

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

June 2019—July 2019

www.mpla.us

Volume 64 Number 3

Election Information

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.

Results will be announced and the new officers' terms will begin at the New Mexico Library Association / Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference in Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town, October 30-Nov 1. Thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve!

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Individual Grant Application Deadline

25 September 2019

27 November 2019

State Associations: 1 June 2019

Robin Newell
Professional Development, Chair
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Arizona Colorado Kansas Montana Nebraska Nevada New Mexico
North Dakota Oklahoma South Dakota Utah Wyoming

Albuquerque

Old Town

October 30th - November 1st



<https://nmla.wildapricot.org/Joint-NMLA/MPLA-Conference>

The Mountain Plains & New Mexico Library Association Joint Conference pulls librarians from 12 states and hosts the largest regional geography representation, pulling librarians, system administrators, and heads of state from Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Our region has experienced explosive population growth and unprecedented innovation in public service. See how libraries of all types are staying ahead of the curve!

Our Associations believe in equitable access to knowledge sharing and collegial growth, which is why this is the least expensive multi-day professional association conference in the nation. Reserve a room at the Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town from Tuesday, October 29th, attend a Wednesday pre-conference session (\$30 1/2 day, \$60 full day), attend conference Thursday & Friday (music! field trips! snacks!), and stick around scenic Old Town after checking out Saturday morning.

Keynote Speaker Wanda Brown

From Wanda's campaign: "I will bring leadership experience, a voice to represent our profession in addressing current issues, and the determination to promote the importance of libraries as successful contributors to our society. As the professional organization representing America's libraries, it is vital for ALA to demonstrate the importance of our role in a complex and dynamic world of information. Our strength lies in numbers. Let's be a partner in a stronger future."





MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Big Horizons, Close Community



MPLAUS

It's a transitional time of year for librarians in the MPLA region. School and academic librarians are coming to the end of the year and public libraries are gearing up for summer reading programs. There's always so much going on in libraries of all kinds and we collectively reach so many people. Libraries do, indeed, change lives and I'm grateful to have been part of that for the past 29 years.

I am very pleased to announce that MPLA recently voted to support the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) One Dollar Per Capita campaign to increase funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States program. One dollar per capita represents a doubling of current funding for the Grants to States program. The current funding for Grants to States is \$164 million. COSLA proposes to increase that funding level to \$325 million. Funding for Grants to States has remained essentially flat for more than 20 years despite rising costs to state library agencies and local libraries. Small and rural libraries have greatly benefited from LSTA funding and an increased federal investment in libraries would support lifelong learning, early literacy, economic growth and workforce development, services to veterans, community sustainability, and many other programs that grow communities and enrich the lives of persons of all ages in the twelve Mountain Plains Library Association's states. MPLA encourages you to reach out to your Congregational Delegation to support this investment in the libraries.

MPLA and the New Mexico Library Association (NMLA) are hard at work planning an exciting joint conference that will be held October 30 through November 1, 2019 in Albuquerque, NM. The Call for Proposals for the conference is open until June 15, 2019 so hurry and submit yours today! You can also book your room now at the Hotel Albuquerque Old Town at <https://tinyurl.com/nmlampla2019hotel>. Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend!

Until next time,

Leslie Langley, MPLA President

2019 NMLA / MPLA Conference October 31 - November 2

Joint meeting of the Mountain Plains Library Association and the New Mexico Library Association.
Hotel Albuquerque Old Town.

New Mexico Library Association / Mountain Plains Library
Association *** Call for Presentation Proposals ***



CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS <http://tinyurl.com/nmlampla2019>

Here are some important things to know:

1. Submission deadline is June 15th; we will try to notify all submitters by July 1st.
2. Include as much detail as possible on the proposal form.
3. If you would like to present more than one session, please submit a separate form for each session.

Questions?

Please contact Bradley Carrington, Conference Program Chair,
at Programs@NMLA.org

Meet the Candidates

President-Elect
Vice President



Robin Newell

Robin Newell, the Executive Director at the Emporia Public Library, has a passion for libraries and the people who frequent them. Her library career spans twenty years in diverse roles in Georgia, Nebraska and Kansas. As a fellow and mentor of the Mountain Plains Library Association Leadership Institute and alumnus of the American Library Association Leadership Institute and the Nebraska Leadership Institute, Newell's personal service goal is to provide opportunities for library staff to grow leadership skills and encourage engagement in community and professional organizations.

Newell is the Vice President of the Kansas Library Association and Past President of the Nebraska Library Association. She has been actively involved in leadership and community building for over 40 years and is an alumnus of chamber leadership programs in Fremont, York and Sarpy County, Nebraska and Emporia, Kansas where she currently serves as a member of the Leadership Emporia/Step UP! team of facilitators. Newell is the past president of the Papillion, Nebraska and Emporia, Kansas Lions Club and is the vice president of the Emporia Rotary Club.

