

# Mountain Plains Library Association

*Big Horizons Close Community*

# Newsletter

October 2020—November 2020

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

Volume 65 Number 5

## *President's Message*

Are things normal in your setting? Is there such a creature as 'normal?' Thinking about all of our various communities, I believe it is important not to talk about going back to normal, but rather to focus on what's next and what steps we are taking to get there.

Thinking about those steps, one of the recent developments you may have noticed from MPLA are the membership chat opportunities. They are offered by the Membership Committee, chaired by Mary Soucie. The conversations have been hosted by Jake Rundle, and have been a good way of reconnecting around our region with others in a similar place. These conversations will continue through the end of the year; take a look and sign up for the next one!



Risk is abundant in today's world, and your MPLA Board is working hard to understand and minimize it. Price Waterhouse Cooper defines risk as any issue which could impact your ability to meet your objectives. One of the important issues that the Board is thinking about our next joint conference, held in conjunction with the Utah Library Association. MPLA has our next Board meeting on the schedule, and will be discussing this as well as other important issues facing us right now. Our purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities, and we accomplish that goal together!

### **Stephen Sweeney**

Mountain Plains Library Association President

St. John Vianney Seminary, Cardinal Stafford Library  
Denver, Colorado



## IN THIS ISSUE

**President's Message**

**Summer Reading & COVID**

**New Bookmobile Celebration**

**Around the Region**

**Welcome New Members**

**MPLA Board and Staff**

**MPLA Quick Links**

Arizona

Colorado

Kansas

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Mexico

North Dakota

Oklahoma

South Dakota

Utah

Wyoming



# MPLA Membership Chats



Please join us on the  
4th Wednesday of each month to connect  
with fellow MPLA Members.

1:00 Central time  
Noon Mountain time  
11 am Pacific time

In the odd months, we'll discuss a library related topic and even months will be a virtual picnic so pack a lunch or your favorite snack and join us for a social hangout.

[Click here to register for future meetings](#)

Topics for future chats  
can be submitted to [membership@mpla.us](mailto:membership@mpla.us)

The banner features a central blue background with white text that reads "Big Horizons, Close Community". Above and below this central text are rows of logos for various library associations:

- Top row: ALA (American Library Association), CAL (Colorado Association of Librarians), KLA (Kansas Library Association), NLA (Nebraska Library Association), and a logo of an open book.
- Bottom row: NEVADA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (Turning Passion into Action), NMLA (New Mexico Library Association), NDLA (New England Library Association), OLA (Oklahoma Library Association), SDLA (South Dakota Library Association), Utah Library Association, and WLA (Washington Library Association).

# Summer Reading & COVID

Becky Van Den Berg, Pine River Library  
Bayfield, CO

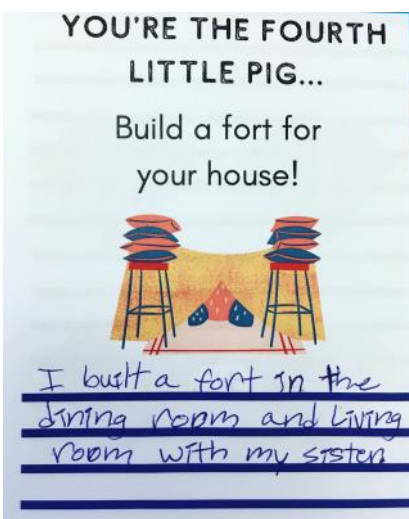
Every youth librarian across the country knew that Summer Reading was coming...what none of us knew was that kids would be out of school, libraries would be closed, social distancing would make most programs impossible, and that communities, especially rural ones like my own, would still be expecting - nay, needing! - their library to have something fun and entertaining for their children to do over the summer. Zoom meetings commence!

Pine River Library brainstormed, shot down ideas, searched the internet, attended other Zoom meetings...brainstormed some more and finally hit on what turned out to be an amazing idea. To keep with the theme of "Imagine Your Story," we would challenge our community to a Summer Quest so that each child (and or any age who wanted to participate!) could still build their own story, slay their own dragon, create their own knightdom, and have a blast during quarantine. We built interactive Quest Kits filled with craft and activity supplies that accompanied our Quest Packet, which was full of fun challenges that our patrons could complete at home or close to home, encouraging everyone to stay healthy and socially distanced.

