

Newsletter

MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Big Horizons, Close Community

April 2024—May 2024

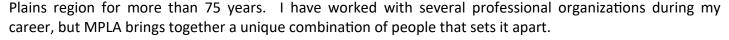
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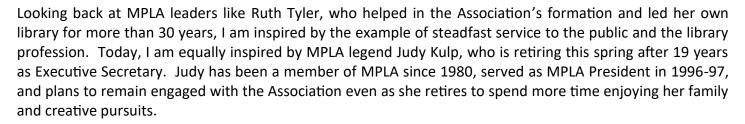
Volume 69 Number 2

Full Circle with MPLA

It is exciting to head back to Salt Lake City this spring for our joint conference with the Utah Library Association. I will be bringing two MPLA gavels to hand off to incoming President Robin Hastings, including one that was presented to MPLA by the Salt Lake City Public Library in 1950, when Salt Lake City's Head Librarian Ruth Vine Tyler was MPLA President.

As the end of my presidential year draws near, I am proud to be part of an Association that has supported libraries and library staff across the Mountain





Having longtime members and retired leaders who are still active contributors, like many of our esteemed Past Presidents, is one of the things I love about MPLA. As we welcome a new Just Winging It - Conference Info Executive Secretary and new leadership team, I look forward to seeing what they will build on these strong foundations.



Amadee Ricketts president@mpla.us 520-732-0826

In this Issue

Thank You & New Faces **Around the Region Welcome New Members** MPLA Board and Staff **MPLA Quick Links**

We will see you at ULA in May!



Learn more about the invited speakers

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

Registration Open!

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

Thank you, Judy Kulp, for your many years of service to the MPLA organization.







New Faces

Executive Secretary: Sherrie Mortensen

Where are you located?

I live in Utah and work in a relatively rural, but fast-growing, county library just a few miles south of Park City Utah.

What interested you about the Executive Secretary position?

It was at an MPLA conference in Arizona probably 10 years ago, that I decided to make librarianship my career and not just my job. Now I plan to retire from full-time library work sometime this year and love the idea of keeping my foot in the door by continuing my involvement in MPLA. I want to continue to support librarians and librarianship in our region!



What are some of your favorite things? (to do, watch, etc.)

I am a children's librarian and most of my favorite things have to with kiddos! I love their smiles, their genuine enjoyment of simple things, their honesty, and their enthusiasm! I will really miss the kids here at my library when I retire!

What's the most interesting thing you can see out of your office or kitchen window?

I am so fortunate to live and work in the shadow of the beautiful Timpanogos Mountains. I'm just a hop, skip and a jump from Sundance ski resort and love looking out from my desk at the snow-capped Mount Timpanogos!

Is there anything you'd like you to say to MPLA members?

I believe in professional organizations. We can do so much good as we support each other and share ideas and inspiration that help us to be the best we can be! I credit both ULA and MPLA with inspiring me to be more than I would have been without them, and I am happy for the opportunity to give back!



New Faces

Webmaster: Ryne Andal

My name Ryne, pronounced like the river in Europe, Rhine. I was named after the Hall of Fame second baseman, Ryne Sandberg, go Cubs!

Where are you located?

I live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with my wife of 11 years, Andrea, and our four children.

What interested you about the webmaster position?

I have always adored the library, and when I came across the posting, I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to introduce myself to a library

community and learn more about it. Both of my parents are English teachers, so books have always been an important part of my life. That and my background as a software developer made the position seem like a natural fit.



At the current time, my limited free time is devoted to finishing my degree in AI and Machine Learning. I have always loved learning and decided to go back to school in 2022. When I used to have free time, I was a voracious reader (fantasy, sci-fi, history, pop-sci). I also loved to play video games and watch anime. The Witcher novels and games are near and dear to my heart, while Full Metal Alchemist and Sword Art Online hold sentimental value for my wife and I. Finally, I spend a lot of time with my children, who are growing up to love all the media that I do.

What's the most interesting thing you can see out of your office or kitchen window?

Unfortunately, most of my view from my home office is the neighborhood, although I can see a little bit of the retention pond behind the homes across the street. This is a fun distraction when birds are migrating, because they'll often visit the pond enroute to their destination. It overlooks much of the backyard as well, so I can also monitor the kids while they're having fun.

Is there anything you'd like you to say to MPLA members?

