



Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

August 2017—September 2017

www.mpla.us

Volume 62, Number 4

Election Information



**The election for 2017-2018 MPLA Officers will held
online, August 7 – August 14, 2017**

The election for 2017-2018 MPLA Officers will held online, August 7 – August 14, 2017. An online ballot will be emailed to all eligible voters via MemberClicks. The ballot will be sent to the email listed in MPLA member profiles, so now is a good time for members to login at mpla.us and update their profiles as needed. The online ballot will feature links to all candidate information sheets, in case voters need to review them.

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Results will be announced and the new officers' terms will begin at the Nevada Library Association / Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference in Stateline, Nevada at Lake Tahoe, October 16-18. Thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve! Read on to learn more about each of them.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT/ VICE PRESIDENT



**Tom
Taylor**



**Leslie
Langley**

CANDIDATE FOR RECORDING SECRETARY



**Kris
Johnson**

Arizona

Colorado
North Dakota

Kansas
Oklahoma

Montana
South Dakota

Nebraska

Nevada
Utah

Nevada
Wyoming

New Mexico

President's Message

Hello everybody!

We've celebrated Independence Day, and we're almost three quarters of the way to Conference in October. The weather has become warmer in most of our mountain-plains states, and many of us have returned from a remarkable ALA Conference in Chicago. Chicago, strangely enough, was much cooler than usual the week of the Conference. We live in unusual times.



Mickey Coalwell

I am sad to inform you that our hardworking VP/President-Elect, Melissa Clark, late of South Dakota State University in Brookings, has taken a new job at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Congratulations are definitely in order, but unfortunately Texas is not an MPLA state, and our bylaws will not permit Melissa to enjoy her year as MPLA President. She tendered her resignation earlier this month. This unusual situation has prompted something of a small crisis in succession.



Melissa Clark

The MPLA bylaws state, under Section 4.5:

"A vacancy occurring in an elected office of the Association, (except for the immediate Past President, which shall not be filled) shall be filled by reconvening the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates whose names shall be submitted to the membership for election by vote. A vacancy with 6 months or less remaining shall be filled by the President, who shall make the appointment with the approval of the Board."

Therefore, according to our bylaws, it is my duty and obligation to appoint Melissa's replacement. After consultation with our Past President Eric Stroshane, Executive Secretary Judy Zelenski, and others in the organization, I have decided to take the step of appointing an Interim President.

Since the term of an appointed officer is not defined in our bylaws, I am proposing that the Interim President assume their duties at the end of 2017 Conference, and serve only for as long as needed, but no longer than one year, and that the newly-elected VP/President-Elect assume presidential responsibilities as soon as they feel ready.

To provide essential organizational continuity, the Interim President should be intimately familiar with MPLA practices and governance. For that reason I have turned to Past President Annie Epperson of the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, and asked her to be our Interim President for 2017-18. Annie has agreed to serve in that capacity. I'm very grateful to her.



Annie Epperson

The board will discuss and vote on my proposed appointment of Annie Epperson as Interim President at our next Executive Board meeting on August 4.

Please let me hear from you, especially if you have strong feelings one way or the other concerning my proposed succession plan. I will listen with an open mind to any suggestion that is in the best interest of MPLA and of the membership.

I would like to add that *Melissa Clark has generously volunteered to complete her conference coordination responsibilities, and will maintain her VP title and position until the end of her term while working in Texas. She plans on attending Conference in South Lake Tahoe, and I promise we will give her a warm sendoff.*

Thanks to all of you for your support during this time, and please reach out to me directly with your thoughts.

*Regards,
Mickey*

Meet the Candidates



Tom Taylor
Director
Andover Kansas Public Library

MPLA Member since 2009

President-Elect Vice President

Previous Positions

Member Library Services Coordinator, South Central
Kansas Library System
Library Assistant, University of South Florida
Library Assistant, Seminole Florida Community Library
Supervisor, Newton Kansas Public Library

Education

MLIS, University of South Florida
BA History, Bethel College (KS)

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

MPLA
Beginning Professional Award 2010
Leadership Institute Fellow 2010
Professional Development Committee 2011-2015
Chair 2013-2014
Leadership Institute Committee 2017
Wichita Area Library Association
President 2016-2017
Board 2014-present
Leadership Butler County Kansas Fellow 2017
Rotary Club of Andover Kansas
President 2017, Secretary 2015-2017
Sergeant at Arms 2014-2015
American Library Association member 2007-present

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Meet the Candidates



Leslie Langley

***Branch Manager, Wister Public Library
Northern Regional Coordinator
Southeastern Public Library
System of Oklahoma***

MPLA Member since 2008

Previous Positions

Oklahoma MPLA Representative

Education

University of Southern Mississippi, B. S.
Special Education

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

Past Oklahoma State Representative to MPLA
Past President of the Oklahoma Library Association
Current Leadership Committee Chair of OLA
Oklahoma Department of Libraries Certification Board
Member



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President-Elect Vice President

Meet the Candidates



Kris Johnson
Head, Learning and Research
Services Department,
MSU Bozeman Library

MPLA Member since 2006

Previous Positions	Library Consultant, Colorado State Library (June 2006 - Nov. 2014) Instruction Librarian, California State University Chico (August 1999-June 2006)
Education	Masters of Library & Information Science (MLIS) University of Texas at Austin 1992 Bachelor of Arts, Music - Montana State University, Bozeman 1987
Professional activities, especially those in MPLA or relevant to this position	Recording Secretary, MPLA, Oct. 2016 - present Chair, MPLA Professional Development Committee, Dec. 2014 – Oct. 2016 Member, MPLA Board, Dec. 2014 – current Member, MPLA Professional Development Committee Oct. 2013 – Dec. 2014 Attendee: Mountain Plains Library Association Leadership Institute May 2012 Parliamentarian, Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL), Dec. 2012 – Nov. 2014 California Academic & Research Libraries (CARL): Northern Interest Group Coordinator [member of CARL Board]. Jan 2005 – June 2006 Poster Session Coordinator - 2006 Conference Committee. Jan. 2005 – June 2006 Campus Liaison. Fall 2002 – June 2006 Vice-Chair, California Academic Reference Librarians Discussion Interest Group (CARLDIG) – North. Dec. 2003 – June 2006 Membership Committee. Fall 2002 – Dec. 2004 Member: American Library Association (ALA) - 1991 – current

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Recording Secretary

Join us this fall for the NLA-MPLA Joint Conference—

Turn up
the volume!



