



# Mountain Plains Library Association

*Big Horizons Close Community*

# Newsletter

December 2017—January 2018

[www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us)

Volume 62, Number 6

## Message from the President



“An association unlike any I’ve known.” “Library family.” “A warm neighborly community that just happens to spread across a very large area.” These are some of the ways in which MPLA presidents have described the association in recent years, and I echo all of them. I’m honored to have been invited to step in and fill a unique vacancy created when our Vice-President/President-Elect Melissa Clark accepted a position out of the region and became ineligible to accept the gavels in Stateline NV. Texas becomes richer by getting Melissa, but MPLA is all the poorer to miss out on her leadership. Past-President Mickey Coalwell and the Board have entrusted me with this role and I will serve to the best of my ability.

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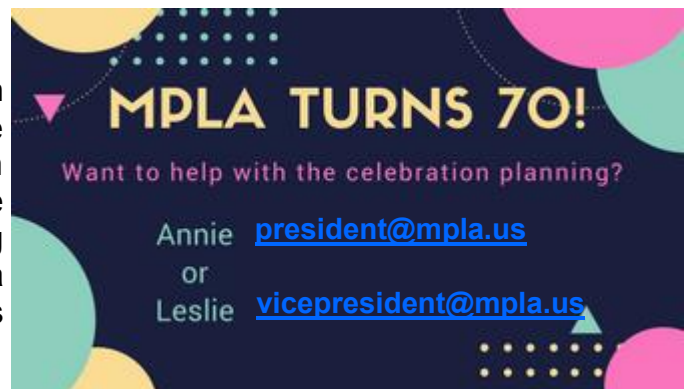
Welcome New Members

MPLA Board and Staff

MPLA Quick Links

### I come into the year with a very simple agenda:

1. Continue the good work begun by leadership in the past two years and implement the values-based Action Plan that you’ll find below. I’m excited to be a part of this energizing path forward.
2. Get ready for a celebration! MPLA’s 70th birthday celebration will be a focal point of the joint conference with Kansas Library Association in Wichita. Vice-President/President-Elect Leslie Langlely, as Chair of Conference Planning Committee is motivated to make this a memorable conference. Watch for specifics about the fun.



I look forward to working with membership through the year and am excited to see what the year will bring to the MPLA region, with its Big Horizons and Close Community. Aren’t we lucky to be here?

Best regards,  
Annie Epperson

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

# NLA / MPLA Conference, Stateline (Lake Tahoe), Nevada



This year's conference featured great keynote speakers, a range of vendors, and engaging sessions. Best of all, the conference was an opportunity for friends and colleagues from across the association to meet, collaborate, and expand their professional networks.



Clockwise from top: Past President Coalwell passing the gavels on to President Epperson; Sharron Osenga, Dale Savage, Brenda Hemmelman, Mary Ann Thompson reconnecting next door at 19 Kitchen Bar; Jake Rundle exploring Virtual Reality; the outgoing 2016-2017 MPLA Executive Board; Keynote Greg Harris, President and CEO of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, OH ; Keynote Dale Dougherty, founder and CEO of Make Media and publisher of Make Magazine; MPLA members John Crockett and Max Conelly conference behind the scenes extraordinaires.

# MPLA President's Suite Reception

Leadership Institute Alumni - New Members - Hot Tub Roundtable



Clockwise from top: Judy Zelenski's rubber ducky collection; Tim Miller and President Annie Epperson; MPLA collaborating and connecting (2 photos); 2017 Rocking Rubber Duckies; Past President Mickey Coalwell, President Annie Epperson, and (significant others) Patty Woods, and Jerry Hudson.

## 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.

# Can you hear me now?

MPLA is seeking YOU to help guide the organization into the future through joining the Communications Team!

You'd assist in developing policy and uses, and in some cases content and procedures, for the four major communications tools used by MPLA: MemberClicks, the newsletter, the website, and social media.

Want to take a leap further into MPLA?

Annie

[president@mpla.us](mailto:president@mpla.us)

or

Leslie

[vicepresident@mpla.us](mailto:vicepresident@mpla.us)



# 2017 Award Winners



**MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award:** To be given to an MPLA member who has consistently worked behind the scenes to create, administer, or support a library-related organization or project and who has not previously been recognized to the degree their work merits.

*At his death at age 52, Dan Chaney was Associate Professor and Social Sciences Librarian at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He had been an MPLA member for over 20 years. He served as MPLA Webmaster, unofficial photographer and social media contact, and received the Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award in 2009 for his service to MPLA. Witty, profane, probingly intelligent, creative, irascible, and deeply caring, Dan was beloved by his students and his colleagues.*

**In 2017, MPLA's Unsung Hero Award was renamed the MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award, and a \$100 stipend was added in Dan's honor.**

Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award was awarded to Mary Ann Thompson, retired Hayes (Kansas) librarian. Pictured here with Past President Mickey Coalwell.

The **MPLA Innovator Award** recognizes an up-and-coming individual or group in the MPLA region for a creative, inventive, trail-blazing project that has significance to the library community. In honor of Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library's 100th Year anniversary, a committee was formed to create and organize Bismarck's first Comic Con event, which was so successful that over 1200 people took part in the experience.



left-to-right: Nicole Ortega, Matt Hovland, Laura Rysavy, Traci Juhala, Lexie Smith, Troy Hamre, Becky Needham (in front)



Laura Rysavy accepting the award

# 2017 Award Winners



Deputy Secretary Delello received the **Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award** for his innovative accomplishments and staunch library advocacy while serving as Interim State Librarian during 2014 -2015 and his continued work with libraries state-wide as the Deputy Cabinet Secretary.