I am excited to be a part of the community. I've enjoyed meeting other members of the MPLA staff and look forward to contributing as well as I can.

Nescome to the learn



MPLA Elections Results

After a close election, the results are in and our winners are both from the lovely state, New Mexico!

Vice President/President Elect

Erin Wahl

Assistant Professor/University Archivist. New Mexico State University. Las Cruces, New Mexico





Recording Secretary

Cassandra Osterloh

Tribal Libraries Program Coordinator, New Mexico State Library









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/

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.



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On behalf of the MPLA Leadership Institute Committee



The next Leadership Institute will be in May 2025

more details to follow soon!





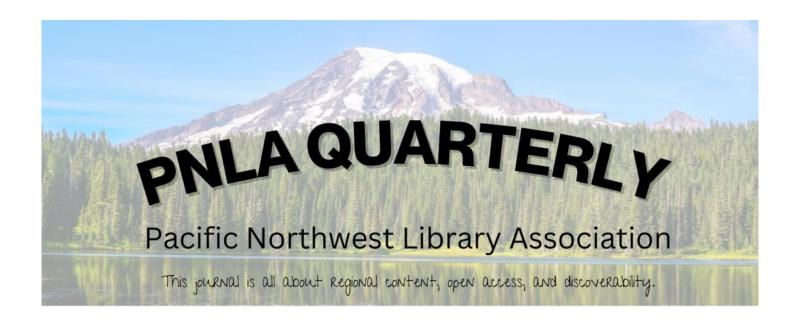




MPLA on Linkedin

Jobline

https://mpla.us/jobs/



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!



Around the Region



ΑZ Librarians Resilient Rural **Fostering** Communities

In August 2023, Stephanie Fulton, representing the Huachuca City Library, was granted \$4000 through the ΑZ Librarians Fostering Resilient Rural Communities facilitated program,

the Arizona Library Association (AzLA) and the University of Arizona Center for Rural Health. Utilizing this grant, the Huachuca City Library initiated a Diaper Bank, serving not just Huachuca City but also reaching out to neighboring communities.

Each month, families visiting the Diaper Bank receive a package containing a box of diapers, a packet of wipes, a sheet of early literacy tips, local resource information, and an age-appropriate book. The library's mission was not only to alleviate financial burdens but also to foster early childhood development and literacy within the community.

The humble initiative caught the attention of KGUN9, a local Tucson news company, which featured the story, amplifying the library's reach and impact. The response was overwhelming. In December, the Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona generously donated 6,000 diapers of various sizes! But the kindness didn't stop there. In February, the Sierra Vista Women's Club contributed an additional 2,000 diapers, along with their heartfelt support. Their unexpected donation reaffirmed the power of community solidarity and the ripple effect of compassion.

As the grant draws to a close on April 30th, these contributions ensure the continuity of the Diaper Bank's operations. With the remaining funds from the grant, the library will procure additional diaper sizes and books. ensuring that the shelves remain stocked and doors open to those in need.











KANSAS

Welcome New Rep, Sarah Daniels



What made you want to get involved with MPLA?

I wanted to get involved with MPLA because I saw it as an opportunity to connect with the library world. I want to know what other libraries do and how they tackle challenges. Being in this role

is a very new experience for me, so it is helping me to grow in my profession and fosters my love for learning. I really like that MPLA is a regional organization so I can work with librarians from other states as well. Overall, I saw this as a great opportunity to improve as a librarian.

Program Spotlight: Library for All

The library is more than just a home for books — it's a space where everyone can engage in learning, play, and creativity! Librarians at Jefferson County Library, Lakewood, CO warmly welcome and invite adults with disabilities and their caregivers to join in a variety of fun activities — such as crafting, gaming, guest

speakers, music, and more! Our programs are thoughtfully tailored to the unique interests and abilities of each participant.



More information: Click Here

Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid

High Plains Library District is incredibly proud that LINC Library Innovation Center in downtown Greeley, CO, has been featured on Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid.

The episode will be circulating on public TV stations as interstitial programming throughout the US for the next year.

https://bit.ly/viewpointlinc

Art exhibits Our Stories & Sorting Out Race

Our Stories: African American Topeka Before and After Brown celebrates and



honors generations of African Americans in Topeka, the tight-knit neighborhoods they built, and how their legacies continue to shape the city today. Our Stories is a collaboration between the Black American Blueprint Collective and the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery.