Pine River Library closed its doors on March 16th and for the next few months spent no money on actual programming. So when we decided to build Quest Kits we were able to spend around \$1,000 on this launch. We wanted there to be enough variety amongst the kits to keep kids busy for the entire four-week SRP program (a truncated version of our usual nine-week program). We worked to stay true to the SRP theme to the fairytale-related quests. Here are the kits we created:

1. Build your Own Catapult – Engineering a spoon and rubber band catapult
2. Send a Scroll – DIY card making
3. Tell Your Story – Journal prompts and journal tools
4. Claim Your Throne – Design your own crown, a paper craft with jewels to decorate
5. Grow Your Own Beanstalk – Pea pods, soil, and biodegradable pots to garden at home
6. Create Your Family Shield – Cardboard shields, handles, and crayons to inspire creativity
7. Make the Perfect Potion – Catch a Fairy

-continued on page 3





The necessary items/ingredients for completing each of these kits was assigned a color, added to the corresponding paper bag and handed out with complete instructions. These “take away” kits were supplemented with 20 other “do it yourself” quests, such as “Defend the Helpless: Perform an Act of Kindness.” We created quests that could be completed as easily as hanging out with a family pet (“Tame your Dragon”) and as complicated as baking something to share with your family (“Make Your Own Gingerbread Man”). This last one got a great response from a 10-year-old who made a casserole out of eggs and cheese and was so proud to feed his family that he wrote a story about it to share with the folks at the library. We, of course, included the more traditional forms of completing SRP, such as finishing a book or attending one of our virtual programs, but the Questing Kits were by far the most successful portion of our SRP. They were so successful that we have amended our school season programming (because we cannot hold our more traditional programming due to COVID) to be made up largely of take-away kits based around STEM and literacy for both early learners and mid-grade ages.



Please take a minute to peruse our SRP Quest Packet and our Facebook page, which has many good pics and ideas if any of this sounds like a fun addition to what your library is doing!  
[https://prlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-Quest-Packet-6\\_19-web.pdf](https://prlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-Quest-Packet-6_19-web.pdf)

**amazon**smile  
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.

## Employee Anniversaries Honored

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library honored the following employees who have reached anniversaries:

Kate Waldera – 35 years

Lynn Bryntesen – 25 years

Marilyn Schneider - 15 years

Jana Maher – 10 years

Aly Dhuyvetter - 5 years

Troy Hamre – 5 years

Matt Hovland – 5 years

Elizabeth Jacobs – 5 years

Kris Ronningen – 5 years

Lora Rose – 5 years



Library Board President Bob Bartosh stated, "As a business manager, I have discovered that the foundation of a successful business is the employees. The employees at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library are the reason for the popularity of the Library and the many successful programs and services."

The Library also recognizes its volunteers and their commitment to assisting the Library with a multitude of tasks. In 2019, 24 volunteers provided 856 hours of service to the Library.

## New Bookmobile Celebration

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library in Bismarck, ND held an open house on August 29th to celebrate the new Burleigh County Bookmobile. Festivities included tours and information on the new bookmobile, a press conference detailing the Bookmobile Campaign's results, and the names of our Magic School Bus donors. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Administration, Burleigh County Bookmobile Staff, Bismarck Library Foundation. Characters Ms. Frizzle and Booker the Lion were in attendance. Burleigh County Commissioner Jerry Woodcox and Carmen Redding from the ND State Library gave remarks, with Carmen sharing North Dakota's bookmobiles history.

The bookmobile has served the residents of Burleigh County since 1975. It has ten routes and makes regular stops at schools, assisted living facilities, towns, and various locations throughout the county. In 2019 the bookmobile made 560 stops welcoming almost 9,000 visitors; all stops are open to the public.

The former vehicle had 20 years of use, over 129,000 miles of service, 13,000 hours of service to Burleigh County. The new bookmobile features include reliable, dependable, and enhanced vehicle safety on rural roads, an auxiliary battery bank with generator backup for more environmentally friendly and quieter vehicle operation, adjustable shelving and floor level book bins for easier browsing for children, distributed heating and cooling throughout the interior, visually appealing graphics on vehicle's exterior, 81" interior height for ease of movement for adults, free onboard WiFi and a high definition monitor to display information about library services and database tutorials, and new technology for patrons.



Bismarck Veterans Memorial  
Public Library



# 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](http://emporia.edu/slim)



## Grocery Rewards—King Soopers/Kroger

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!  
There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA.  
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



# Professional Development Grants

*Grants are awarded to support the following:*

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

## *Value of Grants*

Annual budget equals the funding for grants approved but not yet awarded from the previous year plus the funding awarded for grants in the coming year. Funding for grants that have been approved but are not awarded is returned to the MPLA general fund.

*MPLA sponsors the two categories of grants:*

### **Mini-grant**

Funding for projects requiring minimal financial support. (Maximum amount: \$150)

### **Regular grant**

Funding for projects requiring substantial financial support, and for occasional funding of professional development opportunities requiring travel outside the United States. (Maximum amount: \$600)

## *Grant Funding*

- Reimbursement of actual expenses incurred during a project.
- Transportation reimbursement for the lowest possible fare or for personal vehicles, mileage for the shortest route at the amount per mile allowed for deduction for federal income tax deductions.
- Grant funding for course work limited to tuition, fees and books.
- Funding approved but not needed to reimburse expenses is returned to the MPLA general fund.
- Expenses in excess of the grant funding approved are not reimbursed.