NLA/MPLA 2017 Conference Update

October 16-18, 2017 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Stateline, Nevada at Lake Tahoe

Early bird attendee rates and exhibitor/sponsor information available at

nevadalibraries.org/conference

Room Reservations for the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino at the discounted conference rate may be made at <https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=75399&Chain> using the group code **NLAMPLA17**.

Tentative schedule

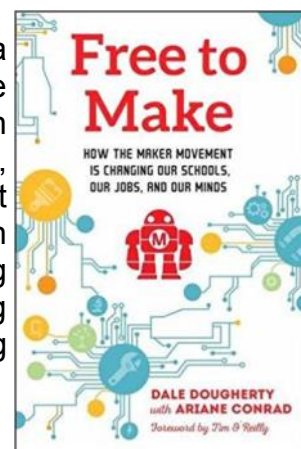
- Monday, October 16 – Nevada Library Association Executive Board Meeting, Mountain Plains Library Association Board Meeting, Nevada Library Directors Board Meeting, Preconference Workshops
- Tuesday, October 17 – Full conference day, President's Reception
- Wednesday, October 18 – Full conference day; Awards Luncheon for NLA, MPLA, and the Nevada Young Readers' Award, Washoe County Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Getting here is easy by flying into Reno/Tahoe International Airport and taking an [airport shuttle](#) or driving one hour to Stateline, Nevada at the southeast corner of Lake Tahoe.

Keynote Speaker



Dale Dougherty, founder and CEO of Make Media and publisher of Make Magazine, is the keynote speaker on Wednesday, October 18. He has been called the “godfather of the Maker movement”, having founded both the magazine and the first Maker Faire in 2006. Dale was instrumental in launching the Maker movement which is reshaping science and technology education and creating unprecedented economic opportunity for young people and a renaissance in urban manufacturing.



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NLA/MPLA 2017 Conference Update

Preconference Workshops

Attend a preconference workshop and come away with new tools for the toolkit. Learn from experts, best practices, and real world experience in the areas of Strategic Planning, Early Literacy, and Maker Services. Preconference workshops are from 1 to 5 p.m. on Monday, October 16 at the Hard Rock and registration is \$25 per person.

Strategic Planning From Every Angle

Strategic plans come in all shapes and sizes and can be confusing if not downright intimidating. Where does one begin? What needs to be included? How can it be successfully executed? In this preconference session, learn about the different types of strategic plans, the process, and implementation.

Topics include:

- *Planning for Results, the inside story. Learn the ins and outs of using Planning for Results to develop your strategic plan. Learn the players, make the ask, and get results.*
- *Data, Listening, and Courage: The Multiplier Effect in Library Strategic Planning. Use data, listening, and courage to create an implementation multiplier effect. The multiplier effect results when staff get on the same page around community and library usage data, hear what the community wants through listening, innovate services to deliver on their desires, and then has the courage to change the library culture and organization.*
- *Your Strategic Plan for Political and Funding Success. Explore many of the strategies and tactics used by some of the best community organizers, political action committees, and politicians to build support and learn how your library can adapt these techniques to encourage the public to take action on behalf of their local libraries.*

Speakers: Jeff Scott, Director, Washoe County Library System; Marc Futterman, President/CEO CIVICTechnologies; Patrick Sweeney, Political Director, EveryLibrary

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NLA/MPLA 2017 Conference Update

Early Literacy: In libraries, at home, and going to the dogs!

Is it ever too early for literacy? The old saying applies, “it takes a village to make a literate community.” Join us to learn about early childhood development, reading as a family affair, and how to make reading a doggone good time!

Topics include:

- *Early Childhood Development & Libraries – Connections that Matter for a Lifetime.* This presentation will explore Nevada’s early childhood population, those that provide early education and care in formal settings, and why early childhood is so critical for lifelong success. We will explore how libraries can make a difference for children by partnering with early learning providers and families. Ideas for creating partnerships to increase early literacy opportunities will be discussed.
- *Northern Nevada Literacy Council’s Family Reading Program.* Parents are often told to read to their children at home to build literacy, but are seldom shown HOW to read to children for optimum literacy-building benefit. This session describes how the Family Reading Program (FRP) has worked with parents in communities across northern Nevada to model simple reading techniques for reading with children that support their literacy development. Ideas for implementing the Family Reading Program in other communities will be discussed, along with challenges and successes experienced by FRP staff.
- *Paws 2 Read.* Each month, therapy teams visit area libraries to participate in this engaging program where friendly dogs lend a loving, non-judgmental ear to beginning readers. Research has shown that when a child is given repeated opportunity to read to a dog, the child grows more confident in their reading ability and develops a desire to read on their own.

Speakers: Marty Elquist, Department Director, The Children’s Cabinet; Amy Levy, Family Reading Program Coordinator, Northern Nevada Literacy Council; Barbara Miles, Program Coordinator, Paws 4 Love, Paws 2 Read

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NLA/MPLA 2017 Conference Update

Maker Making Makerspaces

Are you a maker? You may not think so, but we all make every day. Have you been pondering starting your own makerspace, wondering where to start, fretting over your lack of expertise? We've all been there, and it's easier than you think! Attend this interactive session for the what, where, how, and why of maker services.