Bradley Carrington, MPLA member since 2014



Current Position: Chief of the Technical Services Bureau at the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe, 2014

Previous Position(s):

Retired from the University of Kentucky: cataloging, reference, and collection development positions; served as President of the Libraries Faculty

Education:

B.A., Middle Tennessee State University

M.Ln., Emory University

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

MPLA: New Mexico representative, Awards Committee

MPLA/KLA: Program Committee for the Wichita conference

NMLA: Chair of the Program Committee and the Technical Services SIG

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

Programming and communication experience. I've been a librarian since 1985!

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

Curate and promote online learning courses. Increase funding for professional development grants. Explore and promote our archives.

Meet the Candidates

Recording Secretary



Whitney Vitale

Whitney Vitale is Assistant Professor and Interim Head of Access Services at Oklahoma State University's Edmon Low Library where she oversees the Circulation & Information Desk, Interlibrary Services, stack management, course reserves, and the Edmon Low Creative Studios. Prior to this position, she served as Assistant Head of Access Services at OSU and as the Associate Library Director at the Boston Architectural College in Boston, MA. Whitney received her MLIS from Simmons College and has over a decade of experience in library public and access services. She is a member of several library organizations and served on numerous statewide, regional, and national library committees. She has been active in MPLA since 2015, presenting and attending at the annual conferences and serving on the MPLA Membership Committee from 2015 to 2017.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Or pick your own charitable organization:

Search

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 Membership Rally

Your mission is to increase the number of members from your state.

Rules:

The Contest will run from April 1 through June 30 2019

If you get an institutional member, you get an extra point towards the fabulous prize.

If your state has a conference during these three months, the 10 free memberships that are given out at the conference will NOT count.

The final winner will be announced and prize awarded at the New Mexico Conference in October.

As of January, these are the number of members from each state. I will send out updated figures in March after renewals end.



Volunteers Make Positive Impact at Douglas County Libraries

April was National Volunteer Appreciation Month and Douglas County Libraries (DCL) celebrated the contributions of its volunteers and their dedication to the library district and community.

A total of 1,864 volunteers contributed more than 40,000 hours to DCL in 2018—that's nearly \$1 million in donated time. Eighty-nine of those volunteers earned a President's Volunteer Service Award, a national award presented by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation that honors those who inspire others to engage in volunteerism.

"Our volunteers certainly share the library's passion and commitment to this community," said DCL's Department Head of Volunteer Services Ali Ayres. "Their volunteerism is inspiring, and it has the power to help others realize their own potential to make a difference."

Library volunteers make a difference by:

- Tutoring students in English as a second language
- Reading to children at Douglas County early learning centers through the Book Start program
- Helping struggling readers in grades 1-3 build skills through the Reading Buddies program (Volunteer opportunities are available for teen buddies this summer at DCL's Highlands Ranch, Castle Rock, and Parker locations!)
- Coordinating the library's online and Second Chapter Used Bookstores
- Assisting at library events, like the April 6 grand opening celebration at DCL's Highlands Ranch branch — 26 volunteers manned craft and activity stations, and others assembled 1,000 pinwheels and organized craft supplies in preparation for the event.
- Shelving materials
- And more!



EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Earn your Master of Library Science

A graduate degree in Library and Information Management complements previous education, offers prospects for increased earnings and provides flexible skills for the future. Be a part of the information profession that has exciting career opportunities such as public or academic librarian, media specialist, data manager, archivist, and many more.

- **Balance Online Learning and Occasional Weekend Intensive Classes**
Enjoy personal interaction between students and faculty as you combine your MLS studies with an active life. Cohort locations include:

Portland, OR	Denver, CO
Salt Lake City, UT	Emporia, KS
Overland Park, KS	Sioux Falls, SD
Las Vegas, NV	Boise, ID
- **Leadership Development**
Practice advocating for your library or information organization based on your new understanding of adaptive leadership.
- **SLIM's Heritage of Excellence for Over a Century**
Share the inherited legacy of a worldwide network of SLIM alumni to further your career objectives.

Special tuition rates available for certain residents of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana

For more information contact:
sliminfo@emporia.edu or 620.341.5203
emporia.edu/slim



2020 MPLA Leadership Institute

June 7 - 12, 2020
Yavapai College, Prescott, AZ

Applications open for fellows and mentors June 1, 2019

Mentor Applications Due: October 4, 2019
Fellow Applications Due: November 8, 2019

For the 12th MPLA Leadership Institute, we welcome Mark Puente, Director of Diversity and Leadership Programs at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). We also offer this invaluable experience at a new location: Yavapai College and timeframe of early June.

Admittance to one of 30 slots is a competitive process.
Plan your application now!

Direct your questions to Aubrey Madler: coordinator@mpla.us

More details are available on the [MPLA Leadership Institute](#) webpage.

