



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community

February 2024—March 2024

mpla.us

Volume 69 Number 1

See You in Salt Lake

Our next conference will be in Salt Lake City, May 8-10, and it will be here before you know it.

One of the very best things about MPLA is the opportunity to visit our beautiful member states and connect with colleagues we would not ordinarily get to meet. I am especially excited about MPLA's return to Utah, because MPLA was set for a joint conference with the Utah Library Association in 2021 and ended up shifting to a virtual conference due to pandemic concerns. Although the virtual conference was very successful, heading to Utah for an in-person conference feels like closing the loop on some of what we missed during the pandemic.

Of course, the conference promises to be exciting in its own right, with keynotes by American Library Association President Emily Drabinski, inclusion advocate Sara Jones, and author Sy Montgomery. The conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in downtown Salt Lake City, and many of our favorite Utah colleagues will be there.

Conference registration will open soon, and I hope you are already making plans to attend. I look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake.



Amadee Ricketts
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**Jim
Ricketts**

for your help in updating the MPLA graphics

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We will see you at ULA in May!

ULA/MPLA CONFERENCE
May 8-10



Just Winging It



Emily Drabinski
ALA President

Sara Jones
Keynote



Sy Montgomery
Author

2024 | ULA CONFERENCE RATES

MEMBER	
Preconference Only	\$85
One Day (Th or Fri)	\$150
Full Conf. Early Bird	\$275
Full Conf. Regular	\$300
NON-MEMBER	
Preconference Only	\$85
One Day (Th or Fri)	\$225
Full Conf. Early Bird	\$350
Full Conf. Regular	\$375
STUDENT	
Preconference Only	\$85
One Day (Th or Fri)	\$100
Full Conf. Early Bird	\$120
Full Conf. Regular	\$130

Just Winging It



Learn more about the invited speakers

<https://ula.org/2024-conference-speakers/>

Registration opening soon!

<https://ula.org/2024-annual-conference/>

MPLA Awards



The Mountain Plains Library Association honors outstanding libraries, individuals, businesses, and library supporters during its annual conference.

Guidelines:

- Nominations may be submitted by any member of the Mountain Plains Library Association.
- Some awards require nominees to be current or past MPLA members, and others require participation in the MPLA region.
- Recipients chosen by the Awards Committee will remain unnamed until the announcement at the Utah Library Association Conference.
- Awards from the Mountain Plains Library Association are presented only if merited, and not necessarily every year.
- Nominations for 2024 awards are due **April 1, 2024**

For more information about MPLA Awards, please contact the Awards Committee, awards@mpla.us

<https://mpla.us/community/mpla-awards/mpla-awards-list/>



MPLA Elections 2024

MPLA will be conducting its 2024 annual officer elections from Feb. 1 to Feb 10, 2024. The election will be conducted online and all members eligible to vote in the election will receive their ballot via email on Feb. 1, 2024.

[Get to know the candidates.](#)



Big Horizons, Close Community



Professional Development Grants

The Professional Development Committee supports avenues of continuing education and research experiences for individuals employed in the library or related professions in the Mountain Plains region.



Individual Grants

Grants are awarded to support the following: Formal course work in library science or a related discipline and/or directly related to an individual's library position. Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference. Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures. Library related research projects.

State Association Conference Grants

Grants are awarded to encourage opportunities for continuing education for the MPLA membership through pre or post conferences at the annual meetings of state associations in the region. If a state does not offer pre/post conference programs, that state can be awarded a grant for a presentation of comparable significance during the conference.

<https://mpla.us/community/professional-development-grants/>



Chew & Chat



Led by lively hosts Jake Rundle and Mary Soucie, the informal discussions will occur every 4th Wednesday of the month.

4th Wednesdays of each month

**1 PM Central time
Noon Mountain
11 am Pacific**

[Register in advance via Zoom](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meetings. Feel free to forward this information to others interested in MPLA.



NOW IS THE TIME



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A graduate degree in Library and Information Management complements previous education, offers prospects for increased earnings and provides flexible skills for the future. Learn more at emporia.edu/slim.



On behalf of the MPLA Leadership Institute Committee



The next Leadership Institute will be in
May 2025

more details to follow soon!