“I am so deeply honored to be receiving this award,” Delello said. “Libraries are more than just book repositories. They serve as quasi social service agencies assisting patrons with e-government service, digital literacy, and resume development just to name a few.” “I have rarely encountered public servants as dedicated to their communities as public and tribal librarians. I humbly dedicate this award to Wanda Walters and Kristina “Krisie” Carter, staff at the Clovis Library, Clovis, NM, who lost their lives while serving patrons in a tragic shooting this past August.” --- Michael Delello



The **MPLA Literary Contribution Award** is given to an author whose published writings have successfully furthered an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region. David Quammen is the author of more than fifteen books, both fiction and nonfiction. He was nominated for his most recent book, *Yellowstone: A Journey Through America’s Wild Heart*.

“I’m gratified, honored, and grateful to receive this award from the MPLA. Your recognition of *Yellowstone: A Journey through America’s Wild Heart* goes far toward confirming the belief that impelled me in writing it: *That we who love books, who create books (and in this I include photographers as well as writers, such as the great ones from National Geographic*

*Magazine whose images share space with my text in Yellowstone), who curate and care for books and help get them into the hands of others—we’re not solitary individuals, working alone. We’re allies.*” -- David Quammen

# 2017 Award Winners



The **MPLA Distinguished Service Award** is to be given to an MPLA member who has made notable contributions to the library profession, furthered significant development of libraries in the Mountain Plains region, or performed exemplary service for an extended period of time.

This year, because two candidates were both so outstanding and had contributed so widely and with such service over many years, the Awards Committee and the MPLA Board decided to award two Distinguished Service awards. Sharon Osenga and Mike Mullin.

Sharon Osenga, retired Central Plains (Hastings, Nebraska) Library System Director, who was nominated for the award by the late Dan Chaney in 2016, as well as by Judy Zelenski and Mickey Coalwell.

Mike Mullin, retired Watertown (S.D.) Regional Library Director, who guided the library through its first automation system years ago and through a major reconstruction and remodel in 2007.



“To my MPLA Friends and Colleagues: Thank you. I feel doubly honored, since you have chosen for the first time I can remember in 27 years to recognize two people, myself and my friend Sharon. I am sorry that I cannot be there with you. This is the second time in all the years I have been a member that I have not been at the MPLA joint conference. Hopefully next year. To the new librarians in the room, if you’re not a member of MPLA, I would encourage you to become one. Through my career, I have found the connections I have through MPLA to be a wonderful help to me. There was always someone I could call when I had a question and the learning I have gained through all of the conferences I have attended (quite often sitting in a hot tub) has been invaluable. Again, thank you!” -- Mike Mullin

# My First MPLA Conference

*Rachel Rawn, Montana State Representative*



As the new Montana delegate for MPLA, the NLA/MPLA 2017 conference was my first experience with an MPLA conference. I've spent the months since being elected silently attending our board meetings online, with no idea what I was supposed to be doing. Now I still have no idea what I am supposed to be doing, but I've met some great people!

On Monday, I attended my first in-person MPLA board meeting, which I found by stalking some familiar-looking people in the Hard Rock Hotel lobby (these people turned out to be MPLA board members, but if they hadn't been I might have become a roadie), and then hitching a ride to the gorgeous Zephyr Cove Library. The Zephyr Cove Library is located in a state park, where I saw a gathering of groundhogs (also see: a madness of marmots). I now firmly believe all libraries should have readily available wildlife to sing with and to help with mundane tasks, à la Snow White.

My first MPLA board meeting was casual and enlightening. Each state representative gave an update about what's going on in their state, and we discussed what each MPLA state has in common (we're all broke!) and how some differ (Nebraska has a nonpartisan legislature! Oklahoma actually *makes* money with their annual conference!). I also found out that the MPLA board secretly wants to be a motorcycle gang. We were all given bandanas to wear throughout the conference. If an unsuspecting conference attendee inquired about the bandanas, we were to immediately give the secret signal to call other MPLA board members to our aid in kidnapping the curious individual away to a secluded room or closet where the sacred MPLA initiation rites would be performed immediately. This may sound extreme, but it's really the only unfailing recruitment method for membership these days. Unfortunately, nobody asked me about my bandana, so I did not get to see this plan in action.

Monday evening was extremely memorable, because after eating dinner with (now) Past President Mickey Coalwell, Past Past President Eric Stroshane, and Awards Committee Chair Ellen Fockler, we were walking out of the restaurant and Mickey keeled over. I wasn't sure if he was just being dramatic about becoming Past President the following morning, or if this was an elaborate hazing ritual, but I did find out that Mickey's wife, Patty, is a great person to have around in a crisis. She was extremely brave and calm throughout the ordeal, as we waited for the paramedics and then as we watched Mickey being poked and prodded by them. When the paramedics were done with him Mickey was still very gray, and I watched Patty walk him off to their room, wondering how intense the succession process is for the MPLA presidency. Did incoming President Annie Epperson have to dispose of Mickey before she could take over? But Mickey looked healthy at the meeting Tuesday morning, and he handed the gavel over to Annie without a fight to the death, so I guess not.

The rest of the conference was much less dramatic. I attended sessions, keynotes, and more MPLA board meetings. I continued to meet fantastic people, learned more than I'll probably actually use, and ate some really good sushi at Kalani's. Even though I still have no idea what I'm doing, I am thrilled to be working with such a great group of people. See you next year, in Witchita!