Topics include:

- *Making makerspace: turning up the volume on engagement, advocacy, and innovation*
Library support of makers and making is increasingly being seen as part of the core mission for libraries of all types. Is this a brave new chapter in library practice, or a natural extension of what libraries have always done? Learn how to leverage engagement and turn up the volume on advocacy and innovation. Gain real-world insights and practical tips from this session with Dr. Tod Colegrove, an internationally recognized leader of the makerspace in libraries movement. Building from a foundation of community engagement, explore the successes, failures, and challenges faced transitioning the library into vibrant hubs of the supported community. Bring your questions and explore the art of the possible!

- *You want me to do what?!*

Come and experience hands-on with DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library's lendable technologies including Virtual Reality, Leap Motion, 3D Scanning & Printing, and more!

- *Studio 775: a place to make, take, and ideate*

Starting from the ground up, find out about the process of conceiving and implementing Maker/STEAM programs and services at the Washoe County Library System. From low-tech to mid-tech to high tech, there's a place to start for every library and every library budget. Try out the Idea and Experience Boxes. Make up your own!

Join us this fall for the NLA-MPLA Joint Conference—

Turn up
the volume!





Awards Committee Seeks Nominees

*The time has come, the walrus said, to speak of many things;
Librarians who do their best to give their patrons wings;
The Unsung Heroes behind the scenes who freely give their days,
And Innovators, with bright ideas, finding new and different ways
To bring the best experiences to patrons great and small
And of those whose years of service are a beacon to us all.*

Each year, the Mountain Plains Library Association honors librarians, authors, and community members with awards given at the MPLA joint conference. This year, awards will be presented at the MPLA/NLA "Turn Up the Volume" conference in Stateline, Nevada, on beautiful Lake Tahoe's South Shore. Now is your chance to recognize those who go above and beyond as librarians and library supporters.

Descriptions of the six awards are at <http://mpla.us/services/awards/>, as is the nomination form. It's time! Nominate those whose work deserves recognition! Nominations must be submitted before August 31, 2017, to be considered.

MPLA Leadership Institute

April 29 – May 4, 2018

YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado

Apply now!

DEADLINE: Monday, October 30, 2017

- ✓ Employed in a library organization in MPLA's 12-state region
- ✓ Current member of one of MPLA's 12 state library associations
- ✓ Minimum of 5 years in a library-related job
- ✓ Record of experience that demonstrates leadership potential
- ✓ Expected continued contribution to the profession
- ✓ A thoughtfully completed application
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation



More information at: <http://mpla.us/quick-links/leadership-institute.html>



Checking Out of the Library Administration World

By: Mike Mullin

After ending my twenty-six year tenure as Watertown's Library Director, and MPLA member for twenty-eight years, I have been looking back at the changes that have occurred in that time. The memories bring a smile, but at the time they occurred I don't think I was smiling for all of them. Let me share a few of the smiles.

What sticks in my mind about MPLA? First the people who have had an effect on my life: Ron Hazelhuhn, who told me that I should join MPLA because it was the best way to network with people in the profession. Then all the people I met at the Snowbird Leadership Institute, the forerunner of the MPLA Leadership Institute. They helped me learn where my leadership strengths and weaknesses were, the retired members and the few still active, who mentored me through the years.

What changes have I seen in MPLA? Many new faces stepping up to keep MPLA and our profession strong. One change that needs to be unchanged has to do with scheduling of conferences. It used to be the responsibility of the state representatives to make sure that their state conference did not conflict with any of the other member state conferences so there was never a state conference competing with the MPLA conference. Checking conflicts needs to happen again.

Some memorable moments come to mind. Remembering the change from MPLA "sections" to "roundtables" brings a big smile. When I suggested that we needed a "Hot Tub Roundtable" because so much networking and mentoring occurred nightly after conference programs, I thought I was going to be laughed out of the room. When Bill Gates and Tom Brokaw visited Watertown's library: I cherish a picture of Gates in the computer lab helping a little boy play a Microsoft game with the boy's mother watching in awe. A couple of car adventures come to mind. The first was when a woman left her van idling at the end of the sidewalk while returning a book. As she was leaving she saw it coming to the entry. Luckily she was able to get it stopped before it did more than break the glass in a library door. The other car adventure happened when a woman put her foot on the gas instead of the brake, jumped the curb and put the front end of her car through the brick wall by the men's restroom. The library trustee who was in the men's room at the time still laughs about his reaction.

There are always stories about why the book was late or how it was damaged. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard, "my dog ate it" or "my baby tore the pages out." My personal favorite is a woman who came to the desk with a book that was all wet and said that she needed to pay for it. When I asked what happened, she blushed and said that she was reading it when she got into the shower. It must have been a really good read!

Thank you MPLA members, for being so wonderfully supportive of each other, and for getting new librarians to join! Please continue your support; it is needed for the future.



Mike and Jan Mullin

Mike's retirement party June 30th, 2017

MPLA PRESENTS...

WHAT IS IT?

A new initiative that utilizes the zoom meeting technology to discuss topics of interest

WHO'S INVITED?

EVERYONE! It's an opportunity to build your network.

WHAT'S COVERED?

It'll be new each time!

Meet ups could be presentations that were received well at Conferences, or guest speakers on a variety of topics such as:

- Solo Librarians
- Library Directors
- Librarians serving less than 10,000 population
- Professional Development
- and more

**INAUGURAL MEETING
TO BE DETERMINED**

Want to know more about these initiatives?