The mission of the Black American Blueprint Collective is to foster an organization that creates pride, self-esteem, dignity, honor, and respect within Topeka's Black community. The Black American Blueprint Collective acknowledges the following organizations for their support of the exhibit: Equity Bank, Freedom Frontier National Heritage Area, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Visit Topeka and Washburn University.

More information: Click Here

From School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University in Kansas:

SLIM received the official notification from the Committee of Accreditation of the American Library Association that they have voted to grant continued accreditation status to our Master of Library Science program. SLIM's next comprehensive review is scheduled for Fall 2030.

This is a great accomplishment for SLIM, and thank you all so much for your participation during the accreditation processes and your great support through the past 8 years!





NEBRASKA

Librarian Certification

The Montana State Library is pleased to announce that 95 librarians and trustees from across Montana earned certification through the Montana State Library (MSL) certification program. 12 trustee, 52 library administration, and 31 library staff certificates were issued. Certification recipients include public library staff as well as state agency, university, and tribal college library directors. Their individual efforts total more than 5,100 hours of learning over the past 4 years. The goal of the Montana State Library's certification program is to ensure that Montana's library patrons receive the best possible library service.

Full list here.

Montana History Portal

The Montana History Portal (Portal) is an online source for digital collections relating to Montana's cultural heritage. In part, these collections document the Montana experience. Access is free and open through the Internet. Many of these items are digitized copies of historic material, some items are contemporary. All serve as a resource for education, business, pleasure, and lifelong learning.

Many Montana libraries, museums, archives, and cultural institutions add materials to this collection. Contents may include maps, copies of photographs, rare books, historic documents, diaries, oral histories, audio and video clips, paintings, illustrations and art.

More information here



Lied Pierce Public Library's 24th Annual Chocolate Lover's Day

Originally published in <u>Three Rivers Library System</u> <u>Newsletter</u>

The Lied Pierce Public Library hosted the 24th Annual Chocolate Lover's Day on Valentine's Day. Local patrons made "homemade" chocolate goodies for the event. The goodies were dispensed into sampler packages in four different sizes the prior evening. All proceeds help with children's programming.



National Puzzle Day at SCC!

Orginally published in Southeast Signal Newsletter

The Library Resource Center on SCC Beatrice campus set out puzzles for National Puzzle Day on January 29, 2024. Students and staff are encouraged to place a piece (or two) in the hallway puzzle as they walk by. Another puzzle is located inside the library, along with a cat stax puzzle and paper copies of word search, crossword and sudoku for students and staff to take with them.





Creating an Entrepreneurial Culture

In 2021, while speaking in front of the Las Vegas City Council on entrepreneurism, Josh Leavitt, a local entrepreneur, shared a vision where every child had access to a 3D printer. He believed an entrepreneurial culture could be fostered by reinforcing the four Cs of STEM education (Collaboration, Communication,

Critical Thinking, and Creative Thinking) with resources for kids to turn ideas into results.

For years, he had been a member of the Governor's Office of Science and Innovation (OSIT) Southern Nevada STEM Network advisory committee, where he learned about the four Cs of STEM education. It became clear to him that STEM education teaches principles that align with the entrepreneurial spirit.

Production is a key component to getting ideas to market. So, to bolster entrepreneurism, Josh focused on getting 3D printers into every library. Quickly, Josh learned that age restrictions, time and skill limitations, costs, and maintenance made access to 3D printing difficult. To increase accessibility, he proposed various ideas, from renting printers with maintenance plans to outsourcing print jobs to universities. Ultimately, Josh came up with an idea to connect people who need 3D printing to those in the community with 3D printers. He named the platform, Intagly.

Since July 2023, Intagly has been partnering with Henderson Libraries in Henderson, NV, to scale their 3D printing service to the entire community. Instead of printing items on-site, locals with 3D printers fulfill patron requests and deliver them to the library for pickup. Henderson Libraries has seen an incredible surge in 3D printing activity, going from 0 to 160 orders in the first month to 750 orders from 283 patrons by year's end. This was done without purchasing new equipment or resources.

In February, the City of Henderson provided Henderson Libraries \$9500 to continue the partnership and increase participation. Marcie Smedley, the Executive Director at Henderson Libraries, is excited that all Henderson residents of all ages and abilities have access to 3D printing. To further promote STEM education, the libraries look forward to providing 3D modeling training and other activities that teach kids how to bring ideas into reality.