Find out more: <https://mpla.us/about/professional-development-grants.html>

*Robin Hastings*  
**Professional Development, Chair**  
E: [prof\\_development@mpla.us](mailto:prof_development@mpla.us)

**Judy Kulp**  
**Executive Secretary**  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
E: [execsecretary@mpla.us](mailto:execsecretary@mpla.us)



# Around the Region



## Conference Update

The Arizona Library Association Virtual Conference, scheduled to take place October 14-16, has been cancelled. In its place, AzLA will offer a webinar series at no cost to AzLA members. There will be a half-day opening session on Wednesday, October 14, and additional details will be posted at [www.azla.org](http://www.azla.org) as they become available.



## Holding Space



American Library Association President Julius C. Jefferson Jr. paid a virtual visit to Cordes Lakes, Arizona, as part of the Holding Space virtual tour which also visited MPLA states Nevada, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

The conversation in Arizona focused on reaching rural communities and included Arizona Library Association President John Walsh and Arizona State Librarian Holly Henley, along with representatives from tribal libraries, county library systems, and elected officials. You can

read about the conversation in [President Jefferson's Letters from the Road](#), or view the recorded session [here](#). More information about the whole tour is available [here](#).

## Poetry Contest

The University of Arizona Poetry Center partnered with Arizona Public Media and the Pima County Public Library to present a poetry contest for southern Arizona students in grades K-12. Winning poems were announced on August 25, and you can read them [here](#). The winning poets will also be invited to read their work on Arizona Public Media.



## Free Tech Help

The Arizona State Library has collaborated with Common Sense Media and School Connect to launch [Connect Arizona](#), which includes an interactive map of free wi-fi locations across Arizona, and free tech help (the [Arizona Libraries Tech Access Phonenumber](#)) to assist people with getting online.



## **It's Fall and that Means It's Sand Hill Crane Migration Time**

The Bud Werner Memorial Library in Steamboat Springs is partnering with the Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition to produce a series of fun and educational videos as part of the 9th annual Yampa Valley Crane festival September 3rd through 6th.

Online content ranges from information on sandhill cranes and wildlife photography to crane yoga and a behind-the-scenes look at the crane festival. There will, of course, also be real-time coverage of the cranes as they pause in the fields before continuing their flight. Details about all of the possible programs can be found at [coloradocranes.org](http://coloradocranes.org)

## **Rocky Mountain PBS Partnership Opportunity Beth Crist**

Q: What do you get when you combine COVID-19, a need to teach through alternate channels, and a digital divide?

A: A new partnership opportunity!

Colorado State Library's Beth Crist posted the opportunity being offered by Rocky Mountain PBS (RMPBS) and the Colorado State Library (CSL) for Colorado Libraries to support RMPBS' program, Colorado Classroom this fall. The program provides literacy lessons on Colorado PBS stations and online for kids in grades K-3. The program is supplemented by worksheets that families can download to complete.

The catch, of course, is that not all families are able to access and print the educational materials. Participating Colorado Libraries will help make those materials available to children and families engaging in the program by making the website content available, printing copies when patrons request them, and/or distributing copies that RMPBS provides.

The partnership will be promoted by both RMPBS and the Governor's office.



### Recording Pandemic Stories

Humanities Kansas recently awarded a \$500 "Quick Grant" to Emporia Public Library for "Unprecedented Times: COVID-19 Stories from Lyon County." Developed in response to COVID-19, Quick Grants support projects that use innovative ways to engage the public with the humanities and provide alternatives to in-person gatherings.

"Unprecedented Times" is an oral history project that will record the stories of community members in Lyon County during the pandemic. Emporia Public Library intends for the project to both start a dialogue in the community and to preserve Kansans' stories for future generations.

"Everyone has been affected by the pandemic, but we recognize that not everyone has been affected in the same way," said Molly Chenault, Public Services Librarian and project director. "It is important to preserve the stories of how people experienced the effects of COVID-19 in Lyon County."

The library will collect interviews through October 15. The recordings will be made available to the public on a web archive.

"Humanities Kansas supports oral history projects because they provide us with an informative record of events from the perspective of the people who experienced them," said Julie Mulvihill, Executive Director of Humanities Kansas. "Preserving the stories of the people of Kansas during this historic pandemic is important work that we are proud to support."