# #NotablesandQuotables



## [Librarian Jake @itsjakersagain](#)

Rock and roll hall of fame takeaway: slay the sacred cows. [#nlampla17](#)

## [Patricia Newman @PatriciaNewman](#)

Hands-on nonfiction activities for your MakerSpaces, + new & noteworthy NF. 5:15. A-2. See you there!  
[#nlampla17](#)

## [Stephen Sweeney @stephensweeney](#)

You have to go 'inside the music.' Tell your story and be prepared to evangelize your cause, libraries or Hall of Fame. [#nlampla17](#)

## [Eric Stroshane @ericstroshane](#)

Tweeted by an act of ventriloquism! [#nlampla2017](#)

## [Mary Soucie @leftylibrarian](#)

Makers: creative, innovative, caring. How can I impact individual, community, culture with makerspace?  
[#NLAMPLA17](#) [#NDLibraries](#) [#ndlibchat](#)

## [cindyimooore @cindyimooore](#)

[#nlampla17](#) using design thinking methods to help staff innovate innovation and creativity will follow with the incomparable Kris Johnson

## [Brenda Hemmelman @bhemmelman](#)

Shout out to the Nevada senator who has attended the entire Nevada Library Association conference!  
[#nlampla17](#)

## [Holly McPherson @hollymcfallon](#)

Virtual reality is the hot topic at [#nlampla17](#). If you live in Reno, you have to go to the [@unevadareno](#) @Reality in the Knowledge Center!

## [Mary Soucie @leftylibrarian](#)

Maker mindset: resourceful, playful, resilient. [#NLAMPLA17](#) [#NDLibraries](#) [#ndlibchat](#) [@NDStateLibrary](#) [@NDDPI](#)

## [Jeff Scott @jdscott50](#)

It is standing room only for our keynote speaker [@dalepd](#) talking about Maker Services for [#nlampla17](#)

## [Jake Rundle](#) is at [Lake Tahoe](#).

I promised that I'd take a dip in the lake while I was here. The water temp was a chilly 30something degrees. Making a splash at  
[#nlampla17](#) [#laketahoe](#)



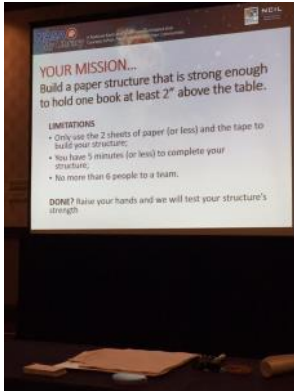


# #NotablesandQuotables



[Annie Epperson](#) added [5 new photos](#).

Last week at [#NLAMPLA17](#) [Elena](#) presented (with a fellow from StarNET) and had the audience play with this engineering concept. Me and my partner were successful, and so were many others in the room, including [Mary](#) and [Robin](#). Much fun, and such a good learning opportunity. Thanks Elena!



## Presenters

Elena Rosenfeld, Associate Director of Community Engagement

Brooks Mitchell Education Coordinator, National Center for Interactive Learning Space Science Institute  
Boulder, Colorado

- A SlideShare link to the PPT slides [can be found here](#)
- The STEM Activity Clearinghouse, which features ~150 STEM activities specifically for a library setting, [can be found here](#)
- A link to register for our upcoming webinars, including “Hands-on Fun with STAR Net” (Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>) and “Social Media Tips from NASA” (Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>) [can be found here](#). You can find archived webinars here as well.
- A list of upcoming STEM events that could tie into your library’s programming [can be found here](#)
- [STAR Net](#) is full of other useful, free resources specifically for libraries; make sure to explore!

# MPLA Leadership Institute

April 29 – May 4, 2018

YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado

## Meet the 2018 Leadership Mentors

*Aubrey Madler, Leadership Institute Coordinator*



### **Theresa Jehlik**

*Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager  
Omaha Public Library  
Omaha, NE*

Theresa Jehlik has worked in libraries since 1977. She is currently the Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager for the Omaha Public Library (OPL). Hired in 1983, Theresa's OPL experience includes Reference Librarian at the Information Desk and in the Business/Science/Technology Department (Main Library), Millard Branch Assistant Manager, Training Coordinator (OPL System), Staff Development Manager (OPL System), and Benson Branch Manager. Earlier library jobs were at Creighton University's Reinert/Alumni Library, the Biggar Public Library (Saskatchewan, Canada), and Handel School Library (Saskatchewan,

Canada). Theresa has a B.A. in Psychology from Creighton University and a M.A. in Library and Information Science from the University of Iowa.

### **Kris Johnson**

*Head of Learning and Research Services Dept.  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT*

I enjoy helping librarians and library workers learn and grow so they can provide top-notch customer service and help their organizations achieve excellence. An experienced academic librarian by trade (information literacy, instruction, and reference), I transitioned into consultation and project management in my position at the Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education. I've moved back to higher education and couldn't be happier. Leading a team of fifteen individuals allows me to stretch my management and leadership muscle, focusing on individual growth, team-building, and collaboration.



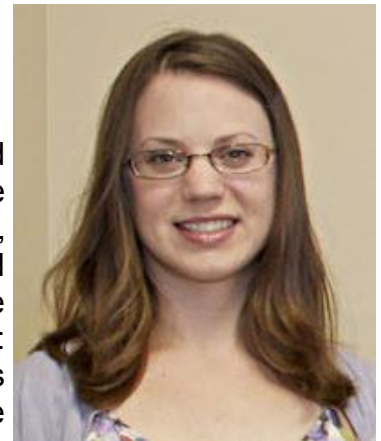


**Mike Mullin**  
*Library Director (retired)*  
*Watertown Regional Library*  
*Watertown, SD*

Mike's first library job was in seventh and eighth grades; his last position was library director of the Watertown Regional Library for 26 years. In between, he served as an Army officer, holding various positions, and as a sales representative for Frito-Lay. Mike has served on the MPLA Board multiple times, served as President of SDLA, and served as the chair of many organizations in the communities where he has lived, ranging from the recycling committee chair for Watertown, to Assistant Scout Master and later as committee chair of the BSA Troop. He and his wife are active members of their church, working with couples preparing for marriage for

the last forty years while also being Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers and on parish boards. Mike enjoys gardening, yoga, computer games and (go figure) reading.