Building solutions can be tough. Yet, Henderson Libraries is taking part in promoting the entrepreneurial spirit through STEM activities and services that encourage students to lean into challenges, embrace risk, and turn ideas into results.

For more information on Intagly, visit www.intagly.com.







Pay It 4Ward

Originally published on KOB4 Albuquerque, NM

BOSQUE FARMS. N.M. When you think of public library, you probably think of books, outdated computers and silence. But one woman in the Albuquerque metro saw an opportunity to turn her community library into something more.



"She just made it come alive, I mean, she breathed life into it," Peggy McLaughlin said. "Now it's not just a location, it's a part of the community.

McLaughlin nominated Bosque Farms librarian Tony-Lynn Hart for Pay it 4ward. She says Hart joined the library team about three years ago and immediately found ways to bring new people into the library with special classes and events — and not just ones focused on books.

Watch story here



Music & Mocktails

Originally published in NDLA's Good Stuff

The buzz around alcohol-free events is real. Just take a look at the rise of wellness challenges like Dry January, where millions decide to kick off the year without a sip of alcohol. Cheers to the trend that's making waves! Grand Forks Public_ is in the spotlight of American Libraries Magazine! Special thank you to the Grand Forks Public Friends for

inventing the perfect blend of Music & Mocktails. We're thrilled to be a part of the sober curious movement.

Read the full article, Spirit
-Free Spaces!



Kirschner Trusts Grant Award

Muskogee Public Library is pleased to announce it has received a \$4,000 grant from the Kirschner Trusts at Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase books for families to build their home libraries.

"These books will help support families to improve mental and physical health through reading and by visiting the library's healthy fitness programs where the books will be given away," said Children's Librarian Jennifer Fuller. "We greatly appreciate the Kirschner Trusts' continued support to bring health literacy to our community."

Programs where the library will be able to give away books may include events at the library's permanent StoryWalk® located in the Arboretum at Honor Heights Park in Muskogee, the annual bike rodeo, Muskogee Touch-a-Truck, and the library's pop-up StoryWalk® that is taken to community events year-round.





New CE Coordinator at the State Library

SD State Library has hired a new Continuing Education Coordinator. JoAnne Freitag joined the

Outreach/Development Department on March 11th. She has worked at the public library in Aberdeen

and most recently was the library director at Presentation College. JoAnne will take over the major responsibility of coordinating the State Library Public Library Institute training program, as well as promoting and organizing other training opportunities. She will be working remotely from Aberdeen. Welcome, JoAnne!



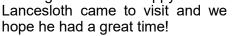
Traveling Stuffy - #SirLanceslothTravels

Sir Lancesloth from <u>Cromwell Belden Public Library in Cromwell, CT</u> has been traveling the country and recently made a few stops in South Dakota in Yankton and Madison.

From Yankton Community Library's Facebook Page: (posted March 1st)

The continued adventures of Sir Lancesloth from Cromwell Belden Public Library in Cromwell, CT! You'll remember from our previous post that Sir Lancesloth has been traveling around the country, so we wanted to show him some of the things that makes Yankton great!

We wanted to explore some of Yankton's history, so our first stop was the @Mead Museum where we got to try out a covered wagon! It was such a nice day out, we decided to hang out at Fantle Memorial Park for a little while. We tried to stop at Ben's Brew Station to play a little pinball, but we were too early! Sir Lancesloth insisted on saying hello to a festive bear statue, and he LOVED the Meridian Bridge!! We're so happy that Sir









From Madison Public Library's Facebook Page: (posted March 18th)

The Madison Public Library recently welcomed a special guest, Sir Lancesloth from Cromwell Belden Public Library (@cbplibrary) in Cromwell, CT. Sir Lancesloth and MPL's Maple spent time getting to know each other, playing hide-and-seek with the librarians, and capturing fun selfies. Although Sir Lancesloth will be leaving soon, we thoroughly enjoyed hosting him. Thank you for the visit! Sir Lancesloth and Maple will be friends forever!











Francis Keppel Award

Each year, IMLS honors state library agencies for excellence in collecting, editing, and submitting top-notch local public library data. Named after the esteemed U.S. Commissioner of Education, Francis Keppel, this award celebrates dedication to reliable library statistics.

