



Mountain Plains Library Association

Newsletter

Big Horizons Close Community

February—March 2016

www.mpla.us

Volume 61, Number 1

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It is time for MPLA to plan for the future, and your ideas and insights will be critical to the process. Read the [President's Message](#) to find out what comes next.

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

A Message from the PRESIDENT



Eric Stroshane

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

**MPLA member since
2009**

Previous MPLA positions:

North Dakota
State Rep.,
2010-2013

Professional
Forum judge, 2013

Administration
Committee, 2011-
2012

As we move further into this new year, it is increasingly clear that MPLA is embarking into a new era. 2015 saw the end of our last strategic plan, and in our January 25 Executive Board meeting, we decided not to engage in the formulation of a new one (at least not in any conventional sense). Instead, we are seeking to codify the principles and core values of our association in a fashion that will flexibly guide our future actions while distinguishing us from other organizations. Even long-time MPLA members who've experienced its joys and contributed to its importance struggle with communicating just why it means so much to them.

We're setting out to do just that. However, we're not merely seeking to concisely articulate the value of membership. We're looking for the best ways of expanding that value in a fashion commensurate with our times and the changing nature of our profession. This undertaking is not an exploration of what we are now, but of what we can become.

To this end, an ad hoc committee chaired by Mickey Coalwell was formed to determine how we'll go about getting there. This committee was tasked with developing a proposal of how best to structure and facilitate the process, for presentation at our Executive Board meeting in March. We know for certain we'll be working in all of our member states soliciting feedback.

Continued on page 3

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,
continued from page 2...**

This will likely be done through focus groups held either at state association conferences or through Zoom videoconferences.

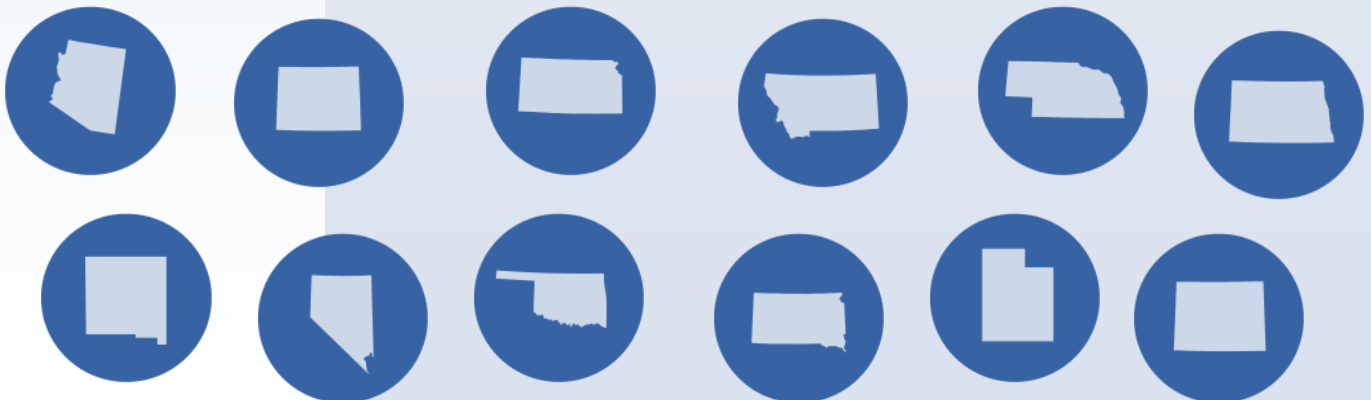
When the opportunity arises for you to inform this process, I hope that you take it. We will only be successful in this undertaking with a diverse array of voices offering insight into what our organization can and should be.

I'm eager to hear from new members and recipients of free memberships—you're the ones who have the least crystallized understanding of MPLA, so you're likely to have the most flexible views on how it might best serve, attract, and retain members. We will also be actively soliciting input from non-members, so we can learn what

would make them interested in joining and what they'd hope to gain. Of course, we also need to hear from our stalwarts and true believers—those who've been there, seen it all, and lived to tell about it. Your secrets are no longer safe.

