



Mountain Plains Library Association

Newsletter

Big Horizons Close Community

December 2016—January 2017

www.mpla.us

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Members**

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ADVERTISERS SUPPORTING MPLA



REZ DOG
by Tom Frye



Past President Eric Stroshane (left) passed the gavels to new MPLA President Mickey Coalwell at the MPLA / Colorado Library Association Conference in Loveland, in October.



Look for more conference highlights, including MPLA award winners (and this year's excellent Hot Tub Round Table ducks) [inside](#).

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



October 20—22, 2016

Embassy Suites, Loveland, Colorado

This year's conference, held jointly with the [Colorado Association of Libraries](#), featured great keynote speakers, a wide range of vendors, and [engaging sessions](#) on topics from open textbooks to copyright law, storytime engagement, and dozens of subjects in between.

Best of all, the conference was an opportunity for friends and colleagues from Colorado and throughout the twelve state Mountain Plains region to meet, collaborate, and expand their professional networks.



Eileen Wright, Mickey Coalwell, and Annie Epperson (above); morning refreshments including bloody marys and mimosas (right).

Continued on page 3



Clockwise from top: the 2016—2017 MPLA Executive Board; Annie Epperson and Leslie Langley; longtime members at the New Members Reception; Nebraska Representative Jake Rundle being eaten by an herbivore on CAL's green screen.

Continued on page 4

The Hot Tub Round Table tradition carried on in Loveland, with old friends and new rubber duckies. The unicorn ducks were especially in demand (left).

Members turned out bright and early for a General Membership Meeting that started at 7 am (below).



Whether you were able to attend MPLA/CALCON 2016 or not, it is never too early to start thinking about next year's conference.

It will be held jointly with the Nevada Library Association, in beautiful South Lake Tahoe, October 16-18, 2017.

2016 MPLA Award Winners!



MPLA Distinguished Service Award: Bette Rathe, University of Northern Colorado

Rathe has made significant contributions to librarianship at the state, regional, and national levels, and has served thousands of future teachers during more than 20 years with the University of Northern Colorado.

MPLA Literary Contribution Award: Lili DeBarbieri, Tucson, AZ

DeBarbieri is the author of *Location Filming in Arizona, A Guide to Southern Arizona's Historic Farms and Ranches*, and *Sedona Verde Valley Art: A History from Red Rocks to Plein Air*.



MPLA Innovator Award: Deanne Dekle, New Mexico State Library

As the Youth Services Specialist at the New Mexico State Library, Dekle has taken on the Maker State program, bringing pop-up maker spaces to libraries across New Mexico. Many of the libraries have gone on to create permanent maker spaces.

Do you know an outstanding librarian, staff member, author, or library champion in the MPLA region? Of course you do! Nominations for the 2017 MPLA Awards will be due in summer 2017. Visit the [Awards Page](#) for details, and start thinking about those nominations today.





Rocket was born on Pine Ridge. As a DEA sniffer dog, the pit bull alerted to millions of dollars worth of drugs belonging to three major cartels. When the dog is stolen shortly before his retirement ceremony, it is up to two boys to rescue him.

Rez Dog,

A new book by author, Tom Frye.
\$15 per book.

Simply send a check to:
Tom Frye, 6139 Kearney Ave.
Lincoln, NE. 68507
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Looking for another way to support MPLA? Just visit [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile), select the Mountain Plains Library Association, and automatically donate .5% of the purchase price of eligible goods to MPLA.

Around the Region



“Detective Cumberbun” interrogated teen suspects at a murder mystery dinner held at Prescott Public Library in late October. The program was sponsored by the Friends of the Prescott Public Library, and featured a custom script by actors from the Prescott Center for the Arts.



The Arizona Library Association annual conference, *Libraries Transform!*, was held in Tucson, November 2-4. Keynote speakers included Manuel Figueroa, from the ALA’s Center for the Future of Libraries, and Lori Easterwood and Jessica Jupitus, of Folsom Public Library and Sacramento Public Library. Look for photos and conference highlights [here](#).

ARIZONA, continued...



Children and families had a great time at Prescott Public Library’s first annual Fall Festival in October.

ARIZONA, continued...



