstand, available to its patrons.

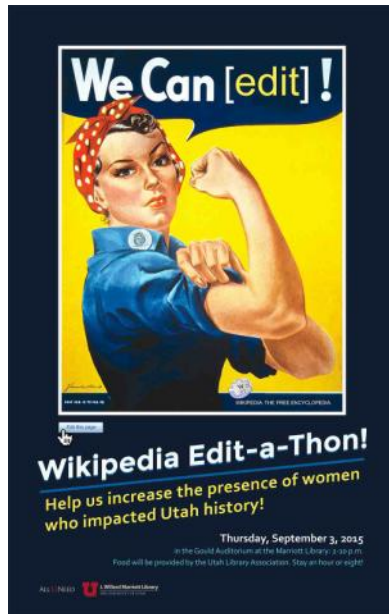


Due to decreased tax funding, the Hanson McCook County Regional Library has closed the library and ceased bookmobile services. The rural library service had been in operation since the 1960s.

The Armour Carnegie Library celebrated its 100th anniversary on August 1. The town of Armour received a grant from the Carnegie Foundation for the purpose of establishing a library in February, 1915.



The Utah Library Association sponsored a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon in September. The goal was to increase and improve coverage of interesting and important women from Utah history.



The Utah State Library Division will present a Grant Writing Workshop on October 8, featuring Eve Tallman from the Grand County Library and Telesa Nicholes from the Utah State Library. Look for details and register [here](#).



The Salt Lake City Public Library System's *12 Minutes Max* is a monthly showcase of short works by local artists. September featured Christian Asplund, a Canadian-American composer-performer, choreographer Michael Crotty, and performance poet Luke Swenson.



The Laramie County Library System has appointed Carey Hartmann as the next County Librarian. Hartmann has served as the Deputy County Librarian since 1990.

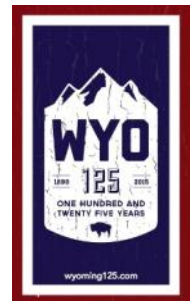
Wyoming, continued...

The Laramie County Library System has introduced a Makerbot 3D printer for use in teen programs. The Makerbot was purchased with a generous donation from patron Gregory Dykeman. Read more about the library's makerspace initiatives in the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#).



The University of Wyoming Libraries and the Wyoming Historical Society have joined forces to raise awareness of Wyoming's historical artifacts, with a new program called Wyoming's Most Significant Artifacts. Artifacts are nominated by cultural heritage organizations around the state, and the public is invited help select the top artifacts by voting. You can view the top 25 entries, and read more about the program, [here](#).

2015 marks the 125th anniversary of Wyoming statehood. Libraries around the state are highlighting the milestone. Over the summer, the University of Wyoming Libraries featured a Works of Wyoming display with items from the libraries' special collections.



The Wyoming State Library has created a new position, School Library Consultant, to support Wyoming School librarians and media specialists.

The MPLA / Wyoming Library Association Joint Conference was held in Cheyenne, September 23-25. Read more beginning on [page 3](#).



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Looking for another way to support MPLA? Just visit [Amazon Smile](#), select the Mountain Plains Library Association, and automatically donate .5% of the purchase price of eligible goods to MPLA.



Does your library need security cases for DVDs?

Albany County Library, in Wyoming, has a large number of cases (around 1,000) that they no longer need.

The cases are in very good condition. They are available without charge to other libraries.

If you are interested, contact Cindy Moore, cmoore@albanycountylibrary.org to make arrangements for shipping or pickup.

President's Message, continued from page 2



Our horizons are broad because of our staunch commitment to leadership and professional development. We are closely connected across our vast geographic expanse through our shared passion for the profession, and the fun we have whenever and wherever we meet.

Recently, the Arizona Library Association voted to extend in-state registration fees for their annual conference to all MPLA members, and to members of any state association in the MPLA region. The Montana Library Association is currently exploring the possibility of offering a joint membership discount, so that

members of both MPLA and MLA would have lower membership dues (they already offer an ALA/MLA discount). These are excellent examples of mutually beneficial arrangements that increase the impact of membership.

They exemplify both the community spirit of MPLA and its commitment to leadership and professional development. I intend to work with our state representatives to advance initiatives like these throughout each of our member states' library associations. Doing so expands all of our horizons.