[MPLA on Facebook](#)

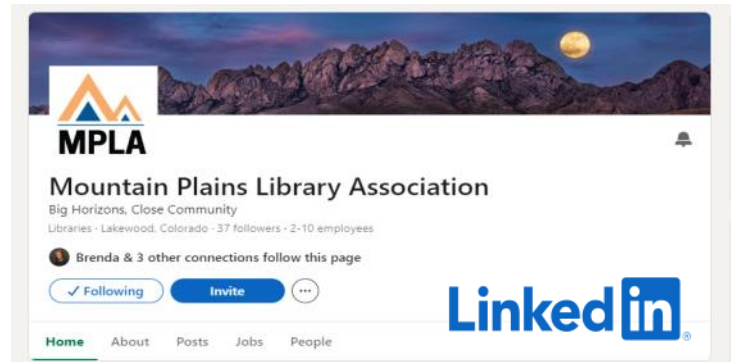
**NEED A CHANGE?
STARTING OUT?**

CHECK OUT MPLA'S
JOBLINE FOR OPENINGS

MPLA REGION

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

AND BEYOND...



[MPLA on LinkedIn](#)

Jobline <https://mpla.us/jobs/>



PNLA QUARTERLY

Pacific Northwest Library Association

This journal is all about regional content, open access, and discoverability.

PNLA Quarterly includes a combination of peer-reviewed and editor-reviewed articles focusing on issues of interest to libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Who better to provide this content than the practitioners, students, and educators who live in or are affiliated with the region? This regional focus and mix of content offer diverse but balanced information relevant to public, academic, and special libraries.

The journal is available as one large PDF or individual article PDFs, which, along with keywords for each article, improves the discovery rate of PQ content and give our authors more exposure on the Web, while improving indexing by vendors such as EBSCO. The journal conforms to the Open Access model, where content is made available free of charge to readers upon publication. Thanks to the sponsorship of PNLA, no costs are charged to content creators.

PQ publishes on a quarterly schedule. While submissions on topics of interest to librarianship in the Pacific Northwest region of the US and Canada are welcome anytime, issues are often organized around themes like leadership or the annual PNLA conference. Please see the latest issue for the active call for proposals or contact the editor with inquiries or submissions.

Robert Perret and Jennifer Ward are the current co-editors of PQ. They can best be reached at PQEditors@gmail.com.

<https://pnla.org/pnla-quarterly/>

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**

Link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

SUPPORT MPLA!



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- 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



Pima County Libraries Help Adults Earn High School Diploma

The Pima County Library in Tucson has partnered with an online charter school to provide access to a pathway for Pima County residents to earn their high school diploma online. Upon completion of a two-week course designed to evaluate the potential fit of the online curriculum, students must two semesters within their first 30 days to be eligible for the county-funded scholarship to continue.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.library.pima.gov/highschool/>.

Art in the Clark



Art in the Clark, a program of Friends of Clark Memorial Library, in Clarkdale, AZ showcases meaningful local art for the enjoyment of library patrons.

In November showcased was Mingus Union Photography guided by the instruction of Ouida Dorr. This art show is a fascinating look into the lives of our teens and what they find worthy of attention.

For more on Art in the Clark, go to friendsofcml.org/art. For more information about Clark Memorial Library visit

ycfld.gov/clarkdale



Poudre River Public Library District Takes On Mobility Survey Challenge

Submission made on behalf of: Ken Draves, Deputy Director, Poudre River Public Library District, Fort Collins, CO

The Poudre River Public Library District, based in Fort Collins, worked with Colorado State University's Department of Occupational Therapy (OT) to assess whether three of the library locations met the Community Health Environment Checklist for Mobility (CHEC-M) standards.

The assessment process was done by OT professionals and students.



All locations are using the assessment data to improve accessibility. An example being the Council Tree location which met expectation for 45 of the 46 CHEC-M items. The one item that needed addressing was to insure that areas that counters for walk-up use of library catalog computers due to the height. The resulting recommendation was that the library may either find a way to make the height accessible to ADA standards or direct people to other nearby options.

There were also spaces that met standards yet could be improved. For example, this teen space meets guidelines, but the placement of the tables make for an overcrowded environment. The solution? They are looking at rearranging the space to allow for better mobility.

Unsurprisingly, some of the lessons learned were that (1) it's a good idea to continue to check for opportunities to improve the accessibility, (2) that improvements are not necessarily expensive or complex, and (3) partnering with a university department can be a route that supports student education as well as enhance the library experience for others.



Colorado Learns Through Shared Knowledge

The [OERColorado Project](#) is a statewide initiative to provide digital collections of free openly licensed curriculum resources for PK-12+ educators to use in their teaching and classrooms. OERColorado established pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S. § 22-5-119) is administered by the [Colorado River Board of Cooperative Education Services \(CR BO-CES\)](#) and [Colorado Empowered Learning \(CEL\)](#).