**Aubrey Madler**  
*Assistant Director*  
*Mayville State University*  
*Mayville, ND*



Aubrey, a Montana native, has worked in North Dakota's special and academic libraries for 17 years. She is most recently at Mayville State University's Byrnes-Quanbeck library as their Assistant Director, Coordinator of Technical Services, and Instructor of Library Media and Information Science. She has leadership and mentorship experience through her work in the North Dakota Library Association, iLead USA: North Dakota, Toastmasters International, and the Bremer Rural Libraries and Literacy Leadership Institute. She has also served MPLA as the Leadership Institute Coordinator since 2013 and attended PNLA's Leadership Institute in 2010. Her leadership strengths include listening, facilitating, moderating, discovering innovative solutions, and helping others excel in their roles. In her spare time, Aubrey is pursuing her Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning, enjoys walking with her senior citizen dog, gardening, and visiting national parks with her husband.



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

# 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

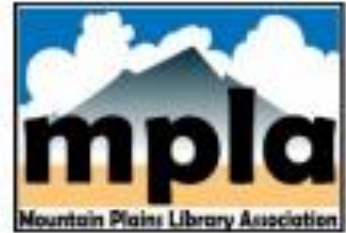
**INAUGURAL MEETING TO BE DETERMINED**

**Want to know more?**

Jake Rundle Membership, Chair

E: [membership@mpla.us](mailto:membership@mpla.us) P: 402.461.2346

# Guiding Principles



## 1. Pursue outreach opportunities

- Foster relationships
- Increase professional sharing
- Include diverse communities



## 2. Encourage caring, respectful relationships

- Mentoring
- Networking
- Collaborations
- Learning



## 3. Realize our potential

- Leadership development
- Professional growth opportunities
- Engagement with library community

Source: Agreement icon made by Grigor Chislar; Telescope icon made by Freepik; Network icon made by ModestiyDiver from www.flaticon.com

[www.MPLA.us](http://www.MPLA.us)

# Around the Region



## ARIZONA

### Artist's Corner

The Cottonwood Public Library holds a monthly informal live-art demonstration called Artist's Corner. Its purpose is to inspire patrons to create their own art while also promoting and supporting the wealth of talented local artists in the Verde Valley area. In October, artist Sunshower Rose demonstrated a technique she calls "Collaborative Art WORKS!", which is a completely digital method that involves combining one piece of art with another to create a third, completely new piece of art. Ms. Rose has been a professional artist for 40 years and has resided in Sedona since 1987. The art created by Sunshower Rose has been incorporated within over 300 collaborative works since August, 2016. These collaborative pieces may be viewed at [www.collaborativeartworks.com](http://www.collaborativeartworks.com).

### See the Stars Meet and Greet



Safford City-Graham County Public Library held a Meet and Greet event for the jewel of Gila Valley, Discovery Park. Paul Anger, the director of the Eastern Arizona College Discovery Park Campus, talked about the full-access tours available at the Mt. Graham International Observatory, The SkySpotter program, and the ARGOS laser project. Those who attended the event also viewed activities of the Eastern Arizona Science Initiative, which has been providing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning opportunities for area students for 10 years. They also

learned about the new Rural Activation Innovation Network (RAIN) Project, which will bring STEM to all Gila Valley communities over the next five years.

### PVPL's Everyone Improv

In October, the Prescott Valley Public Library started an ongoing improv program called PVPL's Everyone Improv, open to anyone in the community. Improv theater/comedy is the art of creating characters, stories, and scenes out of thin air by drawing on a set of skills that anyone can learn. Good improv is all about living in the moment, accepting what's given, and supporting your team. The library partnered with Bliss Streetman, an experienced improvisation actor, who taught the attendees the ins-and-outs of improvisation by utilizing games, practice, silliness, acceptance, and bravery. Most of the attendees did not have previous theater experience and let staff members know that they joined the program to step out of their comfort zone.

### Welcome, Cherise!



Cherise Mead  
Librarian III  
Mesa Public Library

My desire to serve as AzLA's Mountain Plains Library Association Division Representative stems from my core belief in the importance of professional development. By networking and sharing our experiences across city, county, and state lines, we benefit from a diversity of perspectives and savvy. Plus, it's a blast getting to meet other librarians!

# CO COLORADO

## Loveland Author Showcase

The Loveland Public Library held its third annual Loveland Author Showcase. The event is an opportunity to highlight local authors through workshops and a book signing. This year, book lovers had a chance to meet and talk with 50 local authors. Adult Services Librarian Caroline Hilligoss said that patrons often come to see a particular author, but because they're interested in books, many seem to enjoy walking through the whole gallery and chatting with different authors.



## Colorado Sewing Rebellion

The Boulder Public Library is the host to the Colorado Sewing Rebellion, a community-based group for people of all ages and skill levels, designed to “arm people with skills” about sewing. The Colorado Sewing Rebellion is based out of the Building 61 Maker Space in the Boulder Public Library and usually meets once a month. In October, the group ran a series of Halloween-themed events for people interested in making their own costumes.



# KS KANSAS

## Unique Collection: Ukuleles



Summit Lakes Middle School Library offers a unique collection of ukeleles for its students. School library media specialist Christie Brown said,

that the ukelele club began a few years ago. At about the same time, she read an article about a school library that checked out ukeleles and decided to try it. The middle school library currently has five Waterman ukuleles, which were donated by the KALA Band Music Company. The students have named the ukeleles for literary characters: Ponyboy from “The Outsiders” by S. E. Hinton, Harry from the “Harry Potter” series by J. K. Rowling, Percy from the “Percy Jackson” series by Rick Riordan, Katniss from the “Hunger Games” series by Suzanne Collins, and Tobias from the “Divergent” series by Veronica Roth.