Of course, we also need to continue fulfilling our core duties: offering outstanding professional development and networking opportunities, facilitating our extraordinary Leadership Institute, utilizing the technology at our disposal to reach as many as we can, and keeping learning and librarianship fun. As a side note, I would love to see our networking and recruitment advance through the offering of an MPLA unconference at each member state's convention, something akin to the Hot Tub Round Table meeting we hold at our joint conference each year, though not fundamentally aquatic in nature. I'm very willing to work with our state reps to help get this tradition underway. Let's talk soon.

Thanks for your time, friends—I look forward to working with all of you throughout the coming year!



What one piece of advice did you learn from the Leadership Institute that you could share with other MPLA\MLA folks?

Consider attending the MPLA Leadership Institute! Your state library association Professional Development Committee may be able to provide financial support; be sure to ask. You will bring back so much new information and experience that will be valuable to you professionally, and to your colleagues with whom you share!



Apply Now!

10th MPLA Leadership Institute

May 15 – 20, 2016

YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado

Facilitator: Maureen Sullivan

Applications & more information online
<http://www.mpla.us/quick-links/leadership-institute.html>



*Me and My Pet, continued
from page 14*

MPLA: Have you gotten any interesting reactions to Jack's size?

CM: Always! People ask if he is a bear and if they allow bears in town. He rarely fails to draw attention in the library or on walks. People seem drawn to him wherever we go.

He is a great ice breaker. Folks that probably wouldn't have engaged me in conversation usually do when Jack is around. And of course people ask, do you have a saddle, can I ride him – that kind of thing.

Occasionally, small quieter children are a little afraid of his size. One lady in a wheelchair loved that he came to her and put his head in her lap. Jack is incredibly gentle, and wins people over gently.



See your pet here!

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



MPLA members—you already know what a great deal membership in MPLA is, but not everyone does. Please pass this information on to colleagues who may not know.

First time members may join MPLA at half price of the already very low membership rates!

Join MPLA after September 1 and membership is for 2016, PLUS the rest of 2015!

Members receive reduced registration rates for joint-conferences. Join before the MPLA/Wyoming Library Association conference held September 23-25 in Cheyenne and receive the reduced member registration rate!

It's easy to join! Go to <http://mpla.us/services/membership/> and choose "Join Today".

Welcome, New Members!

Heather Braum

NExpress Coordinator and Resource
Sharing Librarian
Northeast Kansas Library System
Lawrence, KS



Samantha Hines

Library Director
Missoula College Mansfield Library
Missoula College
Missoula, MT



Frances W. Brummett

Manager
Salt Lake City Public Library
Salt Lake City, UT



Sandra M. Kelly

Library Associate
High Plains Library District
Longmont CO



Jamie H. Carpenter

Cataloging and Technical Services Librarian
Kimball Public Library
Bushnell, NE



Michael McDonald

Library Development Consultant
Northeast Kansas Library System
Lawrence KS

Max A. Conelly

Department Systems Specialist
Washoe County Library System
Reno, NV

Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer

State Librarian
New Mexico State Library
Santa Fe NM



Jason E. Cornelius

Librarian
City of Logan
Logan Public Library
Logan, UT



Sarah E. Vaughn

Manager of Access Services
University of Northern Colorado
Michener Library
Greeley CO



Matthew K. Galloway

Technical Services Assistant II
Pioneer Library System Pioneer
Service Center
Norman, OK



2015-16 Calendar



Kansas Library Association conference
September 30-October 2; Kansas City, MO

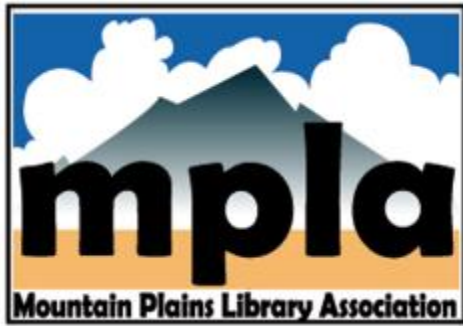
Nevada Library Association conference
October 13-14; Fallon, NV

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

Calendar: www.mpla.us/calendar.html

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

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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:

Judy Zelenski
Executive Secretary
14293 West Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
execsecretary@mpla.us