



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community

June 2024—July 2024

mpla.us

Volume 69 Number 3

Changes and Growth

Hello Everyone,

As I write this, the ULA/MPLA conference is just around the corner, but by the time you read it, I hope to have reconnected with many of you there. I'm anticipating that we'll have shared some great times, learned a lot, and enjoyed everything Salt Lake City had to offer. I'm sure the sessions and networking opportunities were as exciting for you as I am imagining them to be from here in the pre-conference past!

This year marks a period of exciting changes and growth for our organization. We bid a fond farewell to our long-time executive secretary, Judy Kulp, who retired after 19 dedicated years. We warmly welcome Sherrie Mortensen, who has already been a fantastic addition to our team. I am confident she will continue to be a tremendous asset to our members and a key player in our organization's future growth.

We're also delighted to have Ryne Andal join us as our new Webmaster, taking over from Roy who generously managed dual roles for some time. Ryne's expertise will be crucial as we transition to a new membership software later this year.

If you haven't checked it out yet, I encourage you to explore the updated Manual Of Procedures (MOP) on our website. A huge thank you goes to Brenda Hemmelman and everyone who contributed to transforming this vital document. Our communication committee is now working to enhance its presentation further. I'd also like to recognize Amadee Ricketts, our past President, for her incredible efforts in hiring and onboarding new MPLA staff and overseeing the new membership software implementation. Amadee has been an inspiration, and I hope to bring the same level of enthusiasm and support to my term.

I hope you all left the conference with inspiring ideas and a renewed passion to enhance library services across our region. Let's keep the momentum going and dive into this year's projects with enthusiasm!

Here's to a fantastic 2024-2025 and to all of you, the wonderful members who make our library association truly special.



Robin Hastings
president@mpla.us

In this Issue

Just Winging It - Conference Info

Thank You & New Faces

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

Conference Highlights



Trivia night where Brenda Hemmelman and Robin Hastings attended as members of the President's table (including the current and incoming ULA presidents). Took home 3rd and had a BLAST.



Above: Hot Tub & duckies

Below outgoing President Amadee Ricketts sporting a duck costume at the "Hot Tub" Round table surrounded by Judi Boyce, Luise Davis, and Brenda Hemmelman



Conference attendees gathering for MPLA sponsored pre-conference event



I want to extend a **THANK YOU** for sharing conference snapshots.

- Melanie, Newsletter Editor



Mountain Plains Library Association
PO Box 1014
Orem, UT 84059
435-232-3093
execsecretary@mpla.us

A NOTE TO LET YOU KNOW

MPLA HAS NEW CONTACT INFO!

Mountain Plains Library Association
P.O. Box 1014, Orem, UT 84059
435-232-3093 / execsecretary@mpla.us



Executive Secretary:
Sherrie Mortensen

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



Chew & Chat



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.



Big Horizons, Close Community





MPLA Distinguished Service Award --
Judy Kulp

MPLA Literary Contribution Award --
Alex Grecian

MPLA Innovator Award --
Randi Monley

MPLA Beginning Professional Award --
Jessica Rardin

Carl Gaumer Library Champion -- **Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University**

MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award -- **Jean Hatfield**



Judy Kulp



**L to R:
Randi Monley
Jessica Rardin**



**Alex
Grecian**



**Pictured: Mary Ann Thompson,
Nominations chair and
Ben Hedges Assistant Professor
Special Collections & University
Archives from Edmon Low
Library, Oklahoma State
University**

**Pictured: Mary Ann Thompson, Nominations chair
and Mickey Coalwell who accepted on behalf of
Alex Grecian.**

I want to extend a THANK YOU for sharing
conference snapshots.
- Melanie, Newsletter Editor



**Pictured: Mary Ann Thompson,
Nominations chair Jean Hatfield**



Professional Development

Big Horizons, Close Community

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/>



Tips & Tricks for Writing Conference Proposals

This guide has been prepared by the Mountain Plains Library Association's Professional Development Committee to assist library workers with writing proposals for conferences they would like to be considered for presenting.