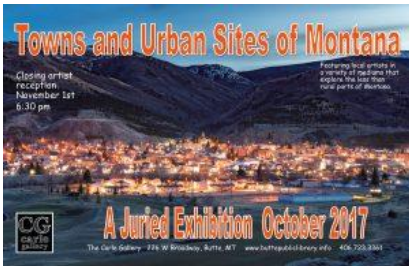
## Seek and You Will Find

The Hays Public Library is doing more than ever to put books directly in the hands of young adults. Librarians are visiting middle school classrooms to do book talks and bringing the YA collection to them. This provides teens with the opportunity to check out the books on the spot! In the first day of this new venture, over 100 books were checked out to 6th graders. In a collaborative effort, public library books are also available for checkout at displays in the high school. Librarians hope to put similar displays in the local middle school soon.





### Snapshots: Towns and Urban Sights of Montana



The curated exhibit, *Towns and Urban Sights of Montana*, was on display in The Carle Gallery located in the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library in historic

uptown Butte, Montana. The exhibit featured local artists as they explored the less than rural parts of Montana. In a variety of mediums, these artists brought alive the everyday street scene, the forgotten house, and the mundane of our everyday landscape. The Carle Gallery was established by the library as a tribute to artist John Carle, whose murals and paintings depict Butte, its historic buildings, and inhabitants. The gallery seeks to continue to honor and support local artists by providing an opportunity for them to present their work professionally and to begin a dialogue with the community about their art, as well as hosting exhibits by artists from outside of Butte.

### Understanding Confederate Monuments

The Billings Public Library recently held a panel discussion *Confederate Monuments: From the National to the Local*, during which four local history professors talked about the historical context and meaning of America's monuments to the Confederacy. The panel included Montana State University Billings history professors Emily Arendt and Joseph Bryan, and Rocky Mountain College history professors Tim Lehman and Jenifer Parks. The discussion revolved around the purpose of monuments, the significance of their location, and the intentions behind the monuments. A historian's task is to equip the populus with the correct kind of information to allow them to make informed decisions about the fate of the monuments themselves.

**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



## A Volunteer's Heart and Soul

Friends of the Columbus Public Library's Melodee Pedersen recently received the Meritorious Service Award from the Nebraska Library Association. Pedersen helped found the Friends of the Columbus Public Library and focused most of her attention on the annual book sales. With her guidance, the average yearly proceeds grew from about \$2,500 to about \$6,500. "All of the books in the sale are donated to us," Pedersen said. "I don't know what the volume of donations were before I got here, but lately there have been lots of donations. We even had to open up a second room to store all the books. So Now there are two sales per year. Nominator Jeanette Jackson, a member of the Friends of the Columbus Library commented, "Melodee has just put so much time, energy, heart and soul into this library,. She has had such a positive impact and has been so supportive of the boards and foundations she's participated in." Pedersen calls the library a hidden treasure, a place where she's willing to help wherever she's needed. "There is a wide gamut of what the library has to offer," she said. "What drives me to do this is how great the organization is and how it benefits all the citizens of Columbus. I personally believe the library can really impact people from all walks of life."



## Dive into the Treasure Trove



The Lexington Public Library is getting the jump on *Give Big Lexington*, which is a one-day online giving event hosted by the Lexington Community Foundation, making it easier for organizations and non-profits to fundraise and donors a way to give to a variety of organizations. "The Treasure Trove" is an event where the library sells gently used, donated items. Edna Schultz, a member of the Friends of the Library, indicated that they wanted to raise money for new meeting room tables, since the old ones are at least twelve years old and have seen a lot of use. The Treasure Trove of donated items includes cook books. In the last six years, Give Big Lexington has distributed \$2.6 million to over 100 organizations. For more information visit the site, <https://givebiglexington.razoo.com>, or go to the Lexington Community Foundation.



### Live Music Monday

Mineral County Library presents performers from the Pioneer Center Youth Programs, the educational outreach arm of the well-known Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. This talented trio, the Erika Paul Trio, takes audiences through an interactive performance of instrumental and vocal jazz styles. The trio includes pianist and singer/songwriter Erika Paul, David Aller on electro-acoustic upright bass, and Dave Riegert on drums and percussion. Mineral County Library presents these special performers as part of its Community Enrichment Grant (CEG) which enables libraries to connect with their communities through events that support learning. These CEG activities are made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records.



### Nevada Librarian of the Year



Sena Lloyd (pictured) said, "It was an honor to be named Nevada Librarian of the Year at the NLA/MPLA Conference! Thank you @everyone (family, friends, library family, Carson City, etc!) for contributing to the success! Without you all I wouldn't be where I am today! Thank you, Friends of the Carson City Library for the nomination!"



Ryan Buller  
Professional Development, Chair  
E: [prof\\_development@mpla.us](mailto:prof_development@mpla.us)

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

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

GRANTS ARE AWARDED TO SUPPORT:

- 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.



# NEW MEXICO

## Foundation Anniversary

This year marks the New Mexico Library Foundation's 25th anniversary! Since 1992, NMLF has awarded meaningful grants to support library programs across New Mexico. The anniversary was celebrated by a festival during the New Mexico Library Association Annual Conference featuring a Silent Auction, hors d'oeuvres, and a free drink for the first 100 people.