The mission of OERColorado is to support Colorado educators, administrators, and other educational stakeholders in PK-12+ in using Open Educational Resources (OER) materials, share ideas, and create affordable, high quality learning resources.

Learn more here: <https://oercolorado.com/news>



New Director

Danielle O'Barto recently accepted the Director of Library Services position at Ottawa University, Gangwish Library.

O'Barto earned a Master's of Library Science degree in 2016, and became an OU team member in 2018. She enjoys playing dragons with her 2 year old, crochet, and of course reading.

Award Winners from KLA 2023



to R:

Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse, outgoing KLA President
Janet Marler Director, Marion City Library

Best Small Library

Sharon Mueller, Leavenworth Schools

Intellectual Champion

Carolyn Little, Friends of Kansas Libraries (FOKL)

Meritorious Service

Jamie Curtis, Library District #2 of Linn County Trustee

Library Advocate

Cynorra Jackson, Wichita State University Libraries

Library Personnel

Erin Verbick, Morrill Public Library

New professional

L



Visual Learning at Great Falls Public Library

A visual learning display called "Montana Homesteading" provides patrons a new way to dive into history to help bring a piece of Montana history back to life. The Great Falls Public Library partnered with the Genealogy society and the History Museum to show its visitors what homesteading was like in the Treasure State over 100-years ago.

Sarah Cawley, the community engagement coordinator said "There are so many cool facts and books and artifacts up there [the 3rd floor of the library]. So we wanted to bring some of that information down to the first floor where a lot of our patrons are," said Cawley.

Overall though, it's just another way for the community to learn.



[Joe Taylor, Senior Reporter Of NonStop LOCAL](#)

Tree of Warmth

The Grand Island Public Library and Grand Island Public Library Foundation had a "Tree of Warmth" for their community. People donated new, clean and in good-shape hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for the community.

This was the first year and the idea came from a member of the library foundation's mother, who loves to crochet, between that some ideas from the other library staff and it being the holiday season, the 'Tree of Warmth' was born.



Santa Saturday

Wauneta Public Library—Amanda Ziegler
Originally published in: [The Western Sun](#)

The Wauneta Public Library would like to thank the community for their participation in our Santa Saturday event held December 2nd. Our turn-out was nothing short of amazing. We welcomed 91 guests and 16 volunteers for a grand total of 107 patrons from not only Wauneta, but Imperial, Palisade, Hayes, Grant and McCook! We certainly could not have done this without our board members and volunteers. Mrs. Donna Applegarth, Lindsay Anderson, Joyce Bley, Sharon Haarberg, Denise Krausnick, Jennifer DeWester, Lindsay Acton, Gypsy Emerick, Larry Ziegler, & Wauneta-Palisade cheer and guests ~ we couldn't have done it without you!

Our crafts were fun and entertaining, the hot cocoa and cookies were a hit, and our letters to Santa and Santa Express mailbox have worked their magic! 25 littles wrote to Santa and he replied to everyone who placed their letter in the Santa Express mailbox!

We also held several contests, and the winners took home brand new Christmas books amongst other goodies!





20th anniversary of the Oral History

In Fall 2023, the UNLV University Libraries celebrated not only the 20th anniversary of the Oral History Research Center, but 20 years of the extraordinary work of Claytee White. Although White has been rather humble about this achievement, she has led 13

major projects and several smaller ones that have recorded the often unrecognized history of Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. No celebration could truly be enough to honor her work on behalf of the center, but nevertheless, we did so with an exhibition detailing the center's work, a documentary screening, an anniversary reception, and most importantly, a recording of White's very own oral history.

The exhibition curated by the faculty of UNLV Libraries provides the most thorough recap of the center's work over the years. Providing significant anecdotes from the oral histories recorded in each project as well as highlighting other materials within our Special Collections & Archives that relate to these projects, it reveals the story of Las Vegas and how it came to be. Most importantly, it reveals how the city continues to move forward in the wakes of both our triumphs and our tragedies. This exhibition currently lives on the first floor of Lied Library at UNLV, but some of it is also [highlighted here](#)

Early in the semester long celebration of the OHRC, we also hosted a documentary screening of *Storming Caesars Palace* at the library. Many of the women featured in the film had their oral histories recorded by White and White was featured in the film as an expert historian. As we reached the midpoint of the semester, we finished our celebration by allowing our storyteller to become the story.

At our 20th anniversary event, Stefani Evans, the Project Manager for the OHRC, sat down with Claytee and recorded her oral history in front of a live audience. This oral history will soon be added to our collection, which can be viewed at any time at special.library.unlv.edu.