NOW IS THE TIME



EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of LIBRARY & 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. 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](#)



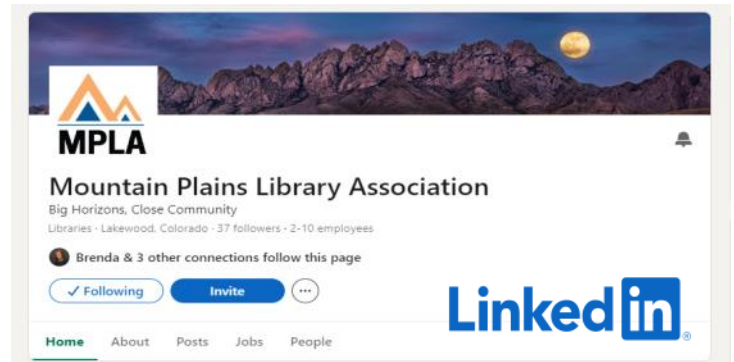
**NEED A CHANGE?
STARTING OUT?**

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...

A white magnifying glass icon is positioned over the bottom left of the jobline graphic.

[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!



Cards Are Accepted By

- Kroger
- Fred Meyer
- Ralphs
- Fry's and Fry's marketplace
- King Soopers
- Dillons
- Smith's Food & Drug City Market
- QFC
- Food 4 Less
- Owen's
- Foodsco
- Hilander
- Pay-less Cala-Bell
- Bakers
- Jayc
- Fred Meyer jewelers
- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug

Around the Region



2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service

The Copper Queen Library in Bisbee, Arizona is among the finalists for the 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. “The 30 National Medal finalists from across the United States showcase the tremendous abilities of libraries and museums to serve as trusted, dynamic public spaces that meet the needs of their communities,” said IMLS Acting Director Cyndee Landrum. “The Institute of Museum and Library Services is honored to recognize these outstanding institutions. We congratulate them on their collective effort to respond to community needs, preserve diverse history and culture, and create a sense of belonging for all Americans.” The Copper Queen Library is no stranger to national awards, having been named the Library Journal Best Small Library in America in 2019.



State of the Art Facility Coming

The Prescott Campus Library of Yavapai College is excited to be moving into a newly renovated Center for Learning and Innovation, to open in 2026. The state-of-the-art facility will feature immersive learning experiences, providing students access to media production rooms dedicated to film and podcasting. Faculty members will utilize dedicated spaces and advanced technology to develop virtual reality classroom activities and explore the latest educational technologies. The space will also feature a variety of study environments, including quiet rooms and collaborative spaces designed for group projects. The Prescott Campus Library will continue to offer instruction, research assistance, and technology for students throughout the project. Access to the closed physical collection will remain available through the Yavapai Library Network, by placing a hold through the catalog.



National Grant for Small and Rural Libraries

Eaton Public Library has been selected as one of 310 libraries to participate in the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities initiative, an American Library Association (ALA) grant program that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.



The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help Eaton Public Library provide directional and descriptive signage for patrons with vision problems, including low vision and blindness.

“We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Greene. “This grant will allow our library to get to know our residents with disabilities better. It will help us improve our services to ensure this population feels welcome and comfortable in our space.”

As part of the grant, Eaton Public Library staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host a conversation with residents about library wayfinding and use the grant funds to purchase and install ADA compliant signage throughout the library.

Many members of the Eaton community suffer from vision problems, with at least half of library patrons experiencing some form of reduced vision. The library found in a recent ADA audit that current signage is either incomplete, poorly lit, placed incorrectly, or missing altogether.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Amber Greene, Library Director at agreene@eatonco.org or visit eatonco.org/library for more information.



UNC Selects New Dean of University Libraries

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) announced that Sheila Yeh, Ph.D., has been selected as the next dean of University Libraries.