The New Mexico Library Foundation is a New Mexico 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. It supports libraries in New Mexico by allocating funds to libraries of all types and to non-profit organizations that directly benefit libraries. Past projects have supported ideas such as book fairs, summer reading activities, and bilingual projects. The NMLF gives grants to libraries to build and maintain their collections, update information access technology, and enhance library programs.

## New Mexico assessment works on follow-up solutions



Following November 2016's Libraries Transform New Mexico Statewide Conference, a steering committee was formed to address the "Next Step" recommendations generated at the conference.

From those recommendations, three primary areas of concerns were identified and three Task Forces created to explore, research and report on those areas. The three Task Forces were focused on Public Funding, Broadband and E-Rate, and Alternative Sources of Funding. A follow-up conference met on October 17th. Recorded webinar (3 really good hours) of the LTNM Follow-up Conference and links to the reports from the task forces is available:

<https://sites.google.com/site/librariestransformnm/ltnm-next-steps-conference>

## Christmas Cheer

The Española Public Library held a Lowrider & Classic Car Toy Drive in support of the library's annual *Operation Christmas Cheer*. Local lowriders and classic cars gathered to support the event that provides approximately 250-300 toys each year to children 2-12 years of age and families who are less fortunate and are unable to provide gifts for their children. An addition this year was the coordination with Joan & Arthur Medina, and Low Low's Lowrider Art Place. Lowriders who wanted to show their cars were asked to donate two toys to the event, and there were over 50 lowriders, food, and music. The Lowrider & Classic Car Toy Drive brought in a total of 140 toys for Operation Christmas Cheer.





# NORTH DAKOTA

## Empty Bowl

The Grand Forks Public Library sponsored an "Empty Bowl" bowl painting for the hungry, and it was awesome! St. Joseph's Church of Grand Forks brought all the supplies including paint and bowls, and each participant paints their own bowl to donate to the cause of "Filling Empty Bowls." Each bowl is then taken off to be dried and fired and will later be sold at the annual "Empty Bowl" auction in November. The Grand Forks Public Library has participated in this activity for many years now and it has grown to be a major draw. This year, 184 people stopped by to paint and provide their imagination for this wonderful cause.

## Unique Collection: Tool Library



The Minot Public Library is working to get their Tool Library set up before Thanksgiving. The library has been working with Vista Volunteers to get donations and grants to purchase or acquire tools for the library. Tools will be cataloged and hopefully patrons will be able to check out materials from this library soon.



# OKLAHOMA

## Reading RoundUp

The Miami Public Library was one of only five libraries to host the Reading Round Up (Double R) Author Tour featuring Cynthea Liu and her award-winning book "Bike On, Bear!," which received the 2016 Oklahoma Book Award in the Children's Category. The author tour is an book-signing tour brought to several public libraries and schools across Oklahoma. It promotes reading and discussion of the books. During the tour, students and library patrons are able to meet with award-winning authors, hear about writing techniques, learn behind-the-scene stories, and talk about books in the genre. The authors are on hand to answer questions and sign books after the presentations. The Double R Author Tour is held in conjunction with a \$40,000 grant from the Reading Trust, received by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. The grant is being used to purchase books by Oklahoma Book Award winners or finalists in the children/young adult category. These books will be placed in all 219 public libraries across the state. <http://doubler.oklibraries.org/>



## Expansion Success!



Capitol Hill Library of the Metropolitan Library System recently completed a renovation that added 9400 square feet, a large meeting room, 4 private study rooms, a children's area, a teen area, and new computers. With the new space, now totalling 17,000 square feet, the library is able to serve a diverse group of residents of various ages, races and ethnic groups. Capitol Hill is now the home of the system's largest collection of Spanish-language books and resources, including nearly 3,000 Spanish-language books, representing one-third of the entire system's foreign language collection. Capitol Hill is also home to 15 Spanish-language audiobooks, 29 CDs and 39 DVDs.

# SD SOUTH DAKOTA

## K.O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library Opens



Monday, September 18 was opening day for the new 29,400-square-foot K.O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library. The new library features separate spaces for youth, adult and children's books. It also has a genealogy space for historic information, meeting rooms and small group rooms, several computers and The A Place. The A Place is a special section dedicated to helping English as a second language newcomers to Aberdeen, SD.



## Zombie Walk and Murder at the Ball



The Huron Public Library held two programs for the children and youth of Huron. The Zombie Walk event was a partnership with the Lion and Lioness Clubs during which participants dressed as zombies and ambled around the Great Scarecrow Festival. Following the walk, elementary children and younger were invited to view the scarecrows and receive a treat from the library. Teens were invited to a Zombie Buffet and a scary PG-13 movie. Teens

at the Murder at the Ball event dressed in costume, dined and mingled while gathering clues to solve the "Murder at the Walgrave Astoria Costume Ball" mystery.



# WY WYOMING

## Artfest Exhibit (Sponsored by RSVP)



LCLS Events: November 1 - 15

Laramie County Library, in conjunction with the Southern Wyoming Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP), is holding their annual Artfest. The event is an opportunity for area residents to showcase their art and photography. Art shown is "King of the Beasts," a collage by Catherine Barnes.



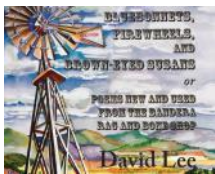
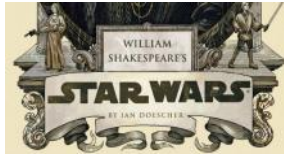
## Author Events @ Grand County - Moab

The Grand County Public Library hosted five special author events at the Moab location.



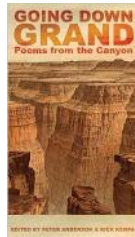
Novelist Sylvia Torti discussed and read from her new book *Cages*. Torti is an adjunct professor in biology, as well as the current dean of the Honors College, at the University of Utah.