Jake Rundle

Membership, Chair

E: membership@mpla.us

P: 402.461.2346



Tom Taylor, President-Elect /Vice President

Meet the Candidates

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

I am an experienced leader, event planner, trainer and public speaker. I have experience as a leader of both institutions and professional organizations. I have been fortunate to have received leadership training at MPLA's Leadership Institute, Leadership Butler and the Kansas Leadership Center. I have had the opportunity to put it into action as a library director and president of both the Wichita Area Library Association and my local Rotary club. In my previous position at the South Central Kansas Library System, I planned, organized and presented library workshops and training opportunities. I have a lot of experience with public speaking including competition, coaching and serving as Master of Ceremonies.

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

I believe that MPLA is a fantastic organization that has great opportunities for its members. I want other librarians to know about it. I'd like to increase the visibility of MPLA in our region, which I believe will increase membership. I believe in empowering people to do well. I'd like to do my part to help empower MPLA members to make our organization even better

SPREAD THE WORD

NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Authors

Published authors, including those who write for children and young adults, are eligible. Author membership includes a credit which can be used toward any advertisement or combination of advertisements in the MPLA newsletter.

Leslie Langley, President-Elect /Vice President

Meet the Candidates

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

I believe I have strong leadership skills and I enjoy working with and learning from librarians of all kinds. Having held many positions in my state organization and working closely with public, school, special and academic librarians, I feel that I have a good understanding what libraries as a whole are facing and what each respective community expects from their libraries. I have worked in a rural setting for 27 years and I know that distance collaboration and information sharing is key to growing not only libraries and service but also in building and strengthening library connections across the Mountain Plains states.

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

I believe that MPLA is a fantastic organization that has great opportunities for its members. I want other librarians to know about it. I'd like to increase the visibility of MPLA in our region, which I believe will increase membership. I believe in empowering people to do well. I'd like to do my part to help empower MPLA members to make our organization even better.



Support MPLA!
GROCERY CARD PROGRAM
KING SOOPERS/KROGERS

Buying and reloading a grocery gift card purchased through MPLA raises funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs.

MPLA will receive an amount equal to 5% of your grocery purchases. There is no additional cost to you!

<http://www.mpla.us/forms/grocery-card-program.html>

Cards Are Accepted By

- Kroger
- Fred Meyer
- Ralphs
- Fry's and Fry's marketplace
- King Soopers
- Dillons
- Smith's Food & Drug City Market
- QFC
- Food 4 Less
- Owen's
- Foodsco
- Hilander
- Pay-less Cala-Bell
- Bakers
- Jayc
- Fred Meyer jewelers
- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug

The poster features a yellow background with faint illustrations of watermelon slices. At the bottom, there is a row of blue shopping cart icons.

Kris Johnson, Recording Secretary

Meet the Candidates

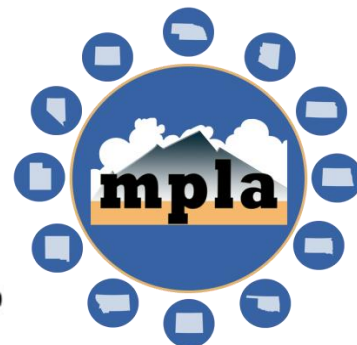
What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

I am the current recording secretary for MPLA and have volunteered to serve an additional year to extend my service, should the association be ok with that. In addition, my years spent as a parliamentarian for the Colorado Association of Libraries highlighted my eye for detail, and my personal viewpoint that the records of an association should serve not only those currently involved with the organization, but future members. Meeting minutes are a particularly important record of the events and decisions made by an organization. My attention to the important details and ability to project what future generations of MPLA members may be interested in knowing will make me a good secretary for the organization.

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

I would like to continue to help the MPLA board keep accurate records of meetings and important decisions for future generations of MPLA members. I would like to help MPLA streamline recording keeping and organization, with an eye towards better utilization of electronic record keeping for the entire MPLA organization.

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Around the Region



Celebrate History: Ghost Towns

The Sedona Public Library presented “Ghost Towns of World War II: Arizona’s Historic Military Sites,” an Arizona Humanities program. The presentation by Erik Berg, an award-winning historian and writer



with a special interest in the early 20th Century Southwest and the impact of science and technology, uses photographs and first-hand accounts to describe Arizona’s war-time role by focusing on the stories of those World War II sites in Arizona that still have significant remaining features from the war period. The presentation was offered as part of Read Around Sedona, a community reading program, which has inspired hundreds of community members to read the same book as their neighbors, friends, colleagues, and families, and join Library discussions and events.

Grants in Progress

Secretary of State Michele Reagan announced the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records will award \$800,000 in grants for various library projects. “Libraries are listening to their communities and creating programs to meet the needs of the population,” said Secretary Reagan. “In addition to their traditional services, libraries are transforming, offering...programs to educate and engage all ages through customary, digital and social means.”

Thirteen of the Arizona’s 15 counties received grant funding, made possible with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Some of the projects funded by the grant program include coding clubs and makerspaces, entrepreneurial centers, assistive technologies, STEM and STEAM programs, resources for early learners, cultural and historical projects, and many more.

Payson Book Festival

In July, Arizona Professional Writers, a statewide nonprofit communications organization, partnered with Majestic Rim Retirement, and with funding support from Arizona Humanities hosted the third annual Payson Book Festival. The festival brings together Arizona authors, educators, businesses, tourists and families to our Rim Country community to celebrate the joy of reading. This family-oriented community event is free of charge and includes Author presentations, book signings, music, workshops and Story Time sessions for children. In 2016, there were over 600 visitors in attendance.



Archival Survival

Recently AncestorCloudBlog highlighted The Colorado State Archives, which is located in the mile-high historic Denver, in an article under Helpful Hints: Archival Survival Part II. Like most archives, Colorado's has information related both to the state and to the territory that preceded it, a plus for those seeking information on territorial-era ancestors. For example, the Archives houses "territorial incorporations" records from 1861-1876 as Colorado was expanding in metal mining, transportation (railroading), and water/irrigation industries. Fellow MPLA state, New Mexico's State Records and Archives was also highlighted. The technology company Trace (formerly AncestorCloud) was started in 2014 to make family history more accessible.