Amadee Ricketts, formerly Youth Services Supervisor at Durango Public Library, in Colorado, is the new Director of the Cochise County Library District, based in Bisbee. She will start the new job in

December. Ricketts has been an MPLA member since 2014, and served as MPLA Newsletter Editor, 2014 through 2016.

Dr. Debbie Reese visited Arizona State University's Hayden Library in October, to discuss her work as a librarian and Indigenous children's literature expert. Dr. Reese was the featured speaker for the fall 2016 Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community. After visiting the library in the morning, she delivered her lecture, "Some Truths, but Lots of Lies: Indigenous Peoples in Children's Literature," at the Heard Museum in Phoenix.



The Arizona Library Association will offer a day-long Electronic Resources Forum in Phoenix on February 23. The event will feature the latest updates on e-resources, features, and strategic directions, along with representatives from major vendors. Look for details and registration on the [AzLA website](#).



The MPLA annual conference was held jointly with the Colorado Association of Libraries in October, in Loveland. Look for photos and highlights from the conference starting on [page 2](#).



Durango Public Library began offering a nontraditional readers advisory program in October. Inspired by a similar program at

Oregon's Multnomah County Library, the "Show Us Your Ink" program invites patrons to show library staff their tattoos, and get on the spot book, movie, and music recommendations.

The Colorado State Library's CSL in Session series of professional development webinars continued in November with a session entitled *Puff, Puff, Lend: Cannabis Culture in the Library*, presented by Jennifer Hendzlik and Aaron Bock. View the archived session, and look for upcoming topics, on the [CSL in Session website](#).



Therapy dogs from [Therapy Dogs of Boulder](#) visited several University of Colorado libraries in October and November, to offer stress relief for students.

KS KANSAS

The Kansas Library Association / Kansas Association of School Librarians annual conference was held in Wichita, October 19-21. The theme was *Champions by Design*, and featured speakers included library consultant and futurist Joan Frye Williams and Gene Ambaum, the co-creator of *Unshelved*.



MT MONTANA



Montana State University has a new digital collection, the Ivan Doig Archive. The collection provides access to original manuscripts, an unfinished novel, private diaries, personal interviews, and much more. Explore the archive [here](#).

Bozeman Public Library has updated its logo. BPL Director Susan Gregory said, "We wanted a logo that would communicate energy, creativity, exploration and fun – which are all characteristics of a thriving public library."



Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library was named Library of the Year by [Library Journal](#) in June. Gina Millsap, the library's Chief Executive Officer, and Rob Banks, Chief Operations Officer, are MPLA members. Banks also served as MPLA President, 2008-2009.



Hays Public Library welcomed three new librarians recently. Director Jim Agee started work in September. Young Adult Librarian Vera Haynes and Adult Services Librarian Samantha Dean started in October.



The Montana Library Association's Offline 2017 mini-conference will be held in Glendive, February 10-11. The theme will be *Back to the Future*,

and participants will be invited to help envision the future of libraries and technology. Look for details and registration [here](#) as they become available.

The Montana Library Association annual conference will be held in Billings, March 29—April 1, 2017. Rather than offering Saturday sessions as in past years, the conference will be held Wednesday through Friday, with intensive three hour seminars offered on the Wednesday. MPLA members are invited to attend the conference at the MLA member rate, so save the dates for what is sure to be an engaging conference. Look for details on the [MLA website](#) as they are finalized.



University of Nebraska library staff handed out free popcorn in the Adele Hall Learning Commons on Halloween.

NE NEBRASKA



The Nebraska Library Association [annual conference](#), *Libraries Transform*, was held in Omaha, October 19-21. Featured speakers included Jamie LaRue, Director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, and Shannon McClintock Miller, a Teacher Librarian and Technology Integration Specialist.

NEBRASKA, continued...



**Omaha
Public
Library**

Open Your World

Laura Marlane, Executive Director of the Omaha Public Library, used the holiday season as a jumping off point to

thank the people and groups that have helped OPL thrive in 2016. From elected officials and library volunteers to the Omaha Public Library Foundation, there was lots of love to go around in a November Good News feature in the [Omaha World-Herald](#).

The Nebraska Library Commission's *NCompass Live* webcast series covers a variety of library related topics. There is generally one new session each week, and the webcasts are free for anyone who would like to watch. Look for details [here](#).