Writer Ian Doescher discussed his Shakespearean retelling of George Lucas' epic *Star Wars*.



Former Utah Poet Laureate David Lee is the author of nearly 20 books and is professor emeritus at Southern Utah University.

Writers Peter Anderson and Rick Kempa read from and discussed their collection *Going Down Grand: Poems from the Canyon*. The book was a finalist for a 2016 Colorado Book Award.



Historian Mark Fiege discussed the environmental history of the United States and its complex relationship with its national parks. Fiege is the author of *The Republic of Nature* and an editor of the collection

*National Parks Beyond the Nation: Global Perspectives on 'America's Best Idea.'* Fiege also holds the Wallace Stegner Chair in Western American Studies at Montana State University.

The library events were brought to the community through partnerships with multiple organizations, including the Moab Festival of Science, Utah Humanities Book Festival and Back of Beyond Books.

1. Professional Development Grants for course work, institutes and workshops.
2. Continuing education opportunities including conferences, workshops and special seminars.
3. Information exchange and educational programs about technological developments and innovative library programming undertaken by MPLA libraries.
4. MPLA Awards recognize outstanding contributions to local, state and regional library services.
5. Joint annual conferences with member states providing a marketplace of ideas where individuals can share their experience and talent with other librarians.
6. Forums for personal contact among members and national leaders in the profession.
7. MPLA Newsletter providing information about continuing education available throughout the region and outstanding library programs through news and feature articles.





# Welcome, New Members!

**Stephanie Akau**

Library Information Specialist  
University of New Mexico Zimmerman  
Library  
Albuquerque NM

**Shelly Alexander**

North Las Vegas Library District  
North Las Vegas NV

**Jennie Bachelor**

Library Specialist  
Arapahoe Libraries  
Denver CO

**Martha Baden**

Library Manager, Public Services  
City of Prescott Prescott Public Library  
Prescott AZ

**Tonya Michelle Baldwin**

Library Manager  
Western Plains Library System Hazel  
Cross Library  
Thomas OK

**Diamond Barnett-Lewis**

High Plains Library District  
Greeley CO

**Sheleen Bauer**

Librarian  
Creskide Elementary School  
Spearfish SD

**Robert Behlke**

Middle School Librarian  
Huron Middle School Library  
Huron SD

**Johnson Bordy**

Octavia Fellin Public Library  
Gallup NM

**Sandra Brannan**

Author  
<http://SandraBrannan.com>  
Rapid City SD

**Stephanie Brewer**

Reference/ILL  
Grace Balloch Memorial Library  
Spearfish SD

**Stephanie Chaney**

Jefferson County Public Library  
Lakewood CO

**Markos Chavez**

Tech Trainer  
Octavia Fellin Public Library  
Gallup NM

**Heather Christensen**

Secondary Librarian  
Portales High School Library  
Portales NM

**Ryanne Cooper**

New Mexico State Library  
Santa Fe NM

**Hannah Craven**

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University of Denver  
Arvada CO

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Graduate Research Assistant, Billing  
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Oklahoma City OK

**Kaitlyn Darveau**

Sump Memorial Library  
Papillion NE

**jackie Dean**

Retired School Librarian  
El Past TX

**Kathleen Dull**

Adult Services Supervisor  
Rio Rancho Public Libraries Loma  
Colorado Main Library  
Rio Rancho NM

**Kristin Echtenkamp**

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Northern State University Williams  
Library  
Aberdeen SD

**David A. Ehrensperger**

Digital Learning Design/Research  
Librarian  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical  
University Hazy Library  
Prescott, AZ

**Heather Richelle Fellenstein**

Moore Public Library  
Moore OK

**Kim Ganfrancesco**

Digital Projects Librarian  
New Mexico State University Library  
Las Cruces NM

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Student  
Emporia Public Library  
Emporia KS

**Julie Haase**

Librarian I  
Phoenix Public Library  
Phoenix AZ

**Toni Lynn Hart**

Customer Assistant II  
Aluquerque Public Library Cooper  
Albuquerque NM

**Robin M. Hastings**

Library Services Consultant  
Northeast Kansas Library System  
Lawrence KS

**Elizabeth Hoffman**

Library Associate  
Siouxland Libraries  
Crooks SD





# Welcome, New Members!

**Alex Hull**

Grand Island Northwest High School  
Grand Island NE

**Lisa Kammerlocher**

E-Learning Officer  
Arizona State University Library  
Scottsdale, AZ

**Laura Marie Kimberly**

Library Manager  
Jackson County Medford Branch Library  
Medford OR

**Shaun Klee**

Adult & Technical Services Librarian  
Grand Island Public Library  
Grand Island NE

**Dana Kocienda**

MN

**Donna Kruse**

Morton James Public Library  
Nebraska City NE

**Cindy Krutsinger**

Assistant Librarian  
Britton Public Library  
Britton SD

**Valerie N. Lamoreaux**

Assistant Director  
Leavenworth Public Library  
Leavenworth KS

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Northeast Community College Library  
Resource Center  
Norfolk NE

**Pam Larsen**

Washoe County Library  
NV

**Rena Lehman**

Library Media Specialist  
Georgia Morse Middle School  
Pierre SD

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Yuma AZ

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Education Coordinator  
Space Science Institute  
Boulder CO

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Pinal County Library Florence  
Community Library  
Florence AZ

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Pioneer Library System Southwest  
Oklahoma City Public Library  
Oklahoma City OK

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Makerspace Programming Librarian  
Pikes Peak Library District  
Colorado Springs CO