If you, or someone you know, has a story you are willing to share, please contact Molly Chenault at 620-340-6451 or [chenaultm@emporialibrary.org](mailto:chenaultm@emporialibrary.org) to set up a time for an interview. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes and will take place over Zoom.



### Serving the Lebanon Community

Lebanon Community Library in Lebanon, KS is quite a small community library, but reopened by appointment rather than curbside. That is working well, since our population is small, and patronage is smaller. Our SLP was mostly online with packets mailed out or available for pick up at the library, depending on contents. We are now quarantining all incoming returns or courier deliveries for 96 hours, so this slows the process about a week due to our 20 hour/week schedule. Only two of our five computer stations can be used, and so far, we have allowed only one person at a time. Masks are provided if desired by patrons, but since most are local and do not travel, not everyone chooses to wear them. When anyone comes from another location -aka out of county - we strongly suggest masks and have so far had 100% compliance to that request with no complaints.







## North Lake County Public Library District Goes Fine Free

Abbi Dooley, Director  
Polson, MT

The Trustees of the North Lake County Public Library District in Polson, MT voted unanimously to approve a Fine Free Policy for the Library effective August 3, 2020. Library Director Abbi Dooley states that “late fines are not effective in getting materials returned on time. Many library systems who have taken this step have shown that fines have no impact on materials return rates. Eliminating late fines can have an immensely positive impact on our community by providing more equitable access to materials and library services for everyone.” She also noted that “fines are not a significant source of revenue for us. They account for less than 1% of the library’s total revenue.” The library will make all books, movies, audiobooks, music CDs, and magazines fine free on August 3. Some items will still have late fines such as laptops, telescopes, NASA backpacks, and interlibrary loan materials typically received from out of state.

Dooley stated that items will still have due dates and will be considered lost after 30 days overdue. She encourages library users to sign up for email and text reminders. Dooley is also encouraging anyone with very overdue library materials to bring them back. “We just ask that you help us out by putting your name or library card number on a slip of paper inside the item so we can remove any charges.” The Library will forgive any existing late fines on August 3, so Dooley hopes this will give everyone a fresh start and a new opportunity to visit and utilize the services of the Library.

**King Soopers/Krogers**

**COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM**

There is a change!  
There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA.  
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

# NE NEBRASKA

## Nebraska Honors NCTE Awardees with Nebraska Golden Sower Award winners for Special Awards Luncheon 2019-2020:

Four outstanding educators and a librarian were recognized at the recent Nebraska Language Arts Council (NELAC) Awards Luncheon, honoring and recognizing them for their achievements, dedication and career accomplishments. NELAC is the State English/ Language Arts Teacher Association for the state of Nebraska and is affiliated with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). The state recognition and awards were presented to Becky Stahr (York High School) who was honored as the “NCTE/NELAC Secondary Teacher of Excellence/ Nebraska English Teacher of the Year”-. Kelcey Schmitz (Omaha Benson High/OPS) was the recipient of the “NCTE/NELAC Leadership Development Award” presented to a new outstanding Language Arts/English teacher of one to five years’ experience. Taylor Lenz (Central City High School and new University of Nebraska at Kearney graduate) received the “Gerry Cox Memorial” “Nebraska Language Arts Student Teacher of the Year/Future Teacher Award.” Bryan Moore (Director of Drama at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska) received the NCTE/NELAC “Nebraska Intellectual Freedom Award/Academic Freedom Award.” Todd Schlechte of Gretna, who is with the Southeast Library System, was announced as the national nominee for the “NCTE Intellectual Freedom Award/Academic Freedom Award-National Level.” He presently serves as President Elect of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska and is a past president of the Nebraska Library Association’s round table for Intellectual Freedom.

**Picture Book Winner:** *Baby Monkey, Private Eye* by Brian Selznick & David Serlin, illus. by Brian Selznick  
**Honor:** *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors* by Drew Daywalt, illus. by Adam Rex  
*Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings  
**Chapter Book Winner:** *The Magic Misfits* by Neil Patrick Harris, illus. by Lissy Marlin & Kyle Hilton  
**Honor:** *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate  
*The Doughnut Fix* by Jessie Janowitz  
**Golden Sower Novel Winner:** *Restart* by Gordon Korman  
**Honor:** *Not If I Save You First* by Ally Carter  
*Refugee* by Alan Gratz

### Online Summer Reading in Nebraska

Since mid-May, more than 100 Nebraska libraries have been carrying out Summer Reading Programs that have allowed patrons of all ages to log their reading progress. As of July 7th, Readers have logged: 1,086,227 minutes read; 10,457 books completed; 110,272 pages read; 1,928 literacy activities completed. The Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems have worked to engage more than 100 libraries in summer reading programs through an innovative reading app called Reader Zone. These programs consist of participants of all ages with the majority being kindergarten through 6th grade.