Yeh comes to UNC from the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she served as the associate vice provost for University Libraries and Strategic Program Development

since 2021. She brings over 35 years of experience in academic and public libraries and library consortia.

Aligned with UNC’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, Yeh’s personal goals are focused on “reinvigorating academic libraries’ service models to support students with diverse backgrounds.” During her time at St. Thomas, she worked with campus units to promote student diversity and inclusion services in the libraries with the goals of increasing student retention and creating a sense of belonging.

Among Yeh’s other key accomplishments are implementing organizational improvements to modernize library services and meet engagement needs for faculty and students, while working collaboratively with campus partners to promote scholarly communication, faculty profile and research and data management support.

“I am honored and excited to be joining the UNC community,” said Yeh. “The dedication to education excellence for diverse populations aligns with my beliefs and values. I look forward to contributing to the success of the Rowing, Not Drifting 2030 strategic plan with the talented and committed library faculty and staff.”

Yeh officially starts her position at UNC on July 1. She succeeds Jayne Blodgett who has been serving as interim dean since August 2022, after former dean of University Libraries Jennifer Nutefall left the university.

Full article can be found here: [UNC Selects New Dean of University Libraries](#)

The Next Chapter

The North Branch Library in Silverthorne, Colorado re-opened its doors on Saturday, March 24th after an 18 month closure due to an extensive remodel and expansion project. It is a moment to celebrate “The Next Chapter,” in the story of the Summit County Libraries. To recognize the moment, The community was able to see how their improvement requests were translated into designated areas for teens and children, reservable study and meeting rooms, calming colors and comfortable seating.

A ribbon-cutting with County Commissioner, Nina Waters, County Manager Dave Rossi and library staff took place, followed by speeches next to the new fireplace by former County Commissioner, Josh Blanchard, Library Foundation member Chris Hall and Town of Silverthorne Town Council member and local business owner, Erin Young.

Learn more here: [The Next Chapter](#)





FHSU begins a nearly \$28 million Forsyth Library renovation

This summer, construction will begin on a \$27.7M renovation project at Fort Hays State University's Forsyth Library in Hays, Kansas. The phased construction will renovate the 105,404 square foot building and will be completed in 2026.

A groundbreaking event was held in April with U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, FHSU President Dr. Tisa Mason, Dean of Library Services Ginger Williams, and FHSU Foundation President and CEO Jason Williby. At the event, they each shared remarks about how these updates will uphold the university's commitment to keeping the library a central academic and cultural hub.



Most of the project is funded by a \$19M federal NIST grant. The remaining funding will come from a combination of private gifts, Educational Building Funds, and State General Funds for Deferred Maintenance. Learn more about the renovation and stay up to date with the Forsyth Library renovation by following the blog at <https://fhsu.edu/library/renovation>.

National Grant for Small and Rural Libraries

South Central Kansas Library System (SCKLS) to match \$10,000 Grant from ALA for six member libraries.



SCKLS has been selected as one of 310 library organizations to participate in round two of Libraries

Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant which will be matched by SCKLS to allow six member libraries to create accessible computer stations for public use.

Participating library directors include, Ken Bell, Haysville Community Library; McKenzie Murphy, McPherson Public Library; Lisa Moreland, Caldwell Public Library; Jo McFadden, Ida Long Goodman Public Library (St. John); Joleen Ross, Halstead Public Library; Jessica Warren, Clearwater Public Library.

Sewing Station

Coffeyville Public Library changes lives through providing the opportunity to learn, create, and build community through free and equal access to educational and entertaining resources.

They have done just that through setting up a Sewing Station. This is part of our initiative to bring a makerspace to our community.

News submitted by: [Rachel S Koszalka](#)





New Circulation Desk

At the end of April, Harve-Hill County Library unveiled a new circulation desk. This custom 5-piece unit was created by Charles Finn of Finn Furniture who make furniture and art made from Montana barnwood and found objects.