Introducing Mark A. Puente

Mark A. Puente is the Director of Diversity and Leadership Programs at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), a position he's held since March of 2009. In this role, Puente directs all aspects of the Association's diversity, equity, inclusion, and leadership development programs, and serves as the ARL staff liaison to the ARL Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Puente designs and administers numerous programs that seek to recruit people of color into careers in academic and research libraries and archives. He directs, and serves on the faculty of or serves on advisory groups to numerous leadership development programs such as the ARL Leadership Fellows Program, the ARL Leadership and Career Development Program, the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries' Leadership Fellows Program, the Archives Leadership Institute, and the Southeastern Museum Conference Leadership Institute. A frequent clinician, speaker, facilitator, and writer, Puente also works with numerous organizations (i.e. library, archive, museum, K-12 education) on strategies for accelerating change in organizational culture, inclusion in the workplace, strategic planning, racial equity, diversity recruitment and retention, organizational climate, and numerous other topics. Puente has worked extensively with organizations and institutions across the United States and Canada and has presented internationally. He is a past participant of the ALA Spectrum Scholarship Leadership Institute, the Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians, and the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.



Grocery Rewards Update

King Soopers/Kroger Community Awards Program There is a change in the King Soopers/Kroger rebate program which is effective this month. There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA. Instead, you can link your loyalty card to our MPLA Community Awards Program account.

To do so: Go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

Once logged into your King Soopers/Kroger account, search for Mountain Plains Library Association by name or our account: KK820. Then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card. If you previously purchased grocery cards they may still be used and reloaded but they will no longer provide rebates for MPLA. Instead, there is a quarterly designated funding amount which is shared by all Community Rewards organizations. Amounts are determined by the percentage of purchases by each organization.

If you are in an area with Kroger stores this is an easy way to support MPLA!

King Soopers/Krogers

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

There is a change!
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Instead, you can link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

SUPPORT MPLA!



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

Around the Region



One County, One Card

Library users in Cochise County may now use an existing library card at any of the twelve public library locations in the county. The One County, One Card project was completed in May after two years of preliminary work carried out by the Cochise County Library District and the seven municipal libraries in the county. Although the libraries have freely shared materials for decades, and have offered a shared online catalog since 1997, this is the first time patron records have been shared between library locations.



Virtual Conference

The 2019 Arizona Library Association Virtual Conference, “What You Don’t Learn in Library School,” was held on April 4, with an estimated 200 participants. Sessions were recorded and are available on the AzLA Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKBiZiRSmSncGtlK8_4IBX6XnF3D8gXnu.

2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service Finalist

Tempe Public Library is one of 30 finalists for the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Tempe Public Library is the only institution in Arizona to be selected as a finalist. Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Tempe Public Library stands out for programs such as the Tempe Book Bike, Dementia Friendly Tempe - Memory, FanCon, and wide range of programs that promote literacy and family engagement.



Read more at <https://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/News/News/13396>.





A Variety of Libraries Sharing a Variety of Cultures

This spring and summer, a number of public libraries have hosted or will be hosting programs highlighting what we can learn from the different cultures in our communities. The Mancos Public Library, Mancos, CO, celebrated National Poetry Month by inviting community members to see and hear Esther Belin, Gloria Emerson, Tina Deschenie and Venaya Yazzie, four Navajo women who shared their art and poetry. In May, the Boulder Public Library will have a program on health from an indigenous Nahuas approach by making unguentos (ointments) in an easy and traditional way. And, in June, the Bud Werner Public Library in Steamboat Springs will host an evening with Tibetan physician Dr. Jampa Yonten who will share the Tibetan view on death, dying, and rebirth.

Intellectual Freedom Round Table's Immroth Award

At ALA Annual's IFRT Awards Recognition Fundraising Breakfast on Saturday, June 22, CLiC's Executive Director, Jim Duncan, will be presented with the Intellectual Freedom Round Table's (IFRT's) Immroth Award for his work against the recent attack on information access.

The attack, which focused on access to EBSCO databases, eventually took the form of a lawsuit against the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) and EBSCO. While Jim's and CLiC's work resulted in CLiC being removed from the suit, there are still organized attacks against public and school libraries providing access to online content.

Everyone should continue to be proactive by sharing speaking points and helping libraries in their state when it comes to managing databases, informing educators and community leaders about the claims versus the truth, and sharing any news of activities with MPLA members in addition to ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom. If you would like to use the manual developed by CLiC in this effort, please follow this link <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ml8mvcq3ehgcf3y/Understanding-Strident-Claims-About-Electronic-Resources.pdf?dl=0>

King Soopers/Krogers

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- Loaf and Jug

Kansas Library Association Endorsement

NORTON, KS: The Kansas Library Association (KLA) voted during their council meeting in April to endorse the Kansas Health Foundation's ***Kansas Kids Can't Wait to Read*** early literacy campaign introduced statewide earlier this year. The campaign shows parents and caregivers why their kids need to experience reading, starting when they are just a few months old. The campaign also elevates the abundant reading resources available across the state and lets parents know they have what it takes to give their kids a successful future.