This year, Heidi Fendrick, Utah's State Data Coordinator, received the honor for her outstanding work. The award ceremony, held annually at our training conference, highlights the crucial role of data in shaping policy and improving library experiences nationwide.



New Children's Activity Room

With the help of a grant from American Fork City, the library added a Children's Activity Room. "We worked with an architect firm to design it ourselves," explained Director Casandria Crane. "This allowed us to get exactly what we wanted and needed in that room.

According to Galloway's website, the architect firm behind the design, the remodel includes, "...large sliding doors and a patio to create an indoor/outdoor space that provides access to a city park during the summer."

"The expanded space will better serve the community. I especially love the natural light from the full-size windows and the view of the park," says Merrily Cannon, American Fork resident and Library

Development Program Manager at the Utah State Library.





Recognition for Outreach Efforts

The Park County Library System, including Wyoming libraries in Cody, Meeteetse, and Powell, was featured in the Powell Tribune for its outreach efforts over the past year, including the PCLS's first full year using their library outreach van, the opening of the Powell StoryWalk, and several other services and amenities available through the PCSL's three library locations. Read more here.



Wyoming State Librarian Appointment

Abby Beaver accepted the position of Wyoming State Librarian in January. 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. During the years of 2018 through 2021, she also served as the Wyoming Library Association's Vice-President, President, and Past President.

"I'm incredibly excited," said Abby regarding her new position. "I'm so fortunate to have the support and expertise of the WSL staff to guide me in this

transition. I've had an excellent experience working with Wyoming libraries in my role as Information Services Manager and I'm looking forward to building on that experience in the future."





Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution	City & State
Alise Watson	Adult Programming Institution	Sublette County Pinedale Library	Pinedale, WY
Ally Rodriguez-Marshall	Computer Lab Technician	Poudre River Public Library District Old Town Library	Fort Collins, CO
Alyson Blankenship		Southern OK Library	ОК
Ashley Rouse		Eastern OK Library	Muskogee, OK
Betsy O'Neil	Adult Services Manager	Natrona County Library	Casper, WY
Chris Conrad		Southwest La Plata	Durango, CO
Christy Crenshaw	Academic Lab Coordinator	American Fork Library	American Fork, UT
Cindy Donth-Carton		Southwest La Plata Library District	Durango, CO
Deanna Duffy	Librarian II	Las Cruces Public Libraries Thomas Branigan Memorial Library	Las Cruces, NM
Donna Lumpkin		Cache Community Library	ОК
Elicia Medaris		Metropolitan Library System	ОК
Elizabeth Dukelow		Central Kansas Library System	Great Bend, KS
Elizabeth Forbes	Student	Maricopa County Community Colleges	San Tan Valley, AZ
Isaiah Roby	MLS Student	Emporia State University	KS
Jakobi Burbank	Young Adult Services/	Sublette County Libraries	Pinedale, WY
Jeremy Jones		Eastern Oklahoma Library System	ОК
Jessie McCloy	Student		Lincoln, NE
Julie Mills	Director	Goddard Public Library	Newton, KS
Julie Poor		Eastern OK Library System	Muskogee, OK



Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Kenneth Matthews		Eastern Oklahoma Library System	Muskogee, OK
Krista Riggs	Director	Madera County Library	Madera, CA
Michelle East		Hinton Public Library	
Michelle Smith		Tulsa Community College	ОК
Nazmin Sultana		Oklahoma University Libraries	ОК
Patty Johnson		Southwest La Plata Library District	Durango, CO
Rachel Reid		Eastern OK Library System	ОК
Rebecca Benally	Director	Southwest La Plata Library District	Durango, CO
Robin Miller		Metropolitan Library System	ОК
Ryne Andal	Website Administrator	Mountain Plains Library Association	Sioux Falls, SD
Samuel McCann	Library Associate	Pioneer Library System Norman Public Library East	Norman, OK
SheryIn McDaniel		Guthrie Library	ОК
Story Maxwell		Ada Junior High	ОК
Theodore Kaleel	Acquisitions Librarian	Douglas County Public Library	Minden, NV

Ever wondered about the conference Rubber Duckjes?





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..."



State Representatives

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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

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:

https://mpla.us/community/membership/

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/

MPLA on Facebook:

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

MPLA on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets

Donate to MPLA

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

https://mpla.us/archives/mplaarchives/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.

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