20 years and more than 4,000 oral histories collected later, the work of the center continues under the extraordinary direction of Claytee White.



Claytee White narrating her oral history.





Letter Writing and Postcrossing Club

By Carmelita Aragon, State Data Coordinator, NMSL
Originally published on [Latest News + Hitchhiker Blog](#)

Alysa at the International District Public Library in Albuquerque has been using [Postcrossing](#) for several years and started an account for the library to create the Letter Writing and Postcrossing Club, which plans to meet monthly. The plan is to create a display within the library of all the postcard received. I attended the inaugural meeting this past week and sent a postcard to someone in Canada through the library’s account.

Alysa explained that people who sign up can write a little about themselves as well as what types of postcards they wish to receive. She also mentioned that you don’t always have to send a requested postcard, but if you have it, why not? People are just happy to receive a postcard to register on [Postcrossing](#).

Since Alysa has been participating for a while, she was kind enough to share with attendees her personal collection of postcards she’s been collecting – two shoe boxes full! The postcard I selected to send to the person in Canada was a beautiful sunset picture of White Sands National Park. I chose this particular card since one of the person’s requests was for beautiful scenery postcards.

It is free to create a [Postcrossing](#) account and it seems like something libraries can create programming around for engaging with their communities. If you decide to create library programming around [Postcrossing](#) let us know how it goes!



Minot

Pub-

Public Library Renovations

by: Morgan DeVries, Joe Rinaldi of [KX News](#)

‘Oh the places you’ll go!’ is a common cry to encourage people to take up reading — and this is especially true for children’s literature.

As if to drive the point home, one area library has its new children’s section open and ready for families to enjoy and experience.

“We wanted to make sure we had a dedicated space for little kids to play,” said the Minot Public Library’s Children’s Librarian Randi Monley. “The stage area is so kids can have cooperative play with each other, and give kids of all ages the ability to have a good place to come in.”

In addition to the play area, the library added fresh paint, carpet, and new bookcases. They also set up special reading nooks for kids to sit back and relax in, and while these are not yet complete, the children’s entryway should be finished in a couple of weeks.

“We are also going to be having a grand reopening party on Saturday, January 13th from 1 until 3,”

Monley stated. “There’s going to be a ribbon cutting, a dance party, story times, all the good stuff for children of all ages.”



Retirement of Leslie Langley

Posted by Michael Hull on [OLA News & Press](#)

On December 1st, 2023, Leslie Langley, Southeast Oklahoma Library System (SEOLS) Regional Supervisor and past OLA president, retired after 33 years of exceptional service. We will cherish Leslie for her role as a mentor and developer of new leaders every bit as much as we'll remember her accomplishments, which included campaigning for an increased library tax millage in LeFlore County, leading the OLA Gold Committee, and receiving both the OLA and MPLA Distinguished Service Awards. Leslie took great pride in being the first OLA and MPLA president to serve in that role without an MLIS. Wherever she went, Leslie established a reputation for growing and mentoring new leaders. Almost every OLA officer and leader was mentored at one time or another by Leslie.



Leslie Langley with some of her fellow OLA Presidents. From left: Sarah Robbins, Cheryl Suttles, Marty Thompson, Tim Miller, Leslie Langley, Dana Belcher and Stacy Schrank.

Ipswich Librarian Retires

Published in the December 7th, [SDSL's Cornerstone Newsletter](#)

Ruby Bosanko celebrated her retirement with over 200 local people at the Ipswich library on the 28th of October. On the 31st of October, the retiring librarian checked out her final book.



Ruby has seen plenty of changes in the Marcus P. Beebe Memorial Library during her 32 ½ years she has been the head librarian. The biggest change has been the addition of computers and Wi-Fi.

- As of the 2022 library book count report, Ruby has tended to 19,000 books;
- helped 919 adult customers and 457 junior members;
- enrolled 30 new e-book readers; and
- witnessed 60 children enjoy the summer reading program.

Although Ruby's memory for each person's choice of reading can never be completely downloaded, she spent the month of October working with her successor, Cindy Percy, to familiarize her with the facility and customers. She will not be a stranger to the library after retirement, books still need to be read!

Congratulations, Ruby! Thank you for your hard work and dedication.



Day of the Dead celebration

Published online at [The City Journals](#)

The Midvale local library, the Ruth Vine Tyler Library, hosted a Day of the Dead Celebration at the beginning of November, and boasted a significant turnout of Utah residents.