<https://ancestorcloud.com/>
<http://blog.ancestorcloud.com/>

Rocky Mountain Land Library

For years, Jeff and Ann Lee, who have worked for Tattered Covered Bookstore for more than 30 years, have dreamt about creating a library that lives inside an historic space that already has a story to tell. Their dream is about to come true. For the past two years, the couple has been working to renovate Buffalo Peaks Ranch in South Park into Rocky Mountain Land Library, a non-profit that relies on volunteer work and donations. They still have years before their vision will be complete, but for now they have a few books and are holding educational programs on Saturdays. You can learn more about their project and how to help here: <http://www.landlibrary.org/>



Pop Culture: Build a Comic

The Golden Library of Jefferson County Public Library a "Build a Comic" event gave children the opportunity to learn the basics of comic creation, drawing, and writing from Pop Culture Classroom (<http://popcultureclassroom.org/>), a Denver Comic Con sponsor. Terra Necessary and Robin Childs, with Pop Culture Classroom, led an interactive hour-long class encouraging the children to brainstorm together, practice drawing techniques, and get advice about their ideas. The children were able to take all their drawings and ideas home with them to continue the creation process, and it was clear that their super heroes weren't the only things that took flight. So did their imaginations.



Build a Better World

Johnston Public Library kicked off summer reading by learning how to “Build a Better World” with professional storyteller Jo Ho, from Kansas City. Those who were present learned about how to reuse or “recycle” cardboard boxes for fun. The program was sponsored in part by the Southeast Kansas Library System.



Pop-Up Librarians

The Wichita Public Library, as part of a new outreach effort, occasionally sends “Pop-Up Librarians” to the Pop-Up Urban Park to give away books and tell urban professionals about all the resources of the library. “It’s about surprising people with what a library is,” said Stephanie Huff, spokeswoman for the Wichita library. The books, which have been donated to the Friends of the Wichita Public Library, are free for the taking--and you don’t even have to return them. Visitors are encouraged to take selfies with the librarian or their chosen book and spread the word on social media with the hashtag #PopUpLibrarian.



Community Threads

In an interesting new way, the Hays Public Library showcased its value to the community through the hosting of an event called “Community Threads.” The event allowed patrons of all ages to browse and take gently used donated clothing items. There was no limit to the number of items per person and it was all free of charge.

Community Threads

HPL Community Threads will be held in the Schmidt Gallery from 9:00-4:00pm on Saturday, July 8th. Patrons of all ages may browse donated clothing organized by our staff. All items will be available free of charge. There is no limit to the number of items one can take. Donations will be accepted for this event from May 8th to June 7th.



Talking Books Recording Studio

For thousands of Montana's visually impaired, the State Library's Talking Book library serves as a bridge to connects them with literature. The Montana State Library got its first recording studio in 1983, and it's been turning print into spoken word ever since. Recently, the Montana State Library dedicated a brand new recording studio that will make even more books available. The new, modular \$95,000 recording booth was funded entirely by donations. The first \$17,000 came from the Federation of Women's Clubs of Montana and the rest through individual donors.

More than 2,100 people use the Talking Book Library service, and currently there are about 1,100 titles available through the Talking Book service. The library said it will eventually be able to double the number of books recorded and released to the public. Karen Keninger, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress, flew into Helena to help dedicate the recording studio and said, "It's going to make a lot of difference in the lives of people in Montana who use the service and people around the whole United States."



End of Semester De-Stress

As students entered Montana State University Library during finals week, they were encouraged to place a marker on a larger board to show their stress level, rated from one to five. Upon entering, most ranked their stress level at 4 or 5, but by the time they left they indicated a 1 or 2. The reason was Oliver, a 900-pound donkey, a head-high, brown-and-white animal who loves affection. He stood still, pointed his ears and closed his eyes as students petted him, hugged him and snapped the occasional selfie by his side.

Oliver was one of several animals brought into the Library to help students de-stress by the organization Intermountain Therapy Animals. "I try to come as much as I can because it's one of the things I look forward to at the end of every semester," said Sierra Bosley, a student taking a study break. "It's great to see new dogs because they are always adding more and more to the event. Every day is filled with new dogs."



Photo credit: Rachel Leathe/Chronicle

Capow!

The Grand Island Public Library held a Chemistry and Physics on Wheels (CAPOW!) Science show. Dan Sullivan (pictured), a retired University of Nebraska at Omaha chemistry professor, demonstrated CAPOW! science with the effects of liquid nitrogen when it is poured onto the floor. The kids gathered on the floor were awed by the fog generated by the liquid nitrogen and crawled quickly to “catch” the fog. “If you show somebody something, they are likely to remember it. If you tell them something, they won’t remember it as much,” he said. “The idea is (for the kids) to have a lot of fun, maybe learn something in the process, think about the world as we know it and imagine what it could be. These little guys will do things you and I can only dream of.” Sullivan started doing his science show for the public about 50 years ago and has traveled Seattle, Disney World, Canada, and others, doing about 100 shows a year and seeing “more than a million kids all over the country.”



The Letter Writing Clinic

The Valparaiso Public Library was awarded a \$300 grant to host a pilot Letter Writing Clinic for area students. Valparaiso Public Library Director Lori Springer will introduce students grades 4 through 12 to a national writing contest, Letters About Literature, and model letter writing techniques. Students will record their thoughts and emotions as they read and later draw a conclusion about a book. That conclusion will serve as the basis for their letter. Springer said writing a letter to an author about personal thoughts and feelings presents students another way to write with limited restrictions, if any. The clinic is a four week session sometime between August and September, but students can begin the book selection process and reading over the summer. The Letter Writing Clinic grants were sponsored by Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Cultural Endowment and Nebraska Library Commission. Other grant recipients include Norfolk Catholic Elementary School, Lux Middle School in Lincoln, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library and Oshkosh Public Library.