MPLA is a professional development network spurring leadership and collaboration amongst the librarians of these great mountain plains states. MPLA is also an association of road warriors, willing to travel across state lines and rural expanses for their personal growth, the advancement of librarianship, and the betterment of their communities. As such, we're keenly aware that the journey is an inextricable part of the experience. It is fitting that professional librarians from these wild and woolly states are about to set out on a vision quest for our true selves, with focus groups as our peyote and the broadest of horizons expanding before us.

Our future just got a lot more interesting.





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!





@



MPLA was well represented at ALA Midwinter in Boston, January 8-12. Above: Past Presidents Wendy Wendt and Annie Epperson. Wendt is currently serving as President of the North Dakota Library Association. Epperson is this year's MPLA Past President, and Colorado Association of Libraries Chapter Councilor to the ALA Council.



Featured speakers included (left to right) U.S. Senator Cory Booker, Chelsea Clinton, and Dr. Mary Frances Berry.

Continued on page 21



CALL FOR PROGRAMS

The Mountain Plains Library Association / Colorado Association of Libraries annual conference will be held jointly, at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, CO, October 20—22, 2016.



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CALCON generally attracts more than 500 members of the Colorado library community. The 2016 conference, which includes MPLA, promises to be even more dynamic.

Members of both associations, at all levels, are strongly encouraged to submit program proposals. This is an excellent chance to share innovative ideas and best practices, and connect with library leaders from throughout the mountain plains region. Submission information is available [here](#).

Don't delay! The application deadline is February 12.

THANK YOU

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Continued on page 22

DON'T GET LEFT OUT IN THE COLD!



JOIN THE MPLA TODAY!

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>

Around the Region



[ONEBOOKAZ](#) will announce this year's winning ebooks for children, young adults, and adults in March. The selected titles will be digitally published by the Arizona State Library, Archives, & Public Records, and read in communities throughout the state.



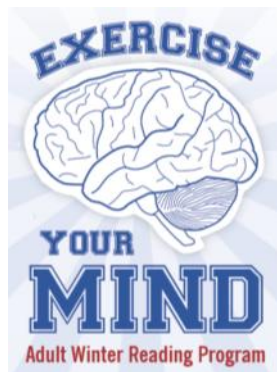
In October 2015, the Colorado State Library partnered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to introduce a pilot program called [Check Out Colorado](#) at eight public libraries around the state. The program allows library patrons to check out a state parks pass and a backpack of supplementary materials for up to seven days. The program has been very well received, and may be scaled up to libraries throughout the state.



In January, the Arizona State University Libraries introduced a newly digitized collection of historic photographs taken in and around Phoenix. The McCulloch Brothers Inc.

Photographs Collection includes more than 4,500 images taken between 1884 and 1947. The images may be viewed [here](#).

The Maricopa County Library District is offering a winter reading program for adults, [Exercise Your Mind](#), through April 1. Readers who log at least one book have a chance to win an iPad. Participants may also earn digital badges for completing various library-related challenges.



The Arizona State Library, Archives, & Public Records has a full slate of workshops and events this winter, including summer reading workshops all over the state in February and early March. The presenter is Julie Dietzel-Glair, formerly of Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. Details are available [here](#).

April 11-25, the One Book 4 Colorado program will distribute copies of the same picture book to more than 75,000 four year olds around the state. The program, which began in 2012, has grown each year. Colorado residents are invited to [vote for this year's book selection](#) through February 29.



Durango Public Library has announced that Jennifer Weiner will be the featured author at the 2016 Literary Festival, which will be held April 28. Weiner is the bestselling author of twelve books, including *Who Do You Love*.



The Hays Public Library held its fourth annual Food for Fines initiative in December. Patrons were invited to bring in nonperishable food items to pay off their fines; each food item was worth \$1 in fines. This year, patrons contributed more than 600 items. Food for Fines is highly anticipated each year, and popular with patrons. After the program ends, the food items are donated to a local food bank.

The Kansas State Library will offer a number of online training sessions featuring KSL databases in February and March. Visit the KSL [event calendar](#) for details.

Kevin L. Smith, Director of Copyright and Scholarly Communication at Duke University, will become dean of University of Kansas Libraries in May. He will replace interim co-deans Kent Miller and Mary Roach.