**Big Horizons, Close Community**



**1000 Miles of Desert and Mountains****By: Robin Monteith**

The University Libraries at the University of Nevada, Reno, in partnership with the Washoe County Library, is launching a new project, *1000 Miles of Desert and Mountains*. The 1000 Miles project brings to life the adventures of George and Josephine Scott who trekked 1,000 miles across Nevada in 1914 and recorded their experiences in daily diaries.

Based on passages from the diaries, the project encompasses eight short learning videos, eight podcast style audio recordings and worksheets, along with the diaries which are available online in their entirety. The learning videos are suitable for students in grades 4 through 7, while the podcast recordings and online diaries are suitable for all ages.

“We’re so excited to bring this wonderful primary source to a new audience in a new way,” Kim Anderson, director of Special Collections and University Archives at the University, said. “As community resources, both the Washoe County Library and University Libraries are dedicated to supporting our students and community and it’s our hope that the 1000 Miles project will provide a wonderful virtual resource, especially during these challenging times,”

The captivating podcast recordings feature local actor and poet Jeremiah G. Nelson reading passages from the diaries. Each of the eight short learning videos will feature a guest speaker relating his or her expertise to the diary content. The guest speaker line-up includes local authors Michael Branch and Terri Farley, local artist and educator Emily Reid, Keck Museum Curator Garrett Barmore, Desert Research Institute Range Ecologist / Field Biologist Tiffany Pereira, DeLaMare Earth Sciences and maps librarian Chrissy Klenke and Director of Special Collections and University Archives Kim Anderson. The videos and worksheets contain vocabulary lessons along with writing, math, science, geography and art concepts. During the eight-week series, students are encouraged to keep their own diaries using prompts and activities from the worksheets as inspiration.

The project launched via the Washoe County Library’s Facebook page with an introductory video. The eight-week series will end Oct. 29. Each Tuesday, the podcast and worksheets will be shared on the Washoe County Library Facebook page, and on Thursdays, the short learning videos will be published. The videos, podcasts, and worksheets will be available on-demand via the Washoe County Library project webpage and the University Libraries’ *1000 Miles of Desert and Mountains* page.

For more information about the project, please contact Robin Monteith at [robinmonteith@unr.edu](mailto:robinmonteith@unr.edu).



George and Josephine Scott trekked 1,000 miles across Nevada in 1914 and recorded their experiences in daily diaries. Photo provided by Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Nevada, Reno.



## Rio Rancho Public Libraries Grab & Go Book Bag Service by Deanne Dekle

In June, Rio Rancho Public Libraries introduced a book bag concierge service for local youth. This service has quickly become popular as it fills a specific current need.

Presently, the library's collection is not available for browsing and when it is, access is expected to be metered for a while. The community's young people are very fond of in-person browsing and checking out books in quantity. Youth librarians encourage this practice as it means a child or teen is more likely to end up with at least a few titles they will truly enjoy. The needs of adult active readers are currently being met by the library's hold pickup service. However, youth and their adults are less likely to place holds in the quantities that meet their needs.



How does this work? A young person and/or their adult fills out an online form specific to their age group (0-6, 6-12, or 12-19 years). If they cannot access the website, they can call the library and staff will fill out the form for them. In addition to basic questions (name, library card number, age, etc.), they are asked about preferred formats, genres, comfort with school assigned reading, and previously enjoyed titles and series. A librarian uses this information to create a curated collection of approximately six items that is placed on hold and deposited in a take home tote bag. Then, the customer is contacted and a pickup time is scheduled.

Grab & Go Book Bags have quickly become an essential Rio Rancho Public Libraries community service. As of the afternoon of July 10, 2020, just under three weeks since the program's introduction, 178 requests have been filled and 1135 items distributed to Rio Rancho youth via Grab & Go. Information and online forms can be found at <https://rrnm.gov/4536/Grab-Go-Book-Bags>.

## Read. Be Inspired. Write Back. by Katie Miles

The New Mexico State Library will continue the New Mexico Letters About Literature competition. The contest encourages students to reflect on how a work of literature impacted or changed their life and then write a letter to the author telling them about it. Students can enter individually or teachers can collect and submit for their students as a class set. To learn more about it, check out: <https://lettersaboutliterature.nmculture.org/>.