For further information about Kansas ***Kids Can't Wait to Read***, please contact KHF Media Contact Kristi Zukovich at kzukovich@khf.org or 316-491-8419. For further information about the Kansas Library Association, please contact Robin Newell, newellr@emporialibrary.org or 620-340-6464.



Earth Day Upcycling

The Olathe Public Library in Olathe, KS embraced the Earth Day motto of reduce, reuse, recycle with a newer term - upcycling. The idea is to create something that's more valuable than the materials you initially had. Staff members donated odds and ends like old clothes, a stuffed animal, a picture frame — even a case that once housed large floppy disks--- for the program held on April 23rd.

Amy Eiben, adult programming librarian, said she wanted people to “come in and take a look at what we have there and see what inspires them and make something new with something old.”

“You really have to get creative when you're working with stuff that's familiar but in a different way,” she said. It's a sentiment the library is embracing as its Indian Creek branch prepares to move into its new location this summer.

“When the new building opens, we're going to have a really high-tech space,” Eiben said. “Right now, our downtown makerspace is mostly used for hands-on craft-type making. People come in to use the sewing machines pretty regularly. This is kind of a way to move our making toward that more self-directed DIY model.”

The new building will focus more on technology, while craft-making will have a home at the downtown branch.



Library Love Hearts!



Daniels County Library in Scobey, KS celebrated National Library week by asking their patrons to write down why they loved the Library on heart-shaped sticky notes. Librarians then covered a wall with the hearts.

End of Semester Destress

Each semester, Montana State University (MSU) Library provides its students with a way to de-stress during Dead Week and Finals Week. Paws to De-Stress, began when Intermountain Therapy Animals brought their dogs to the library for 2 hours each day during these stress-filled weeks. Sitting quietly with the dogs allows students to take a moment to breathe, relax, and refocus.

This semester the library added some new ways to help students relax and de-stress. We set up a Star Wars Relaxation Day which provided students with trivia, coloring, Lego building, video clips, music, origami, puzzle building, mazes, and other stress-relieving activities. We also invited the campus-run group, Tabletop Brigade, to provide a variety of games which allowed students to shift their focus away from the anxiety of finals for a brief time. One exciting addition was having local members of the 501st Legion, MT501st.com, attend Star Wars Relaxation Day in their Star Wars costumes to pose with students for pictures. Their light-hearted and positive interactions with students brought smiles to many stressed faces.

Last semester the President of MSU approached the library staff with a very unique request... include Alpacas in De-Stress Fest. President Cruzado saw the Alpacas of Montana at a local Ace Hardware Store and was moved by how much joy they brought to shoppers and spectators. President Cruzado asked that the library include them in the next event. The Alpacas of Montana took part in our spring 2019 De-Stress Fest by setting up in front of the library April 23rd and 24th from 1-5pm. *Hoof it to the Library* was an outstanding success, allowing students to walk by and simply view the alpacas, or stop to learn fascinating facts about these adorable animals. Student attendance was high and faculty and staff saw many happy, relaxed faces.

Lewis & Clark Library Unveils New Logo

On April 24th, Lewis & Clark Library Director John Finn unveiled the Library's new logo today. The new logo the Library's past combined with its vision for the future. Working with Luke Duran, Element L Design, Library staff sought to select a logo that was mindful of the Library's long tradition of serving Lewis and Clark County." The bison head is a very important part of our logo's history and staff felt very strongly that we incorporate it into the new design," explained Finn. Duran explains the importance of the bison in the new logo: "A bison has long served as the Library's unofficial mascot, and is an important visual element of the brand. In the new logo. A front facing bison head is prominently featured, framed within a crest."



In 2018, Lewis & Clark Library put forth a temporary one-year identity that celebrated the Library's 150th anniversary. The Library now has a new logo and visual identity to move forward into the next 150 years. Finn explains that "the Lewis & Clark Library prides itself on being adaptive to new technologies, trends, and resources and this new logo encapsulates that. We will always strive to provide the best possible library services to our community."

The new logo is featured on the Library's website, www.lclibrary.org, and the Library will be switching over all print materials and other items to the new logo in the coming months.



Makerspace

The Kearney Public Library’s Makerspace opened in January and community interest and usage is increasing. Machines can be reserved online or by calling the library.

American Dream Literacy

La Vista Public Library, La Vista, NE has been selected as one of 16 public libraries nationwide

to receive a \$10,000 American Dream Literacy Initiative grant from the American Library Association (ALA) and Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

State Poet

Governor Pete Ricketts announced that Matt Mason of Omaha has been designated as Nebraska's next State Poet. Matt Mason has worked for years with Omaha Public Library on Poetry events and is a user of the library.