Montana Library Association
From the Mountains to the Prairies

The Montana Library Association Conference, *Find your Inner Superhero: Protect! Empower! Inspire!* will be held April 6-9, in Missoula. MPLA members may attend the conference at the Montana membership rate. Conference details and registration are available [here](#).



Billings Public Library held a Journey to *The Force Awakens* Celebration in December, featuring special screenings of *The Empire Strikes Back* and *A New Hope*. Patrons were invited to join in on several Star Wars themed crafts, including book-end painting, character magnets, and lightsaber decorating. Teens used a 3-D printer to create parts for an AT-AT walker with a small motor that allowed it to walk on its own. The biggest crowd pleaser was the green-screen photo-op with various Star Wars themed backdrops. About 80 patrons took part in the event.





MONTANA, continued...

Montana State University Billings Library will present its annual quilt show through February 26. The event began 15 years ago as a showcase for quilts created by members of the MSU community. The show has grown to include quilters of all levels from around Billings, and averages 50 to 60 quilts.



Kathy Gureny, Eileen Wright, and Megan Thomas, of MSU Billings Library, gearing up for the annual quilt show.



The Nebraska Library Association is sponsoring a bus trip to the Public Library Association (PLA)



conference in Denver, April 5-9. The cost is low (\$80), and it's a great opportunity to meet other librarians as you travel to Denver. Look for details [here](#).

Nebraska
Library
Commission



The Nebraska Library Commission accredited a number of public libraries around the state in 2015, including Sump Memorial Library and La Vista Public Library. Public libraries in Nebraska are accredited for three-year terms. According to Nebraska Library Commission library development director Richard Miller, the program is designed to help libraries grow and develop to best meet the information needs of all Nebraskans. Read more in the [Papillion Times](#).



NV NEVADA

John Crockett, MPLA Nevada Representative and Electronic Services Librarian at Reno-Washoe County Public Library, is making the most of El Niño snow this winter (above).



Jeff Scott, formerly of Berkeley Public Library, is the new director of the Washoe County Library System, based in Reno. Scott has more than 12 years of public library management experience, and looks forward to

expanding community partnerships in his new position.

NEVADA, continued...



Melissa Stoner, Workflow Manager for the Nevada Digital Newspaper Project at University of Nevada Las Vegas Lied Library, was one of 50 people selected as the 2016 class of Emerging Leaders of the American Library Association in December. Read an interview with Stoner [here](#).

NEVADA, continued...



The [Nevada Reading Week Conference](#) will be held in Sparks, February 26-27. The annual conference gives teachers and librarians a chance to network, attend workshops, and meet a wide variety of authors. One of this year's featured authors is Matt de la Peña, winner of

the 2016 Newbery Medal for his picture book *Last Stop on Market Street*.

Longtime MPLA member and MPLA Membership Committee Chair Ellen Fockler is also Chair of the Nevada Reading Week Conference Committee.



NM NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico State Library had a busy year in 2015, expanding the NM Makerspace Initiative, introducing statewide access to Brainfuse online tutoring, and building partnerships with other cultural institutions. Read more [here](#).



New Mexico Library Legislative day was held on January 28. Library staff from around the state went to the state capitol, known as the Roundhouse, to encourage legislators to support libraries and literacy initiatives.



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NEW MEXICO, continued...



Patrons at Albuquerque Bernalillo County Library can now check out a Kindle Fire tablet to use at home. The tablets check out for three weeks, and may be used to access the library's digital holdings as well as the wider internet. Details can be found [here](#).



Michael T. Kelly, director of the Center for Southwest Research & Special Collections at the University of New Mexico Libraries, retired in January. Kelly had been with the library for 11 years, and had more than 30 years of experience working in museums and universities.



A wolf named Stormy was a special guest at Santa Fe Public Library's La Farge Branch in January, along with handler Leyton Cougar, director of the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary. Cougar spoke about wolves' diet, habitat, and interactions with humans. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library. Read about the program in the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#).

ND NORTH DAKOTA



The North Dakota Library Association encourages members to participate in the ongoing One Book One Association discussion of *The End of Membership as We Know It: Building the Fortune-Flipping, Must-Have Association of the Next Century*, by Sarah L. Sladek.