The Nevada Library Association annual conference was held October 18-29, in Las Vegas. Keynote speakers included Stacie Ledden, from Colorado's Anythink Libraries, and Felton Thomas, Jr., President of the Public Library Association and Executive Director of Cleveland Public Library.



Washoe County Library System, serving the Reno and Lake Tahoe area, offered a Food for Fines program in November, waiving fines for patrons who brought nonperishable food to benefit area food banks. The program was expected to collect thousands of pounds of food, according to a brief story on [Nevada Public Radio](#).



In October, University of Nevada Las Vegas University Libraries were awarded a \$210,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue a digitization program for historic Nevada newspapers. To date, more than 100,000 pages of historic newspapers have been digitized, and most of that content is available for online browsing. Read more about the grant, and the Nevada Digital Newspaper Project, [here](#).

The New Mexico Library Association annual conference, *Ideas, Insights, Transform Innovation*, was held in Albuquerque November 2-4. Highlights included a keynote address by ALA President Julie Todaro.

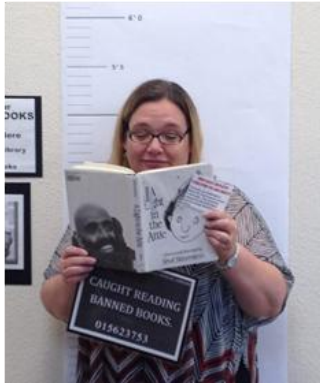


New NMLA officers began their terms at the conference, and awards were presented to librarians and library staff in a number of categories. New Mexico Representative Don Tripp (left), was recognized as Legislator of the Year for his support of New Mexico libraries. Look for a full listing of

award winners, and lots of photos from the conference, in the November/December 2016 issue of the [NMLA Newsletter](#) (PDF).

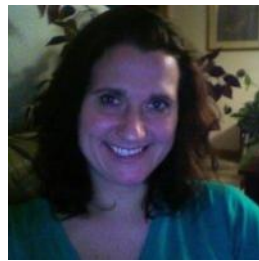


On November 1, library stakeholders from around the state met for a Libraries Transform New Mexico Assessment Conference. The New Mexico Library Assessment has been an ongoing project highlighting strengths and challenges for New Mexico libraries. Look for the findings of the assessment project in a [report](#) (PDF) released in September.



Like many other libraries around the state, Minot Public Library celebrated Banned Books Week in September. In Minot, the occasion included a large display of banned and challenged books hidden by brown paper bags. Here, Minot Public Library Director Janet Anderson was caught reading a banned book.

Anderson was caught reading a banned book.



Wendy Wendt and Greta Guck were jointly recognized as Librarians of the Year at the North Dakota Library Association conference in September. Wendt (left) is the Director of the Grand Forks Public Library and past president of both MPLA and NDLA. Guck served as Director of the Leach Lake Public Library, 2014-2016, and now works in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Librarians across North Dakota are mourning the loss of Kelly Steckler, Director of the Morton Mandan Public Library, who passed away in October. Steckler was an active member of NDLA, serving as chair of the legislative committee for many years. Steckler was also an MPLA member. She touched many lives, and is missed by all who knew her.



Preschool children showed off their costumes at Grand Forks Public Library in October.



The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library hosted a display to raise awareness about homelessness in October. The temporary art installation included large format prints by wet plate photographer Shane Balkowitsch, illustrating how homeless people often go unseen in our communities.

North Dakota State University's Main Library exhibited photos and artifacts from the state's political history during the fall semester, in a display called *Political Pieces of North Dakota*.



NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



Minot Public Library hosted a TNT (“Tacos ‘N Technology”) program in October, and nearly 60 people turned out to share a meal and learn about Snap Circuits.

Also in October, Minot Public Library created a “Haunted Great Plains Room,” and invited the public to take a spooky look at local history.



Supergirl and Batgirl made a special appearance at Fargo Public Library as part of ValleyCon. Their library visit included a superhero themed storytime, and a Superhero Training Camp for kids of all ages.

NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



Grand Forks Public Library partnered with St. Joseph’s Social Care to offer the annual Grand Forks Empty Bowl Project this fall. Participants painted ceramic bowls during a special event at the library, and they will be auctioned off to raise money to fight hunger in the area.