Best Marketing Award

The Churchill County Library in Fallon, NV received the Best Marketing Award from the Fallon Chamber of Commerce at their 16th Annual Awards and Appreciation Banquet in February. “I have long felt that libraries aren’t great at marketing all the countless services and resources we work so hard to fund and provide to the public. Our print marketing has always been strong and I made a conscious effort over a year ago to focus on a more aggressive social media campaign. Clearly the public noticed. This award is especially gratifying because award recipients are chosen by a vote from the community,” said Carol Lloyd, Library Director.

Librarian Joe Salsman handles the social media at the Churchill County Library and he is pictured accepting the award from Pamela Ferguson, Director, Fallon Chamber of Commerce. Fallon is located 63 miles east of Reno.





NEW MEXICO

Summer Arts Education Programs Foster Community Growth

The New Mexico State Library, in collaboration with Santa Fe Opera and Embudo Valley Library, is continuing a three year program to bring the theater and arts education to public libraries.

Santa Fe Opera Educator Charles Gamble provides Improv workshops to both children and adults. Gamble trained in physical theater at L'Ecole Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, at the Roy Hart Institute for Voice in Malérargues, France, and at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, Massachusetts. Charles teaches drama at New Mexico School for the Arts and manages the Active Learning Through Opera outreach program for the Santa Fe Opera.



In 2018 a pilot program brought seven sessions to three libraries with the help of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and support from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. In 2019 the program will expand to several tribal libraries in Northern New Mexico, and 2020 will see an even larger expansion of the program.

State Librarian Eli Guinnee says, "We believe that arts education has tremendous value. The Opera Program brings arts enrichment to communities as a partnership between the Santa Fe Opera and our public and tribal libraries. But we don't want it to end when our arts educator leaves the library. We want the program to be the spark that helps make arts partnerships an integral part of the community. When arts is a part of the community, we help children grow, we improve quality of life, and we strengthen community fabric." A one day retreat for librarians and arts educators is being planned, with a goal of finding ways to grow the program both within the communities and to new communities statewide.

Bilingual Children's Book Festival plus Día Day all over!

The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center celebrated its first NHCC Children's Bilingual Book Festival. The focus on Spanish-English and Native Language-English books and authors made this festival particularly meaningful and vibrant, reflecting the identities of many children in New Mexico and the Southwest. The festival encourages children to see themselves in contemporary children's literature as well as introduce a bilingual body of work to a wider audience. The festival emphasized books for readers in grades K-6, though there were activities for kids of all ages, including families.

Also, libraries all over New Mexico, please register your Día programs! <http://cs.ala.org/websurvey/alsc/dia/index.cfm> Día is known as the Children's Day, Book Day, El día de los niños, El día de los libros. It was founded by New Mexico author, Pat Mora, and signifies our daily commitment to reading. Día is a collaboration of national and state library and literacy organizations, educators, presses and readers creatively striving to share bookjoy and its importance. Culminating in April Children's Day, Book Day celebrations unite communities. April book fiestas are held in libraries, schools, homes, parks, etc., often on or near April 30th.



MPLA Membership Rally

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Albuquerque

Old Town

October 30th - November 1st



<https://nmla.wildapricot.org/Joint-NMLA/MPLA-Conference>



NORTH DAKOTA

April Happenings at Grand Forks Public Library

Welcome to our new Executive Administrator Kirsten Pearson, who started on April 1st. Kirsten came to the Grand Forks Public Library from the Devil's Lake Public Library and has hit the ground running!

During National Library Week, librarians traveled to elementary schools in our county to do story time and deliver books to the students. We visited three elementary schools, in Thompson, Northwood and Grand Forks, ND, as well as donated books to 122 students.

The Friends of Grand Fork Public Library generously donated funds for the purchase of display cases and hanging systems for a library Art Gallery. In celebration, the Friends hosted an opening event on April 7th. The gallery will host artists on a three month rotation and can display both two dimensional and three dimensional artwork.

Women's Native American Heritage

Students at New Town School in Newtown, ND celebrated Women's Native American Heritage, specifically Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara (MHA) Nation women. Teachers and students visited and read informational posters about local noteworthy people and other important Native American women. Many of the women are their relatives or well known to them. Ms. Janene Naisia, MS English teacher, asked her students to research their favorite person and complete a project on them. Other students stopped in to explore the display since it features books on Native food, culture, crafts, and many biographies on worldwide Native American women from all tribes. Students were fascinated to learn more about the important role Native American women played and continue to play in history.



Rain Poetry

The Stillwater Public Library in Stillwater, OK recently promoted a new arts and poetry concept through rain poetry at the annual Arts Festival. “It seems like it always rains during the Arts Festival,” said Emily States, Stillwater Public Library adult services librarian. “They had this rain poetry idea, so we thought it would be a cool thing to do, because it’s probably going to rain at some point. If it doesn’t, it’s still a cool thing we can talk about and the display will stay up for several months.”