**Liz Nations**

Librarian  
Hurley Elementary School Library  
Hurley NM

**Joanne Neemann**

Beatrice Public Library  
Beatrice NE

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San Jose State University  
Albuquerque NM

**Kristina Palmer**

Arvada CO

**Janelle Peck**

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Phoenix AZ

**Wynne Prindle**

Library technician  
Lyon County Library Central Branch  
Yerington NV

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Acquisitions & Metadata Librarian  
Fort Hays State University Forsyth  
Library  
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**Kathy Rand**

Library Director  
Parker Public Library  
Parker SD

**Beth Rosenthal**

Technology Learning Center  
Coordinator  
City of Kearney Kearney Public  
Library  
Kearney NE

**Nick Rullman**

Circulation Supervisor  
Flagstaff Public Library  
Flagstaff AZ

**Shawn SanRoman**

Archivist  
Museum of Northern Arizona Harold  
S. Colton Memorial Library  
Flagstaff AZ

**Robin Schrupp**

Library Director  
Rawlins Municipal Library  
Pierre SD

**Brenda Sue Schwarz**

Children's Librarian  
Lexington Public Library  
Lexington NE



# Welcome, New Members!



**Susan M. Sheldon**  
Contract Librarian  
Santa Fe NM

**Shanna Marie Smith**  
Director  
Mulvane Public Library  
Mulvane KS

**Stacey Smith**  
Mesa County Libraries  
Grand Junction CO

**Laura Smith**  
Collections & Instruction Librarian  
Santa Fe Community College Library  
Santa Fe NM

**M. Isabel Soto-Luna**  
Development Specialist  
Pikes Peak Library District  
Colorado Springs CO

**Chutima Supboon**  
Rapid City Public Library  
Rapid City SD

**Ruth A. Troyanek**  
Library Director  
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Laramie WY

**Marco Veyna-Reyes**  
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NV

**Aspen Walker**  
Branch Manager  
Douglas County Libraries Castle Pines  
& Roxborough Branches  
Castle Pines, CO

**Ashley Ware**  
Adult Services  
Scottsdale Public Library  
Scottsdale AZ

**Dawn Wasley**  
Library Administrator  
Glendale Public Library  
Glendale AZ

**Brandon J. West**  
Adult Services Coordinator  
Independence Public Library  
Independence KS

**Brenda Willey**  
Library Services Director  
Great Basin College Library  
Elko NV

**Jennifer LD Yadav**  
Librarian  
Douglas County Libraries Castle  
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**Gail Yerbic**  
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## Want to know more?

Jake Rundle Membership, Chair

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# 2018 Conference Calendar

## **American Library Association**

### **Mid-Winter**

February 9-13; Denver, CO

## **Montana Library Association**

April 11-14; Bozeman, MT

## **Oklahoma Library Association**

April 23-25; Tulsa, OK

## **Utah Library Association**

May 16-18; Provo, UT

## **American Library Association**

June 21-26; New Orleans, LA

## **Colorado State Library Association**

September 13-15; Loveland, CO

## **South Dakota Library Association**

September 26-28; Sioux Falls, SD

## **North Dakota Library Association**

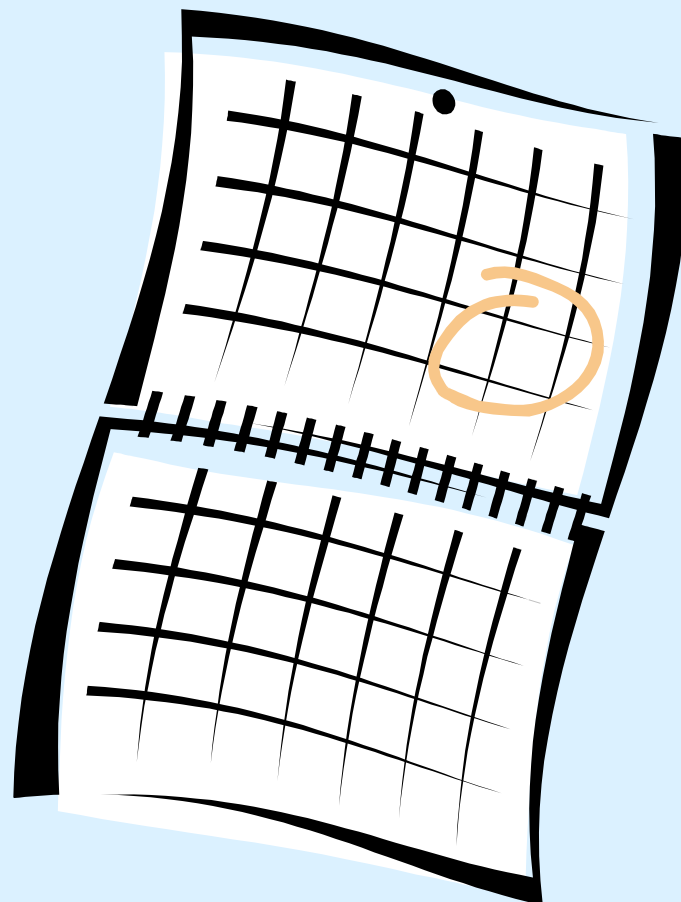
October 3-5; Minot, ND

## **Nebraska Library Association**

October 4-6; Lincoln, NE

## **MPLA / Kansas Library Association**

October 23-26; Wichita, KS



## **Arizona State Library Association**

October 24-26; Mesa, AZ

## **New Mexico Association**

October 31– Nov 2; Albuquerque, NM

## **Nevada Library Association**

TBD

## **Wyoming State Library Association**

TBD



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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.

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Calendar: [www.mpla.us/calendar.html](http://www.mpla.us/calendar.html)

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

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

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Madison 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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