The Oklahoma Library Association is seeking nominations for its annual awards in several categories. The nomination deadline is January 22, 2017, and details are available on the [OLA website](#).

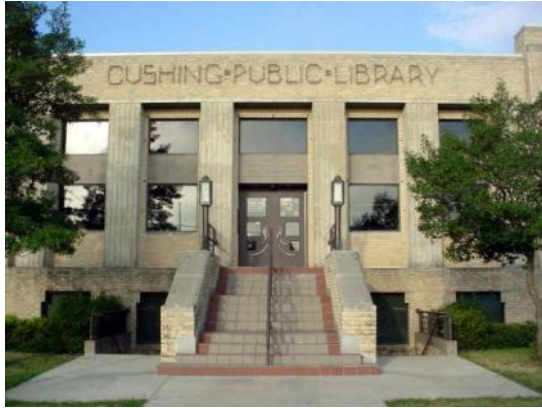


Oklahoma Library Association



The Oklahoma Library Association annual conference will be held in Norman, April 24-26, 2017. Details and registration will be found [here](#) as they are finalized.

OKLAHOMA, continued...



Cushing Public Library was one of several public buildings in the Cushing area that were closed in the aftermath of an earthquake in early November, according to Oklahoma's [News on 6](#). The library reopened after being assessed for damage.

Oklahoma's Edmon Low Library checks out a variety of equipment as part of its popular Creative Studios program. This fall, telescopes and large aperture binoculars were added to the array of available devices, including Meade Infinity Telescopes like this one. Most telescopes check out for three days. Read more about the new offerings [here](#).



SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...



Katherine Eberline, Children's Services Coordinator of the Brookings Public Library, was recently awarded a Tank of Thanks, an honor for those who go above and beyond for their communities. Tank of Thanks recipients are honored during South Dakota State University football games.

MPLA president Eric Stroshane presented a keynote address and breakout session at the South Dakota Library Association conference in September.



Huron Public Library hosted a traveling exhibit, "A Capital Fight: Choosing South Dakota's Capital City," in October. The exhibit was sponsored by the South Dakota State Historical Society.

In September, the Vermillion Public Library held its first ever "Outside the Library Drive-In Movie Night" in its parking lot.

The University of South Dakota's I.D. Weeks Library was recognized as the most beautiful library in South Dakota in the August issue of [Business Insider](#).



Daniel Burniston, formerly of the University of South Dakota library system, is the new Director at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library.



The Haakon County Library won first place in their local homecoming parade.



The Yankton Community Library pirates were out in full force on Talk Like A Pirate Day in September.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...



Nina Mentzel, of the South Dakota State Library, was recognized as Librarian of the Year at the South Dakota Library Association annual conference in September. Look for all of the 2016 award winners on the SDLA [Facebook page](#).

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

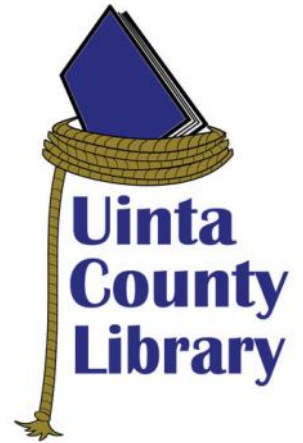
A *Learning Hobo Day History* event was held on October 21. Archivist Crystal Gamradt gave a presentation on South Dakota State University's homecoming traditions, using a variety of photos and artifacts from SDSU's collection. The event was part of a program to preserve the 104-year-old Hobo Day legacy by collecting and digitizing personal memorabilia and making it accessible on the [Digital Library of South Dakota](#). Sponsors include the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation.

On October 27, Christine Stewart-Nunez, SDSU Associate Professor of English, read selections from her recently published books of poetry *Untrussed* and *Blue-words Greening*.

On November 18, hundreds of residents turned out for a ribbon cutting at the new public library serving the twin towns of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Arizona. The new Washington County Library branch will be the first to serve the area, where most of the residents are members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS). Read more at [ABC 4 Utah](#).



According to a study commissioned by the Uinta County Library Foundation and reported in the [Uinta County Herald](#), Uinta County Library ranks last in the state in collection development expenditures.