Rain poetry is something that’s been done in larger cities across the country. Special chemicals are used to write the poems on the street or sidewalk so the words can only be seen when the ground is wet. And not to worry, if it doesn't rain, water can be provided. The poem chosen was “Spring Comes, Now” by Remigius Recchia, an Oklahoma State University student. Later, librarians hope to incorporate poetry by Vera Long, a local poet who passed away in 2016 at 91. Long’s book “Vera, The Country Poet” is available at the Stillwater Public Library.



Southern Oklahoma Library System selects new Executive Director



Gail Currier, formerly the SOLS marketing and public information coordinator, took over as the Southern Oklahoma Library System director, replacing longtime director Lynn McIntosh. Currier, the only internal candidate for the position, said her passion for public library service runs deep, and she’s excited about what comes next. “I love what I do,” Currier said. “I love libraries and what they stand for, and how we serve all those different communities.”

Currier said that in her time with SOLS, she’s watched the role of the system’s libraries change. The Champion Public Library’s Xbox 360, rows of DVD and BluRays, the 3D printed creations that cover every windowsill and the communal spaces intended for board games and projects all highlight that fact. “It’s not the quiet research place it used to be,” Currier said. “Our profession has really changed. There are places in here people can go if they need quiet, but it’s very different.”

As director, she’ll work with staff to analyze usage data to figure out what people’s interests are in SOLS’ eight branches. Those findings impact everything from classes offered to the books available on the shelves. “I’m excited about the ability to engage our communities in learning opportunities, but also finding what they’re interested in,” Currier said. “It may be something about a new culture, art, music, a new exhibit. Whatever brings people together, that excites me.”



SOUTH DAKOTA

Scan Day @Your Library

The SD State Library launched Scan Day @Your Library during National Library Week. Digitization staff at the state library travel to partner libraries in SD to scan items brought in by local residents. The purpose of these events is to engage residents in building local and state history by digitizing items such as personal records, documents and photographs. These items then have the potential of being shared with the local library, museum or the South Dakota State Archives.

The idea for Scan Day was born when Brenda Hemmelman, Collection Services Librarian at the state library, attended the 2014 MPLA Leadership Institute and heard from librarians in other MPLA states that were already doing a similar program.

National Library Week Fun!

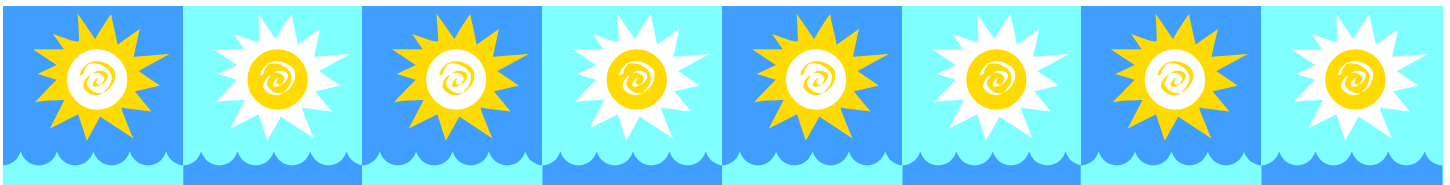
For National Library Week this year, the Centerville Community Library in Centerville, SD had lots of fun activities for the students and community members to participate in. They sold muffins for Muffin Monday, took money off of fines for Ticket Tuesday, displayed funny jokes for Wisecracker Wednesday, stretched our brains with Library trivia for Thinking Thursday, and showed off our favorite books for Favorite Book Friday. A highlight of the week was having our local police officer, Officer Clark, come and read "Officer Buckle and Gloria" by Peggy Rathmann to Preschool -4th grade library classes. The kids enjoyed the story as well as the question and answer session afterward. It was a great week.

Retirement

The Brookings Public Library in Brookings, SD is saying goodbye to our wonderful Community Services Coordinator, Rae Brecht. She is retiring after 33 years of service at our library, with 26 of those years in the Community Services Coordinator role. Her dedication and commitment to bringing art, culture, and leisure topics to the Brookings community will forever be appreciated.

Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness

South Dakota State University Briggs Library is currently hosting a travel exhibition until June 5th that explores the interconnectedness of wellness, illness and cultural life for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. This exhibit was developed by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) and is touring with the partnership of ALA's Public Programs Office. The opening reception was on April 25th with a one-hour panel discussion titled "Presence of the Past: How Historical Trauma has Affected Modern Health of the Lakota Community."





Board Training

The Utah Library Association will hold the 3rd Annual ULA 101 training session for incoming library board members. This event is an opportunity for outgoing and continuing board members to help introduce new members to board duties and responsibilities. It has been a helpful event for all.

Joint Art Exhibit

A joint art exhibit at the Park City Library, in Park City, UT, which combines the color photographs of Richard D. Pick and the black-and-white realism of American landscape charcoal artist Kristen Mitchell is open through May 31.