### Tidbits from North Dakota

- ◆ LaMoure School & Public Library has been taking advantage of the kids being on vacation by generifying their juvenile fiction section.
- ◆ The Carnegie Regional Library staff delivered over 200 cards and messages of appreciation from their community to the Walsh County Law Enforcement Center. A patron also donated cupcakes for the occasion.
- ◆ Carnegie Regional Library received a \$3,000 donation that will be used for Children’s activities and expenses.
- ◆ James River Valley Library System received a donation for an iPad and wall mount for their bookmobile. It will be used for patron OPAC searches.
- ◆ Bowman Regional Public Library is keeping the community engaged with library services by asking them to “Rock the Block.” The library placed a bin of chalk outdoors along with stencils to let their patrons decorate the sidewalk around their library.
- ◆ Along with going fine-free, the Morton Mandan Public Library waived \$27,000 worth of outdated fines from patron records.
- ◆ Mohall Public Library has been growing beanstalks this summer to match the summer reading theme.
- ◆ Paula Johnson is the new director of the Underwood Public Library.
- ◆ Dickinson Area Public Library has put a creative twist on encouraging patrons to wear masks. Community members can enter contests for designing a mask, creating a video about masks, or creating a mask meme.
- ◆ Morton Mandan Public Library partnered with natural grocers to talk about skin health.
- ◆ New Town City Library did a how-to painting series on Facebook Live. Patrons were given an easel and canvas and then tuned in to watch the instructional video while painting in their own homes.
- ◆ Students in Morton County will be given take-home mask kits to decorate their own masks by the Morton Mandan Public Library Bookmobile.
- ◆ The Williston Community Library wanted to find a way to help our local businesses see more foot traffic. In the month of July, we created a Downtown Storywalk for businesses to display in their front windows. It was so popular that we decided to go another round with a new story.

### Hidden Hometown Heroes

The Bismarck Magazine, Scheels, and the Larks nominated Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library's Jana Maher, aka Miss Sparkles, as one of their "Hidden Hometown Heroes." Jana is the Library's Children's Program Director. Her kindness and charm have made the Bismarck community a more loving and joyful place. Even when COVID-19 shut down the Library, she live-streamed her storytime, continuing to bring smiles to children in a scary and challenging time. During August, Miss Sparkles hopped on her bicycle, traveling to various city parks to share her storytimes with the neighborhood kids.



**Expanding Internet Access**

A recent grant awarded to the Southern Oklahoma Library System is expected to help narrow the gap between high speed internet access and community members who lack access to the increasingly important resource. Eight library branches in five counties will soon see internet access checked out, like a book, for a week at a time. “People can do their homework, a lot of people are doing school from home, they can apply for jobs, they can surf the internet, whatever they need to do,” said SOLS Executive Director Gail Oehler.

The library system, with branches in Ardmore, Healdton and Wilson, received a \$12,100 digital inclusion grant. The grant, part of the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief package approved by Congress earlier this year, was administered by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

While hot spots have already been available at three branches, Oehler said there is often a waiting list for the equipment to be checked out. The digital inclusion grant will not only make more hot spots available at those branches, but all eight branches will soon offer the equipment to card holders.

While many of the 60 Oklahoma grantees will purchase hot spots, computers and laptops, SOLS will be implementing a mobile WiFi hotspot to make access even more widely available. Oehler said the system will use an existing van as an updated “book-mobile” to offer wireless internet access beyond library branches.

“That van won’t really be here around (Ardmore) but go to our remote areas like Thackerville, in Love County, or Fox. Areas where people are just a little bit further out from the library,” Oehler said, and “we’re just grateful that the grant was available. We’re tickled that we’re one of the recipients.”

**New YARP Logo**

The Young Adult Reading Program (YARP) committee of the South Dakota Library Association has a new logo for their Teen Choice Book Awards. It was created by Lucy Wang from the Siouxland Libraries.



**Archiving Covid-19**

The South Dakota State Archives has been collecting items documenting Covid-19 in South Dakota. According to their website “We are in the midst of an historic moment as the world responds to COVID-19, and we need your help to document the pandemic here in South Dakota. We want to add your stories to the archives so that future generations can understand what this experience was like. How are you and your family understanding and experiencing the pandemic?” They are requesting writings, photos, drawings, paintings, videos, audio recordings, correspondences, and social media posts from South Dakota residents. SD State Archives website - <https://history.sd.gov/archives/covid19.aspx>

**Book Walk**

The Ronning Branch of Siouxland Libraries, in Sioux Falls, SD has started a bi-weekly Book Walk. The book pages are put out during the day for people to walk by, see, and read! The first book was Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems.





## Chalk the Walk

In its first in-person event since the pandemic, The Salt Lake County Library will welcome chalk artists and their fans to partake in the library's fourth annual Chalk the Walk.

The family-friendly event happened on September 5 and included an amazing array of chalk art on the sidewalks surrounding the Library's Viridian Event Center, created by artists who spend the entire day crafting their masterpieces. Art fans voted for their favorite drawings following the event and online for those unable to attend in person. Viridian Event Coordinator Tayler Allen said "Our events have such a positive impact on the Salt Lake County Community, and we're extremely excited to have everyone back at the Viridian Event Center for Chalk the Walk. We know people will be thrilled to get outside and view the fantastic images the sidewalk artists create."