BACK to School

Welcome Maggie!

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas announced the appointment of Mary “Maggie” Farrell as Dean of University Libraries, effective August 2017. Farrell comes to UNLV with nearly 30 years of experience. She most recently served as dean of libraries at Clemson University, overseeing a \$17 million budget with five facilities since 2015. Prior to Clemson, Farrell was dean of libraries at the University of Wyoming for 13 years, and was associate dean of libraries at Montana State University for six years before that. “To come back to UNLV is a highlight in my career,” Farrell said. “UNLV is the only research library in the region, leading in innovation and technology for library instruction and research support.” UNLV University Libraries are ranked the 15th most productive libraries for academic research in the nation, according to a new study published in the May issue of College and Research Libraries. As dean of University Libraries, Farrell will oversee a staff of 136, a budget of more than \$20 million, and five facilities – the Lied Library, Architecture Studies Library, Music Library and Teacher Development and Resources Library, and the Health Sciences Library.



Maggie was a long-time member and supporter of MPLA when she was Dean of Libraries at the University of Wyoming. It's great that she's returning to the MPLA region!

Humboldt County Library Active in Community

Barrick Turquoise Ridge Gold Mine contacted Humboldt County Library (Winnemucca, NV) when they learned that the library had a 3-D printer. The mining company wanted a small scale 3-D model of the mine and had not been able to locate a place to assist them with creating the model. Initially, the project was to create part of an ore body, representing approximately 1.1M ounces of the 6M ounces of gold ore. Engineers from the mining company collaborated with Jessica Dyk, Library Specialist, and Kyle Ebert, Library Assistant, on the project. It took four full days to complete that model. More models have been printed, some in two colors, displaying the ore in gold and tunnels in gray. Turquoise Ridge uses the models to help understand the geology of the mine which has a number of faults running through it. The library incorporates the 3-D printer into STEAM programs and has 3-D printing clubs for kids, teens, and adults.

The library, wishing to partner with different organizations within their community, created a community service section for their Summer Learning program. Activities include helping out at the Community Garden; attending a County Commission Meeting; volunteering at the museum; volunteering at the food bank; attending a Council meeting; and more. Participating in ten or more activities earns patrons additional drawing tickets for a special prize and gets them involved with their community.



State Library has a Foundation -- Donate Now!

The New Mexico State Library now has its own Foundation! All legal paperwork has been completed, a board has been created and officers have been elected. We are pleased that we can now raise funds for the State Library that can go to our own 501(c)3 organization.



NM Department of Cultural Affairs adds Wonders on Wheels to its bookmobile fleet

Wonders on Wheels (WoW) is a specially retrofitted 38-foot RV featuring 300 square feet of arts, culture, history, and science exhibits and curriculum-based programming on wheels. The WoW mobile museum will bring specific exhibits curated from one of New Mexico's eight state-run museums to public schools and libraries in communities throughout New Mexico. The curriculum is targeted toward fourth and fifth grade students.

WoW for Spring/Summer/Fall 2017 features authentic fossils from the vast, internationally renowned paleontological resources held by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (NMMNHS) in Albuquerque. From the bootheel to the plains, from the Four Corners to the Texas border, dinosaur fossils have been found all over New Mexico.



Five Albuquerque libraries now offer 'sensory friendly hour'

Five branches in the Albuquerque public library system have crafted a new "sensory friendly hour" each month to improve the browsing experience for those with autism and those who prefer a lower sensory environment. Because commotion and bright lights can at times lead to sensory overload for those with ASD, each branch's sensory friendly hour begins one hour before the regular public hours, resulting in much less noise and fewer visitors inside. The lights are also dimmed, organizers said. Special coloring sheets and other activities are also available. Oftentimes, getting out the door is a challenge for parents with a child with autism spectrum disorder, much less actually getting to and successfully enjoying an event, city officials said in a news release.



The Library has a LibGuide: <http://abqlibrary.org/SensoryFriendly>





NORTH DAKOTA

Pinterest Party!

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library hosted another Pinterest Party. The party gave teens and adults a chance to be creative and interact with one another. This time, patrons learned how to create a planter for a succulent out of a book. They carved an area in the book and planted the succulent and other decorative pieces. This event is all about having fun and trying out new ideas from Pinterest.



ALA's PR Xchange Award

The Director of the Grand Forks Public Library, Wendy Wendt, won ALA's PR Xchange Award for our 2016 Fall/Winter Annual Report! Way to go!



Building a Better World in Devils Lake

Lake Region Public Library has been offering free summer crafts every Thursday. The turnout has been great, especially for a duct tape craft and DIY Glow lanterns. Librarians have enjoyed interacting with the community this summer.



Books 'n Brews Book Club

Going strong into its second year, the Books 'n Brews Book Club meets the 1st Thursday of every other month at one of Minot's most popular craft beer hangouts, the Tap Room, to discuss a selected book. Thanks in part to the ND State Library, the Minot Public Library can order close to a dozen copies of the selected book from a large list of available titles, all of which are accompanied by a Book Club kit. Other books without kits are also chosen, based on interest (we recently did *How Star Wars Conquered the Universe* because the May club fell on May the 4th - Star Wars Day). If anyone has questions about how the club works or needs advice on setting up their own, please feel free to contact Brendan Chella, Minot's Adult Services Librarian, at 701-852-1045 or brendan.chella@minotnd.org.

Pinterest Club

In May, the Hulbert Public Library's Pinterest Club focused on celebrating moms. The club typically meets once a month except during the summers and focuses on a holiday-related craft.