The pairing of the art styles gives viewers a chance to experience images of the Wasatch Range to the Colorado Plateau in an intimate and dynamic way, said community engagement librarian Becca Lael. "Dick and Kristen's dedication to their art that focuses on Utah's public lands made them naturally fit together," Lael said. "We felt people who love nature and art would enjoy the two works together. Their mediums are different, but they are, at the same time, similar. When we hang the art in our exhibits, the library staff gets to meet the artists and hear about each piece," she said. "So, I'm excited for the public to be able to get that same invigoration. There really is a special spirit about the works you only get when you meet the artists."

Facelift @ Converse County Library (CCL)

Glenrock Library of the Converse County Library has started a construction upgrade. Once completed, the basement area will be usable and include a dedicated YA Space, A Quiet Reading Room, an expanded and enclosed Children's Space, more stacks, and a Makerspace.

\$2.5 Million Gift Benefits UW Libraries

A \$2.5 million gift from two University of Wyoming alumni, Carol McMurry and her husband Pat Spieles, will create two programs: a campus reading program and a librarian position to work closely with the UW Honors College.

The Endowed Librarian for Academic Excellence position will serve as a liaison between the Honors College and UW Libraries, as well as overseeing the UW Reads campus reading program. UW Reads aims to broaden the shared understanding of the world through the joys of a good book. This program is based on the principle that larger conversations about shared ideas can transform communities.

AUTHOR MEMBERSHIP

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



Welcome, New Members!

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Oklahoma City, OK

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Norman, OK

Abbi Dooley

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Polson, MT

Maren Engen

Assistant Director
Chouteau County Library
Fort Benton , MT

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Library Media Specialist
Frenchtown School District
Frenchtown School Library
Frenchtown, MT

Janell Habeck

Library Aide
Frenchtown High School and
Community Library
Frenchtown, MT

Della Haverland

Director
Stillwater County Library
Columbus , MT

Sarah Richelle Johnson

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Emporia State University
William Allen White Library
Emporia, KS

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Data Management
University of Central Oklahoma
Chambers Library
Edmond, OK

Daniel Mauchley

Director
Duchesne County Library System
Duchesne, UT

Matt L. McDowall

Information Systems Support
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Calvin T. Ryan Library
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Director
Bartlesville Public Library
Bartlesville, OK

Kristen R. Monroe

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Eugene Field Branch
Denver, CO

Jessica Quarles

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University
Hazy Library and Learning Center
Prescott, AZ

Dave Richards

Dean of Library Services
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library
Omaha, NE

Pam Seigel

Library Media
Enid Schools
Monroe Elementary
Enid, OK

Le'Shawn Turner

Reference Librarian
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma City, OK

Jonna Underwood

Director
Sheridan County Library
Plentywood , MT

Susan Urban

Head of Access Services
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma City, OK

Amanda Joelle Winkler

Youth Services Manager
Morton-James Public Library
Nebraska City, NE

Rich Wilkinson

Teacher
Oklahoma City Public Schools
Oklahoma City, OK

Mallory Witham

Administrative Assistant
North Lake County Public Library
Polson , MT

Tiara Young

Admin Clerk / Volunteer
Coordinator
Stillwater Public Library
Stillwater, OK

2019 Conference Calendar

ALA Annual Conference

June 20-25; Washington, DC

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries

September 4-7; Burlington, Vermont

Colorado Association of Libraries

September 19 - 21; Loveland, CO

South Dakota Library Association

September 25-27; Spearfish, SD

North Dakota Library Association

September 25-27; West Fargo, ND

Wyoming Library Association

August 8-9; Cheyenne, WY

Nebraska Library Association

October 2-4; La Vista, Nebraska
(Joint conference with Iowa Library Association)

Kansas Library Association

October 22-25; Overland, KS

MPLA /New Mexico Association

October 30– Nov 1; Albuquerque, NM
Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
<http://www.hotelabq.com/>