The One Book One Association initiative was established by NDLA President Wendy Wendt (above), and Past President Greta Guck, as a way to spark dialogue among the wider membership about the future of NDLA. Book discussions kicked off in November, but there is still time to join in; One Book One Association conversations will be held in February, March, and April. If you would like to take part, get a copy of the book and join the [NDLA One Book One Association Facebook group](#).



The University of North Dakota's Chester Fritz Library is working toward a major renovation project. The first steps include a fundraising campaign, and soliciting input from the UND community.

Fargo Public Library has transitioned to a new integrated library system, Koha. Koha is open source software, which allows the library a great deal of flexibility in customizing the system to meet its needs.



Librarian recognized

Paulette Nelson named N.D. Librarian of the Year

By JILL HAMBEK
Staff Writer

jhambek@minotdailynews.com

Paulette Nelson, children's librarian at the Minot Public Library, isn't typically clueless, but she was up to the time the award for the North Dakota Librarian of the Year was announced.

Last week at the North Dakota Library Association conference, Nelson was announced as the winner of the 2015 Librarian of the Year award. The conference was held in Jamestown. Nelson said she was completely surprised to win the award. "I had no clue I would win," she said. In fact, Nelson said she had planned on nomi-



Paulette Nelson, children's librarian at the Minot Public Library, was recently named the 2015 Librarian of the Year by the North Dakota Library Association. She has been at the Minot Public Library for 36 years.

JILL HAMBEK/NDNA

NORTH DAKOTA, continued...

Paulette Nelson, children's librarian at Minot Public Library, has been recognized as North Dakota Librarian of the Year by the North Dakota Library Association. Nelson began working at Minot Public Library in 1979. Since then, she has established a range of dynamic library programs for children, including Lego clubs, storytimes, and regular outreach visits to Head Start classes in Minot.

Nelson is a longtime member of both NDLA and MPLA, and serves as NDLA's representative to MPLA. Read more about her career in the [Minot Daily News](#).

Leach Public Library in Wahpeton will host author Sybil Priebe for a reading and book signing on February 25. Priebe's latest book is *Teaching: With a Side of Chicken Wings and a Shot of Vodka*.



NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



In the spirit of Native American History Month, cultural awareness, and the history of the Dakotas, Dr. Anton Treuer of Bemidji State University, international speaker and author of 14 books, visited Mayville State University in November. More than 250 students, faculty, staff, and members of the surrounding communities attended various sessions highlighting Ojibwe history and culture.

OK OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Library Association will hold its 109th annual conference in Tulsa, March 30—April 1. Look for conference details and registration [here](#).



Oklahoma State University's Edmon Low Library has begun construction of several new study rooms, and a new study bar for students.

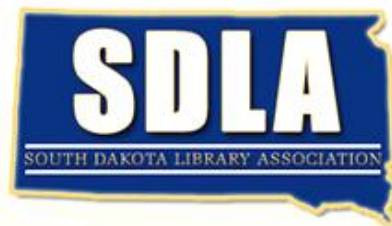


In November and December, Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Al Harris Library in Weatherford hosted a Latin American art exhibit called *Art in Motion: Guayasamín's Ecuador Unframed*. The exhibit explored questions of race, identity, and politics, and included an innovative installation of the mural Ecuador (above), a major art work by Oswaldo Guayasamín.

SWOSU was one on seven sites around the country selected to host the Art in Motion exhibit. Other venues included Vanderbilt University, Notre Dame, and the Ecuadoran Embassy in Washington, DC.

SD SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Library Association hosted its annual Library Legislative Day on January 20 at the State Capitol in Pierre. Legislators were treated to a lunch and exhibits from libraries, and the South Dakota State Library held its library accreditation ceremony later in the afternoon.



In other South Dakota Library Association news, the association's board is embarking on a new strategic planning process. In October, the board met with consultant Sharon Chontos of Sage Project Consultants to begin the first stages of the planning process.



On a recent visit to Rapid City Public Library, a patron got a pleasant surprise. When

she checked out a book she had on hold, she found a Starbucks gift card inside. Along with the gift card, there was a note that read, "In honor of my 15th birthday, my friends and I are doing 15 random acts of kindness. Happy #8!"