In May, a number of people attended the meeting to make a one-of-a-kind button bouquet for their individual mothers. The bouquets were made out of jars, colored tissue paper, wire and buttons. Pam Davis, Hulbert Librarian, said the Pinterest group's popularity has much to do with the library's presence on social media and that "[they] almost always have a full house, [with] all of the materials provided, and if a few extra people want to show up late, we will usually have enough material for everybody."

Self Defense at the Library

The Ardmore Public Library is now offering a course in self-defense that utilizes elements of Tiger Tae-Kwon-Do. John Berry, a black belt, wanted to start a class to educate individuals, particularly women, on ways to defend themselves in the event of a threatening situation. The classes cover techniques and methods for reacting to an attack, escape plans and ways to use your body as a weapon if necessary. The class is donation-based, with Berry asking guests to donate a dollar to participate. Attendees may also donate more if they desire. Berry said 50 percent of all the proceeds will be donated to an organization that works to combat human trafficking, which is the trade of humans, usually for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery or commercial exploitation.



SD SOUTH DAKOTA

On to the Next Chapter...



Longtime MPLA member and supporter Mike Mullin of Watertown Regional Library retired June 30 after 26 years and has plans to relocate back to Colorado.

Vickie Mix, Documents Librarian, MPLA member, LI Fellow, and presenter at multiple conferences retired after 25 years with the South Dakota State University Briggs Library.



Bell Jacobsen, Interlibrary Loan/Circulation Librarian at the South Dakota State Library retired after 39 years.



Lori Wagner, Mitchell Public Library's Children's Librarian, retired after 26 years.

Build a Better World @ Faith Public/School Library

The Summer Reading program was held from May 22 - June 29. An average of twenty children ages 3 through 10 attended activities such as building cityscapes, bridges, towers with spaghetti and marshmallows, recycled creatures and bird houses from milk cartons, castles with Pringles cans, – parachutes, planes, and houses from paper bags, construction worker puppets, rock gardens and much more! The program ended with a celebration that included ice cream sundaes, prizes and awards. Thank you to our sponsors: Roberts O'Sheas American Auxiliary and Faith Booster Club! Also, to all the parents and grandparents for bringing their children to the programs and participating. The Teen and Adult Programs will continue throughout July. Stay up to date here: <https://faithlibrary.wikispaces.com/>



Library Visitors

Rapid City Transit Manager Rich Sagen snapped these photos of four law-abiding deer crossing Quincy Street at the downtown Rapid City Library. The lead buck in this quartet made sure to use the crosswalk and the others were following suit! Not sure if they had just dropped off some overdue books, got their library cards renewed, were headed to the Dahl Center to view the art exhibits or were just out for an early-morning stroll through the downtown district, but they did turn heads.



"J.C. Penney: The Man, the Store, and American Agriculture"

UW Agricultural Research and Instruction Librarian David Kruger recently saw his *J.C. Penney: The Man, the Store, and American Agriculture* published by University of Oklahoma Press. The book, released in hardback and e-book formats on May 25, 2017, currently ranks eighth on OU Press's best sellers list. In writing *J.C. Penney*, Kruger interviewed more than 50 people from 18 different states. Among those interviewed were James Cash Penney's last surviving daughter, five of his grandchildren, and two former CEOs of the JCPenney Company.

J.C. Penney: The Man, the Store, and American Agriculture is available directly through OU Press or through Amazon. Congratulations to David on a job well done!



WLA Announces Conference Speakers

The Wyoming Library Association has secured two top-notch speakers for the 2017 WLA conference August 10-11 in Sheridan.

The keynote speaker at the Thursday, August 10, kick-off luncheon, will be Stephen Hughes on "Influence: The Art & Science of Changing Minds." This exciting program draws on the latest scientific research to illustrate how you can influence others to see things your way without resorting to manipulation. You'll leave with practical ideas you can apply right away.



Garth Stein will be featured at the author luncheon on Friday, August 11. Stein writes for all ages. His newest novel is *A Sudden Light*, published by Simon and Schuster in September, 2014. He has three previous novels: *Raven Stole the Moon*, *How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets*, and *The Art of Racing in the Rain* and has authored the Enzo children's series. (Enzo, Zoë, and Denny are actually characters from *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.)



Congratulations Ruth!

The Albany County Public Library's new Director, Ruth Troyanek, started on one path in life, then found her heart called her to librarianship. "I was encouraged by my parents to become a scientist or doctor," she said. "I earned a biology degree at Iowa State University in Ames. During college, I worked in a lab and realized I wanted a job working more closely with people."

Troyanek is involved with the wider library community. She's given several well-attended talks at Wyoming Library Association conferences, and has made it a point to attend national conferences. When she travels, she visits libraries to meet other librarians and learn new ideas.

"This is a very hopeful time for ACPL's patrons, supporters, and staff," she said.

"Recently, we opened the High Plains Seed Library, and we've made great progress with our re-labeling project to make locating books easier for patrons. We plan to overhaul our web site and acquire a mobile hotspot so we can do library card sign-ups and book checkouts outside of our buildings. Looking forward, we plan to set and meet larger goals for our community."





Utah Librarian of the Year

Safi S. M. Safiullah, manager of the Salt Lake City Public Library's Marmalade Branch, was named Librarian of the Year by the Utah Library Association. Safiullah was recognized for his career in community engagement and lifelong support of libraries and education around the world.

Born in rural Bangladesh, Safiullah had a love for community engagement deeply ingrained in him from a very young age. He joined the University of Benghazi in Libya on a cultural exchange scholarship, and received an undergraduate degree in history. In presenting the award, Tommy Hamby (also pictured), the library's adult services coordinator, said, "I was touched — but not surprised — to learn that Safi is converting his childhood home in Bangladesh into a library to provide resources and increase literacy among children who attend the school he founded with a few friends in 1976."