Nevada Library Association

November 2-4; Reno, NV

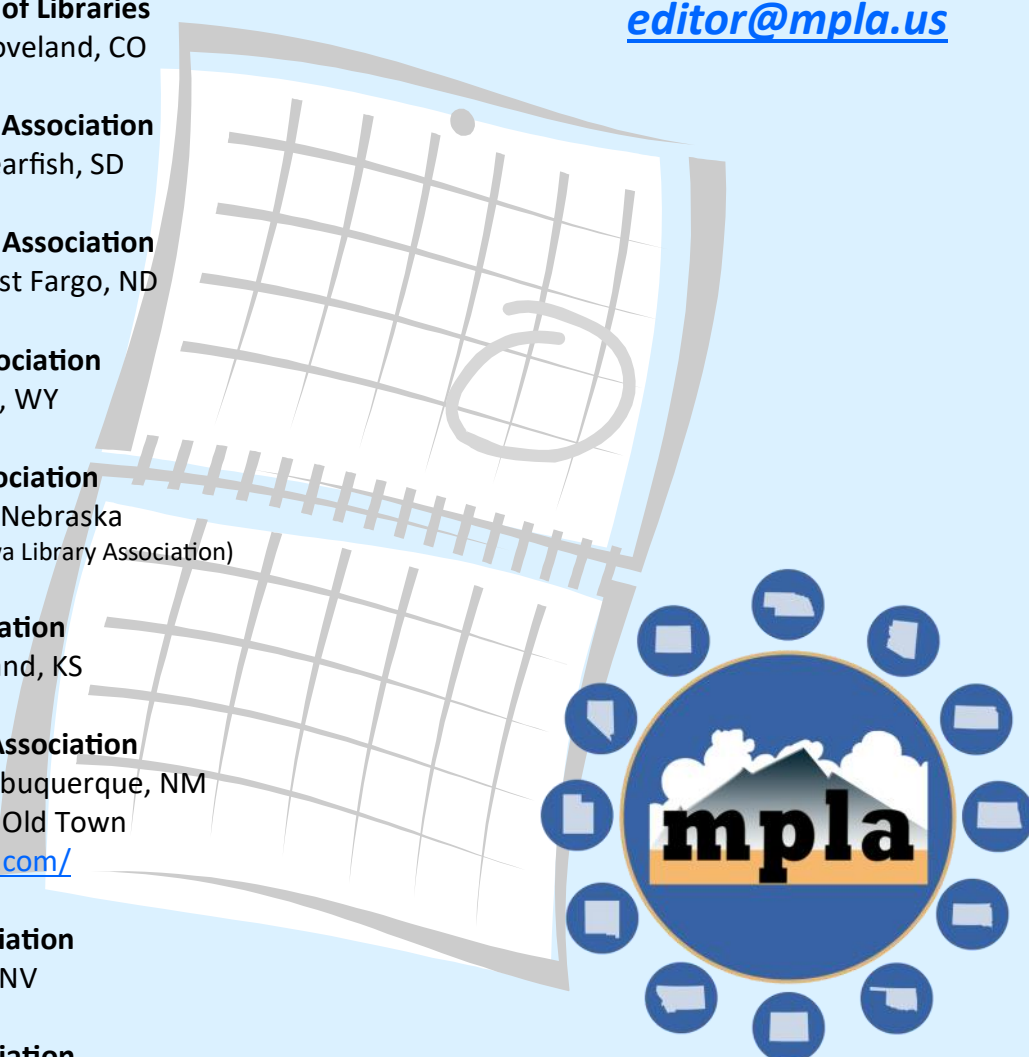
Arizona Library Association

November 6-8; Tucson, AZ

Conference not listed?

Share it with us at

editor@mpla.us





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Or pick your own charitable organization:

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.



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Professional Development Calendar

Individual Grant Application Deadline

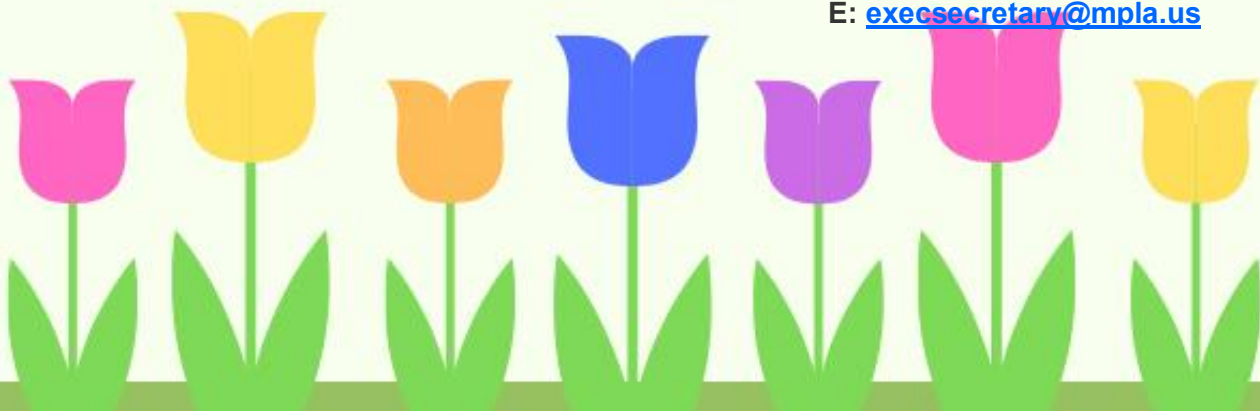
25 September 2019

27 November 2019

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State Associations: 1 June 2019

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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

Executive Board – Officers, State Representatives and Staff:
www.mpla.us/personnel/executiveboard.html

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Professional Development Grants:
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:
<https://www.facebook.com/MountainPlainsLibraryAssociation/>

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- July 1
- September 1
- November 1

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

MPLA Membership:

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