See more photos here: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheCountyLibrary/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheCountyLibrary/photos/?ref=page_internal)



## Horner is New Director at Park County Library

The Park County Library Board has selected Karen Horner as its new system director. Born and raised in California, Karen was most recently the Cultural Services Agency Director and County Librarian for Mendocino County, California. In that role, she oversees five library branches, the bookmobile and outreach mobile unit, the county museum, and all county parks. She has an MLIS from San Jose State



*Karen Horner*

University and a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in agriculture, with a specialization in wildland/ rangeland management. She knows she faces challenges ahead in these unusual times. "This year saw libraries throughout the country close down, which was something I thought we would never see. We're now exploring the future of public libraries and how they will move forward. As our community workplaces change, public libraries will continue to be the hub of the community, a place where people can access not only information online, but can access materials and books and can connect to their community." Her close-knit family is excited to relocate to Park County. "I've been a lifelong fan of Wyoming," she said, "and it's always been on my list of states I would like to move to. I look forward to connecting with everyone and becoming part of the community."



## Ten Sleep is WLA's 2020 Outstanding Library

By: Susan Mark

The Ten Sleep Library was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Wyoming Library Association's Outstanding Library of the Year Award. This award recognizes an exemplary library for a significant special project completed within the last two years. The Ten Sleep Library is a branch of the Washakie County Library system.

"I'm just so honored that we were chosen," said Karen Funk, Washakie County Library Director. "We've had a huge amount of support over the years. Whenever we've needed a hand, the community has stepped up. And the staff are incredible – they've worked so hard and put their hearts into this little library."

Ten Sleep Library was honored for its expansion that included room for an after-school program. The expansion was funded by grants and both cash and in-kind donations, including a Wyoming Business Council grant for \$136,177 and a land donation valued at \$12,922 from Washakie County School District #2. The Washakie County Library Foundation provided \$27,000 worth of additional new shelving.

The after-school program is supported through a grant from Washakie County Youth Alternatives and through private donations. "After the Bell" provides children with after-school care, activities, healthy snacks, and homework help after they leave the school building, giving their parents peace of mind.

To be named as WLA's Outstanding Library, the staff, library board, community, or people served must all have been involved in the work for which recognition is sought, and the Ten Sleep Library excelled on that front.

"When we looked at the nominations, what set the Ten Sleep Library apart was its community support," said Anna Street, WLA Awards/Grants Committee Chair. "The fact that such a small community could pull together the grants, donations, and partnerships to make this happen really impressed us. It's a well-deserved honor."

The Ten Sleep Branch Library and Washakie County School District # 2 work together as a cooperative to provide a combination school and public library that serves the Town of Ten Sleep and the outlying ranching and farming community.





# Welcome, New Members!



Contact Name	Title	Institution	Library Name	City	State
Patricia Brown	Director		Deadwood Public Library	Deadwood	SD

## MPLA Membership Chats

Please join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month to connect with fellow MPLA Members.

1:00 Central time  
Noon Mountain time  
11 am Pacific time

In the odd months, we'll discuss a library related topic and our and even months will be a virtual picnic so pack a lunch or your favorite snack and join us for a social hangout.

[Click here to register for future meetings](#)

Topics for future chats  
can be submitted to  
[membership@mpla.us](mailto:membership@mpla.us)





# MPLA Board & Staff



## President

Stephen Sweeney  
St. John Vianney Seminary  
Cardinal Stafford Library  
Denver, CO  
[president@mpla.us](mailto:president@mpla.us)

## Vice-President/President Elect

Robin Newell  
Emporia Public Library  
Emporia, Kansas  
[vicepresident@mpla.us](mailto:vicepresident@mpla.us)

## Past President / Administration

Leslie H. Langley  
Southeastern Public Library System,  
Wister Public Library  
Wister, OK  
[pastpresident@mpla.us](mailto:pastpresident@mpla.us)

## Recording Secretary

Whitney Vitale  
Oklahoma State University  
Edmon Low Library  
Stillwater, Oklahoma  
[secretary@mpla.us](mailto:secretary@mpla.us)

## Executive Secretary

Judy Kulp  
Lakewood, Colorado  
[execsecretary@mpla.us](mailto:execsecretary@mpla.us)

## Newsletter Editor

Melanie Argo  
Madison Public Library  
Madison, SD  
[editor@mpla.us](mailto:editor@mpla.us)

## Leadership Institute Coordinator

Aubrey Madler  
Byrnes-Quanbeck Library  
Mayville, North Dakota  
[coordinator@mpla.us](mailto:coordinator@mpla.us)