The aging collection and other challenges stem from chronic underfunding. While other public libraries around the region have seen slight drops in circulation over the last five years, circulation at UCL has dropped by 35% in the same period. Jim Minges, of the consulting firm Minges & Associates, prepared the report and concluded with an urgent recommendation for increased funding.



The annual Utah Humanities Book Festival featured free events around the state in September and October, including appearances by Jonathan Lethem, Loren Long, and dozens of other authors. Look for a program of events [here](#).



[Wyoming Reads](#), a program of the Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation, distributes picture books to first graders around the state each spring. Book selections for 2017

have been announced, and planning for the 2017 Wyoming Reads Celebration is well underway.



The Utah Library Association annual conference will be held in Sandy, May 17-19, 2017. Details will be available on the [ULA website](#) as they are finalized.

The University of Wyoming's Coe Library promoted self-service checkouts in November by inviting students and staff who used the library's self-check machines to [enter a drawing](#) for iTunes gift cards.



The Wyoming Library Association held a streamlined annual conference in October, with logistical support from the Wyoming State Library. Recorded sessions were offered for remote access, and live sessions were held at several host sites. You can view opening remarks and keynote addresses [here](#).

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!



Welcome, New Members!

Kendra Abel

Library Manager
Pinetop-Lakeside Library
Lakeside, AZ

Scott Ahola

Associate Library Director
E.Y. Berry Library
Spearfish, SD

Karen Algood

Librarian
Brookings School District 05-1
Brookings, SD

Robert Ayala

Librarian - Adult Services
Loveland Public Library
Fort Collins, CO

Theresa G. Bauer

Children's Library Assistant 3
Hays Public Library
Hays, KS

Shawn Behrends

SDC
South Dakota State Library
Madison, SD

Kathryn Bodnar

Spanish Services Librarian
Loveland Public Library
Fort Collins, CO

Danyelle Casper

Teen/Children's Services
Huron Public Library
Huron, SD

Kevin Clair

Archives Processing and Metadata Librarian
University of Denver Libraries
Denver, CO

Karlene Clark

Circulation Specialist
University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library
Grand Forks, ND

Christie Clarke

Youth Services Librarian
Gering Public Library
Gering, NE

Daniel Daily

Director
University of South Dakota ID Weeks Library
Vermillion, SD

Samantha R. Dean

Adult Services Librarian
Hays Public Library
Hays, KS

Colleen Deel

Library Technician
North Dakota State College of Science Mildred Johnson
Library
Wahpeton, ND

Charity Drew

Youth Services Coordinator
Silt Branch Library
Garfield County Public Library District
Silt, CO

Jodi Driscoll

Librarian
Hazen Public School
Hazen, ND

Kirsten Mary Dutton

Library Assistant
Hays Public Library
Hays, KS

Julie Edholm

Collections Librarian
Washakie Museum and Cultural Center
Worland, WY

Holly T. Esposito

Library Coordinator
Washoe County School District
Reno, NV

Beth Falla

Librarian
Lied Imperial Public Library
Imperial, NE

Lisa Fortkamp

Librarian
Lied Imperial Public Library
Imperial, NE

Janice L. Fox

Local History/System Administrator
Lake County Public Library
Leadville, CO

Amanda Haas

School Librarian
University Schools
Greeley, CO

Karen Hannegrefs

Librarian
United #7 Public Schools
Les Lacs, ND

Ashley Vera Haynes

Young Adult Librarian
Hays Public Library
Hays, KS

Elizabeth Heimann

Children's Library Assistant 2
Hays Public Library
Hays, KS

Kelly Henkel

Cataloger
McGovern Library Dakota Wesleyan University Library
Mitchell, SD

Jesse Henning

Garfield County Public Library District
CO

Amy Holzworth

Librarian
Poudre River Public Library District Old Town Library
Fort Collins, CO

Susan L. Hutchens

Substitute Teacher
Poudre School District
Livermore, CO

John Ingersoll

Library Director
Grantsville City Library
Grantsville, UT

Sue Keefer

Library Director
Otero Jr. College
Las Animas, CO

Angela Kitzman

Librarian I
Rolette Public School
Rolette, ND

Renea Knudson

Circulation Librarian
Watertown Regional Library
Watertown, SD

Abby Lambert

Branch Manager
Maricopa County Library District Litchfield Park Branch
Litchfield Park, AZ