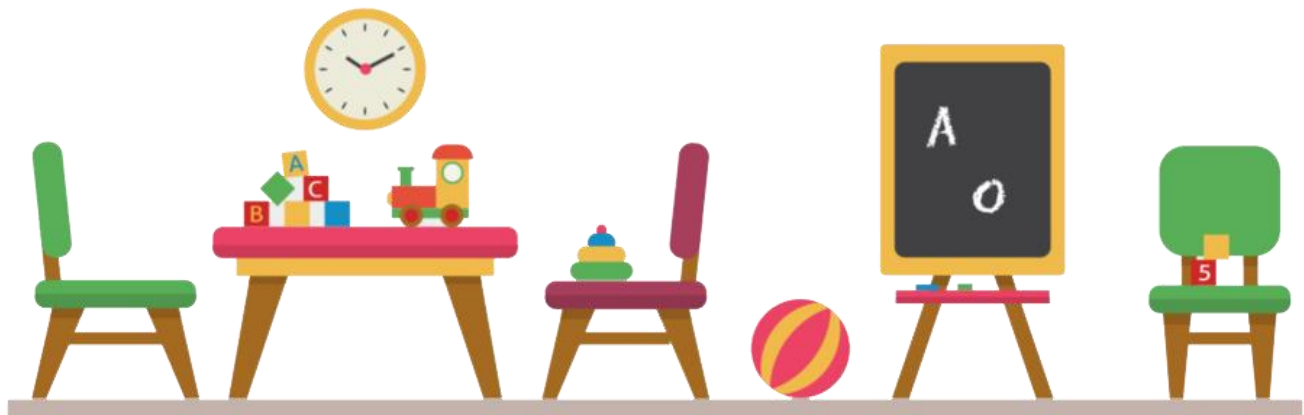


Welcome Sam!



I became involved with MPLA when asked by the current Utah Library Association's president to complete the term of the Utah State Rep, Robert Schupe, who was no longer able to serve. I'm a mid-career rural Librarian. For the past ten years I've been the director of Uintah County Library in Vernal, Utah. I'm excited to work with MPLA especially in the areas of helping to mentor people who are new in the profession. As a public librarian I view Librarianship as a mix of information access, front line social services, and supporting community organizers.

This picture (above) is from the day over three hundred members of our community formed a human chain to move books from the old library into our new library. I like to roll up my sleeves and work shoulder-to-shoulder with community members to turn hopes and wishes into community realities. I look forward to learning from the members and leaders of MPLA and helping craft a vision to ensure MPLA meets the needs of Librarians for years to come.





Welcome, New Members!

**Sara Aden**

IS Manager
North Platte Public Library
North Platte NE

Hailey Carrell

OU SLIS Student
University of Oklahoma; Pioneer
Library System Moore Public Library
Oklahoma City OK

Nelson Dent

Information Services Librarian
Pioneer Library System Norman
Library West
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Karen Grondin

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Jackie Hawes

Director
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Mandan ND

Lisa Henry

Julian P. Kanter Political
Commercial Archive
Norman OK

Meaghan Hunt-Wilson

Metro Library System
Oklahoma City OK

Sam Johnson

Reference Librarian
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Oklahoma City OK

Robert Kelly

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Hutchinson Community College
John F. Kennedy Library
Hutchinson KS

Kristine Kutay

Children's Librarian
Guthrie Public Library
Guthrie OK

Kate Mutch

Public Services Administrator
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Michelle Olsen

Library Director
Richfield Public Library
Richfield UT

Sam Passey

Director
Uintah County Library

Rachel M. Rawn

Library Director
Havre-Hill County Library
Havre MT

Lisa Scroggins

Director
Natrona County Public Library
Casper WY

Tom Steele

University of Oklahoma
Norman OK

Gina Suson

Library Director
Walters Public Library
Walters OK

Elizabeth Szkirpan

Tulsa Community College Library
Tulsa OK

Nancy Jean Venable

Extension and Volunteer
Services Manager
Campbell County Public Library
Gillette WY

Lynn Wallace

Oklahoma State University-Tulsa
Tulsa OK

Colorado State Library

Eugene Hainer, Director
Denver CO



2017 Calendar

Wyoming Library Association Conference

August 10-11; Sheridan, WY

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

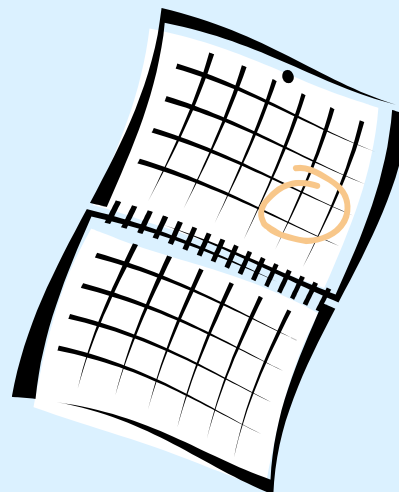
October 16-18; South Lake Tahoe, NV

Kansas Library Association Conference

October 24-27; Wichita, KS

New Mexico Association Conference

November 1-3; Albuquerque, NM



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Grants are awarded to support the following:

- Formal course work leading to an advanced degree in library science or a related discipline.
- Formal course work not leading to an advanced degree but directly related to an individual's library position.
- Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference, including the MPLA annual conference.
- Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures.
- Library related research projects.

DEADLINE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS September 27 November 29

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<http://mpla.us/quick-links/grants.html>



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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

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www.mpla.us/personnel/executiveboard.html

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www.mpla.us/membership/index.html

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www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grantslinks.html

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

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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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- May 1
- July 1
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Non-members are charged \$1.25/line. Display advertisement copy rates are available from editor@mpla.us.

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