## Webmaster

Roy Degler  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK  
[webmaster@mpla.us](mailto:webmaster@mpla.us)

## MPLA Archives

Abby Hoverstock  
Denver Public Library,  
Western History and Genealogy  
Denver, SD  
[archives@mpla.us](mailto:archives@mpla.us)

## Awards

Mary Ann Thompson  
Hays, KS  
[awards@mpla.us](mailto:awards@mpla.us)

## Nominating

Leslie H. Langley  
Southeastern Public Library System,  
Wister Public Library  
Wister, OK  
[nominating@mpla.us](mailto:nominating@mpla.us)

## Bylaws and Procedures

Frances Brummett  
Salt Lake City Public Library  
Salt Lake City, UT  
[bylaws@mpla.us](mailto:bylaws@mpla.us)

## Communications

Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse  
Mulvane Public Library  
Mulvane, KS  
[communications@mpla.us](mailto:communications@mpla.us)

## Leadership Institute

Tom Taylor  
Andover Library  
Andover, KS  
[leadership@mpla.us](mailto:leadership@mpla.us)

## Membership

Mary J. Soucie  
North Dakota State Library  
Bismarck, ND  
[membership@mpla.us](mailto:membership@mpla.us)

## Professional Development

Robin Hastings  
Northeast Kansas Library System  
Lawrence, KS  
[prof\\_development@mpla.us](mailto:prof_development@mpla.us)



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.



# MPLA State Representatives



## **Arizona**

Amadee Ricketts  
Cochise County Library  
Bisbee, AZ  
[arizona@mpla.us](mailto:arizona@mpla.us)

## **Colorado**

Elena Rosenfeld  
High Plains Library District  
Greeley, CO  
[colorado@mpla.us](mailto:colorado@mpla.us)

## **Kansas**

Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse  
Mulvane Public Library  
Mulvane, KS  
[kansas@mpla.us](mailto:kansas@mpla.us)

## **Montana**

Rachel M. Rawn  
Havre-Hill County Library  
Havre, MT  
[montana@mpla.us](mailto:montana@mpla.us)

## **Nebraska**

Evonne Edgington  
Omaha Public Library -Millard Branch  
Omaha, NE  
[nebraska@mpla.us](mailto:nebraska@mpla.us)

## **Nevada**

Luisse Davis  
Douglas County Public Library  
Minden, NV  
[nevada@mpla.us](mailto:nevada@mpla.us)

## **New Mexico**

Dale Savage  
New Mexico State Library  
[new\\_mexico@mpla.us](mailto:new_mexico@mpla.us)

## **North Dakota**

Randi Monley  
Minot Public Library  
Minot, ND  
[north\\_dakota@mpla.us](mailto:north_dakota@mpla.us)

## **Oklahoma**

April Miller  
Southwestern Oklahoma State  
University  
[oklahoma@mpla.us](mailto:oklahoma@mpla.us)

## **South Dakota**

Nita Gill  
Brookings Public Library  
Brookings, SD  
[south\\_dakota@mpla.us](mailto:south_dakota@mpla.us)

## **Utah**

Joe Fraizer  
Summit County Library  
Park City, UT  
[utah@mpla.us](mailto:utah@mpla.us)

## **Wyoming**

Cindy Moore  
Converse County Library System  
Douglas, WY  
[wyoing@mpla.us](mailto:wyoing@mpla.us)





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

Executive Board – Officers, State Representatives and Staff:  
<https://mpla.us/about/executive-board/>

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:  
<https://mpla.us/services/membership/>

Professional Development Grants:  
<https://mpla.us/about/professional-development-grants.html>

Calendar: <https://mpla.us/quick-links/calendar.html>

Awards Nomination Form:  
<https://mpla.us/services/awards/>

Grocery Card Program: [www.mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html](http://www.mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html)

Send Newsletter Information:  
[www.mpla.us/forms/newssubmission.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/newssubmission.html)

Donate to MPLA: <https://mpla.us/donate-to-mpla.html>

Job line:  
<https://mpla.us/quick-links/jobline.html>

MPLA on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MountainPlainsLibraryAssociation/>

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

<https://mpla.us/documents/newsletter/>

ISSN 0145-6180

Editor: Melanie Argo,  
Madison Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

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

## Advertising:

There is no charge to MPLA personal or institutional members for classified advertising.

Non-members are charged \$1.25/line. Display advertisement copy rates are available from [editor@mpla.us](mailto:editor@mpla.us).

## MPLA Membership:

For matters pertaining to individual or institutional memberships and address changes, contact:

Judy Kulp  
Executive Secretary  
14293 West Center Drive  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
(303) 985-7795  
[execsecretary@mpla.us](mailto:execsecretary@mpla.us)