Feeding South Dakota is partnering with the Oak View branch of the Siouxland Libraries to help kids who are



hungry after school. The program is called 'Food for All,' and it will provide an after school snack for every child at the library. "A significant number of kids coming in were staying into the evening. Our branch director here noticed, if these kids are coming in after school, they've had lunch, now they're waiting several hours here, that's a long stretch without food," said Siouxland Libraries Director Mary Johns.



SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

Elvita Landau, who served as director of Brookings Public Library for 30 years, retired at the end of January. Over the course of her career, Landau oversaw tremendous growth and change at Brookings Public Library, including a doubling of the library’s physical size, the introduction of two new integrated library systems, and the addition of new professional staff. When Landau started working at the library in 1985, there was one computer in the building; today, there are 60.

In addition to her work at Brookings Public Library, Landau made distinguished contributions to her state and regional library associations. She was recognized as South Dakota Librarian of the Year in 1994, and served as President of the South Dakota Library Association in 1995.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

Landau has been a member of MPLA since 1986. She has played many roles in the association, including a term as MPLA President, 2010-2011. In 2013, MPLA recognized her contributions by awarding her the MPLA Distinguished Service Award.

Landau is an avid gardener, and enjoys bird watching and needlepoint. She plans to pursue all of these interests in retirement, along with making an effort to “get out of my pajamas before noon.”

Landau describes her years at BPL as busy and fun, with the best staff a library director could ask for. In the January issue of the library’s newsletter, she said, “We’ve laughed and had fun, and we have pulled together in stressful times. May the next director be similarly blessed.”

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...



With the help of local organizers, what started as a sprout of an idea has blossomed into the Yankton Seed Library. The Seed Library, which will be stocked with locally grown and dried vegetable and flower seeds, will be located in the Yankton Community Library.

Also in Yankton, Teen Tech Tutors from the Yankton High School National Honor Society will provide technology help at the library two Saturdays a month.

The first three libraries in the Black Hills Library Consortium went live with new Koha integrated library system on November 2. Several more are a libraries will come on board this winter.



Huron Public Library hosted a Take 1 Film Festival competition for youth in grades 6-12 in December. "A film festival is a way to challenge our youth to be inventive, work together and be taught different methods of technology," said teen librarian Mary Olson. The winning films may be viewed [here](#).

Rawlins Municipal Library, in Pierre, hosted its first Adult Coloring Club in November. The relaxed atmosphere encouraged creativity and conversation. Director Robin Schrupp shared the benefits of adult coloring, and samples of adult coloring books that can be purchased at local book stores or online.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...



Rapid City Public Library unveiled a new historical collections room in December, preserving rare, out-of-print books and documents about Rapid City history.



The Huron Public Library plans to use money from the Elaine Smogard Trust to fund library cards for children ages 5-18 who live outside of the Huron City limits but within Beadle County. Currently, people who do not live within the city limits must pay \$20 per year to get a library card. The new program began in December.

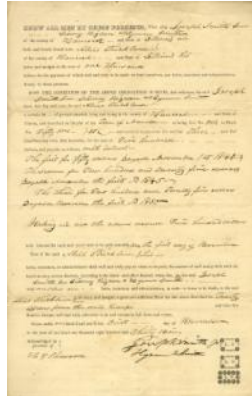
Dakota Prairie, a new elementary school in Brookings, opened its library with nearly empty shelves in September due to budget constraints. Through the efforts of longtime educator Janet Brubakken, numerous clubs, service organizations, and churches in Brookings are donating money and books to fill the shelves.

Marcus P. Beebe Memorial Library in Ipswich, built in 1931, recently received a historic preservation matching grant from the SD State Historical Society. The grant will be used for window repair and replacement.

Voters in Aberdeen have approved financing for a new \$8 million public library.



Signed documents by Brigham Young, Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, and other significant figures from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are among a collection of original manuscripts recently donated to the University of Utah's J. Willard Marriott Library. Read more [here](#).



Lucie P. Osborn retired as County Librarian of the Laramie County Library System in Cheyenne, WY, in June. She had served the patrons of Laramie County for more than 30 years.