Marissa Lea Lamer

Kansas Room Librarian
Hays Public Library
Hays, KS

Dana Lang

Children's Library Assistant 1
Hays Public Library
Hays, KS

Sarah Lerud

Librarian
Valley City Public Schools Valley City Jr. Sr. High Resource
Center
Valley City, ND

Susie Lippert

Cataloger/Assistant Librarian
Yankton Community Library
Yankton, SD

Steph Lorenz

Reference Librarian
Huron Public Library
Huron, SD

Holly Lundeen

JK-Library, Brookings School District
Brookings, SD

Renata Marshall

Library Associate
Eagle Valley Library District Gypsum Public Library
Gypsum, CO

Trevor Martinson

Library Development Specialist
North Dakota State Library
Bismarck, ND

Ross Buckley Mays

Reference Librarian
Denver Public Library
Denver, CO

Jennifer McIntyre

Marketing Director
SD State Historical Society Press
Pierre, SD

Elizabeth McKinstry

Student
Valdosta State University
Westwood, MA

Caitlin Meyer

Adult Programmer
Dickinson Area Public Library
Dickinson, ND

Lorra Norden

Library Paraprofessional
Platte-Geddes High School High School Library
Platte, SD

Jade Praus

Children's and Young Adult Librarian
Dickinson Public Library
Dickinson, ND

Sherry Preston

Public Services Librarian
Gering Public Library
Gering, NE

Wynne Prindle

Library Technician
Lyon County Library Central Branch
Yerington, NV

Leigh Ramey

Youth Services Supervisor
Aurora Public Libraries
Aurora, CO

Kaiya Schroeder

Anythink Libraries
Northglenn, CO

Nathaniel Smith

Librarian
North Dakota State Penitentiary / DOCR
Bismarck, ND

Kathleen J. Vander Vorst

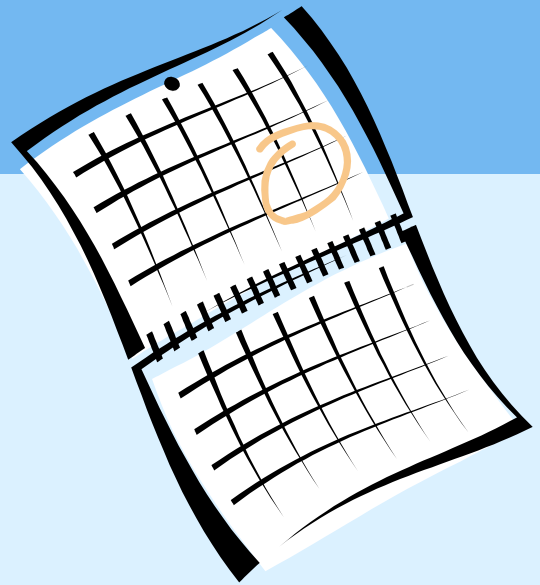
Head of Adult Services and Collection Development
West Fargo Public Library
Fargo, ND

Katy Walker

Librarian
Colorado Mountain College
Edwards, CO



2017 Calendar



American Library Association Midwinter Meeting

January 20—24; Atlanta, GA

Montana Library Association Conference

March 29—April 1; Billings, MT

Oklahoma Library Association Conference

April 24-26; Norman, OK

Utah Library Association Conference

May 17-19; Sandy, UT

American Library Association Annual Conference

June 22-27; Chicago, IL

South Dakota Library Association Conference

September 27-29; Oacoma, SD

North Dakota Library Association Conference

October 4-6; Grand Forks, ND

Nebraska Library Association Conference

October 11-13; Kearney, NE

MPLA / Nevada Library Association Conference

October 16-18; South Lake Tahoe, NV

Kansas Library Association Conference

October 24-27; Wichita, KS

New Mexico Association Conference

November 1-3; Albuquerque, NM

THANK YOU to the MPLA members, state representatives, and Executive Board members who have helped out with the newsletter over the last couple of years. Special thanks to Judy Zelenski, for everything.

As I wrap up my final issue of the newsletter, I am reminded just how much I have enjoyed getting to know our wonderful region. MPLA really does offer big horizons and close community, and I can hardly wait to see what the future holds for our dynamic, ever-evolving Association.

Amadee





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

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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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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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