Davie Bird, the Tyler Library manager, said “it is our most attended event, and definitely our loudest event,” he mentioned with a chuckle. This event brought in over 200 people within the first hour of the three-hour event, and only grew from there as various forms of entertainment poured in as well.

The Day of the Dead is celebrated all across Central and South America, and each country has unique and diverse means of celebration, and many of these were found at the Tyler Library during this event. Many ofrendas, or altar to honor lost loved ones, could be seen across the library honoring famed authors such as Mark Twain, Stephen Hawking, and Hans Christian Andersen, with offerings of fruit, candles, flowers, and sweet breads placed around a picture of them. With these altars one could also find kites that traditionally originated from Guatemala, showing the dedication to detail and diversity at the Tyler Library Day of the Dead celebration.



Abby Beaver Appointed State Librarian

Abby Beaver has accepted the position of Wyoming State Librarian. Having served as the Interim State Librarian since October 2023, Abby has been working for the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne since 2016 as the Information Services Manager. From 2018 through 2021, she also served as the Wyoming Library Association’s Vice-President, President, and Past President.

“I’m incredibly excited,” said Abby. “I am so fortunate to have the support and expertise of the WSL staff to guide me in this transition.” Abby hopes to strengthen the library community connections across Wyoming. She’d also like to expand reliable resources and programming opportunities for Wyoming residents.

“The Wyoming State Library staff are talented specialists with a wealth of library institutional knowledge,” said Abby. “Our staff, as well as the rest of the Wyoming library community, have a strong and creative desire to support our patrons. I am honored that my job is to support them in those admirable goals.” Read the full blog post [here](#).



L to R: Administration and Information Deputy Director Russ Noel, Abby Beaver, and A & I Director Patricia Bach



Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Alice Smith	Director of Library Development Institution	State Library of Kansas	Topeka, KS
Dan Alexander	CE Consultant	Northeast Kansas Library System	Lawrence, KS
Enerel Dambiinyam		South Dakota State University Hilton M Briggs Library	Brookings, SD
Jeffrey Flechsing	Special Collections & Archives Assistant	Montana State University - Billings Library	Billings, MT
Jennifer Lee	Library Services Supervisor Institution	The Public Library-Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Alamosa	Albuquerque, NM
Jordan Abitz	Onaga Branch Librarian	Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library Onaga Branch	Onaga, KS
Justin Huston		University of South Dakota McKusick Law Library	Vermillion, SD
Kip Thorson		South Dakota State University Hilton M Briggs Library	Brookings, SD
Kristin Echtenkamp		South Dakota State University Hilton M Briggs Library	Brookings, SD
Leo Gallia	Adult Reference Librarian	Arapahoe Library District Eloise	Denver, CO

Ever wondered about the conference Rubber Duckies?



This was the scoop from Hot Tub Roundtable cofounder Eileen Wright:

"The MPLA Hot Tub Roundtable began in 2009, with the hopes of creating another avenue for MPLA folks to gather for an evening of laughter and fun. We had to have rubber duckies join us, of course. So each year we make sure to have a night set aside for our Hot Tub Roundtable and the naming of the ducks, which change each year..."



Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Mandie Medalen	Director	Heart of America Library	Rugby, ND
Marilyn Mendenhall	Information Media Specialist	Knollwood Heights Elementary, Rapid City Area Schools	Rapid City, SD
Melanie Smith	Branch Librarian	Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library St. Mary's Branch	St. Marys, KS
Michael Biondo	Electronic Resources and Scholarly Communications	South Dakota State University Hilton M Briggs Library	Brookings, SD
Montana State	c/o Nicole Marie Bernard	Montana State University Billings	Billings, MT
Nikki Hansen	Resource Sharing Librarian	State Library of Kansas	Topeka, KS
Rain Schultz-Pruner	Assistant Branch Librarian	Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library	St. Marys, KS
Sarah Daniels	Librarian	Aims Community College Kiefer Library	Evans, CO
Sarah Kammer		University of South Dakota McKusick Law Library	Vermillion, SD

King Soopers/Krogers

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

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- Pay-less Cala-Bell
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The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

Quick Links:

Website: www.mpla.us

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Professional Development Grants:

<https://mpla.us/community/professional-development-grants/>

Calendar: <https://mpla.us/news-and-events/calendar/>

Awards: <https://mpla.us/community/mpla-awards/>

Job line: <https://mpla.us/jobs/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/MountainPlainsLibraryAssociation/>

MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>

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

<https://mpla.us/archives/mpla-archives/publications/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.

MPLA Membership:

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

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