The new County Librarian, Carey D. Hartmann, was appointed in August. She previously served as the interim director of LCLS, and has been the Deputy County Librarian since 1990.



CAREY D. HARTMANN



The Utah State Library encourages libraries to apply for mini-grants to implement Día de los Niños / Día de los Libros programs. The application deadline is February 14, and details are available on the [USL website](#).



Wyoming Library Association

The Wyoming Library Association Legislative Reception will be held on February 11, at the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne. Library directors, staff members, and trustees are encouraged to attend.

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These MPLA members are currently serving on ALA Council (left to right, above): Val Nye, Rob Banks, Annie Epperson, Nicole Sump-Crethar, and Brian Greene. Sandy Barstow is also serving on the current ALA Council, but is not pictured here.





The School of Information is home to the nationally recognized Knowledge River program, whose mission is to educate information professionals who have experience with and are committed to the information needs of Latino and Native American populations.

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For more information, please visit si.arizona.edu.

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Welcome, New Members!

Montanna K. Barnett

Public Services Library Associate
Dakota State University Karl E Mundt Library
Madison, SD

**Patricia Leach**

Director
Lincoln City Libraries
Lincoln, NE

**Jim Bothmer**

University Librarian
Creighton University Health Sciences Library,
Reinert-Alumni Library
Omaha, NE

**Gina Macaluso**

Assistant Professor, Knowledge River
Program Manager
University of Arizona School of Information
Tucson, AZ

Tina E. Broughton

School Librarian
Strother Public Schools Strother School Library
Seminole, OK

Lynn Ann McNeill

Teen Library Assistant
Prescott Valley Public Library
Prescott Valley, AZ

**Sherri W. Collings**

Library Associate
Grand Forks Public Library
Grand Forks, ND

**Zachariah M. Miller**

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Minneapolis, MN

Janet Crum

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Hatch Public Library
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**Julee Hector**

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**Lauren Regenhardt**

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Elia Juarez

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Yuma County Library District Heritage Library
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**Amy Rusk**

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Tucson, AZ

Amber Kent

Library Manager
City of Casa Grande Casa Grande Public Library
Casa Grande, AZ

Robin Shoup

Librarian
Maricopa High School AZ

**Nina Ladon**

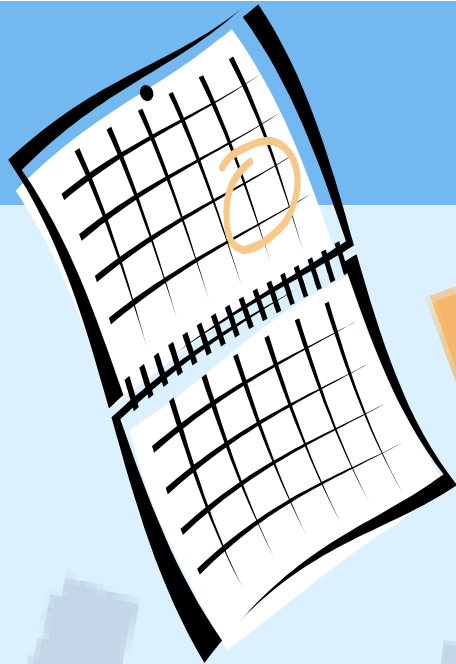
Library Media Specialist
Pine Hill Schools Bertha Lorenzo Library
Ramah, NM

**Christina Wyles**

Program Coordinator
University of Arizona College of Nursing
Tucson, AZ



2016 Calendar



Oklahoma Library Association Conference
March 30—April 1; Tulsa, OK

Montana Library Association Conference
April 6—9; Missoula, MT

**Mountain Plains Library Association
Leadership Institute**
May 15—20; Estes Park, CO

**American Library Association Annual
Conference**
June 23—28; Orlando, FL

**North Dakota Library Association
Conference**
September 21—24; Dickinson, ND

South Dakota Association Conference
September 28-30; Watertown, SD

Nebraska Library Association Conference
October 19—21; Omaha, NE

**Mountain Plains Library Association /
Colorado Association of Libraries Joint
Conference**
October 20—22; Loveland, CO





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:
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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)

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

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Editor: Amadee Ricketts,
Durango Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

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

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