Finn notes, "It was a big project and I can't even say how many hours of sanding went into it, getting the rough wood down to this beautiful, gleaming surface. Thank you the Hill Country Library, its staff, board, and "Friends of the Library"."

To learn more about Charles Finn's work visit: www.finnfurniture.net



Library Director and Montana MPLA rep, Rachel M. Rawn with carpenter, Charles Finn.



Makerspace Open House

As part of National Library Week, the Grand Island Public Library in Grand Island, NE hosted a special Makerspace Open House. Those who came received a tour of the Makerspace and see the amazing equipment available. The event was held in conjunction with the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce and co-hosted by the Grand Island Public Library Foundation.



Grand Island Public Library Makerspace, (Grand Island Public Library, Courtesy)

You can learn more here: [Makerspace](#)

Library Internship Grants

The Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded Nebraska Library Internship Grants totaling \$21,000 to eighteen Nebraska public libraries. These internship grants will support public library interns who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries.

"The internships are a great opportunity for students to get involved in library work. Beyond earning money and gaining valuable work experience, the student is exposed to the broad range of library services and programming. Internships provide an opportunity for the student to view the library as a viable and satisfying career choice. In addition, interns bring a fresh perspective and their own unique talents to the library," said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.





Welcome Back Bookmobile Services

North Valleys Library Branch Manager,
Jonnica Bowen

The Washoe County Library System (WCLS) has served local residents since 1904 when the first Carnegie Free Public Library opened in Downtown Reno. Not long after that, our dedicated staff extended library service in creative ways, such as launching a recurring radio program in the 1930s and '40s, offering library services directly to patients in the local Washoe General and Saint Mary's hospitals, and using their personal vehicles to drive hundreds of miles to deliver reading materials to ranching families in the northern border area of Washoe County known as Vya, Nevada.



In 1947, Extension Librarian Darrel Cain and a colleague drove to Treasure Island, California, to pick up their newly purchased surplus Army ambulance, which was retrofitted to hold books. Mr. Cain delivered books to the eight book stations, many schools, and community agencies in the area. The bookmobile featured robust tires fit for Army service, which were needed for driving hundreds of miles on dirt roads to places like Vya, Gerlach, and Empire.

WCLS maintained regular bookmobile services to not only Washoe County, but also to residents of nearby rural areas such as Lyon, Storey, and Douglas Counties. By the 1980s, it had multiple bookmobiles—some delivering physical materials, and others specializing in providing mobile story times and other activities. In 2001, the 35 foot long Mobile Library 1 (ML1) bookmobile was launched. The large vehicle offered full library service to residents and continued to make regular biweekly stops at various locations until its retirement in 2010 following the Great Recession.

In 2021, Washoe County residents participated in community forums to help guide the creation of the library's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. From these discussions, we could not ignore the impassioned requests from residents to once again have bookmobile services in Washoe County.

Through the hard work of library staff and financial support from a grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Nevada State Library and Archives, we are excited to announce the new Library on the Go Bookmobile! We invite you to visit our Library on the Go webpage, washoelibrary.org/bookmobile, for more information on bookmobile services, routes, special appearances, and to request more information.





Run/Walk for NM Libraries

New Mexico Residents were encouraged to support libraries and get some exercise at the same time. In



April, the New Mexico Library Foundation held an event where library supporters all across New Mexico walked or ran at race site across the state: Farmington, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Ruidoso, Carlsbad, and Sunland Park. The goal was to have a good time and support New Mexico libraries where 100% of funds went directly to libraries and librarians in New Mexico in the form of Development, STEM, and Professional Development Grants.

[Run/Walk for NM Libraries](#)



International Peace Garden 2024 Theme: Children's Books and Reading!

Submitted by Debra McCallum, Education and Volunteer Coordinator

With the anticipation of spring, the International Peace Garden is preparing for our 2024 theme, Children's Books and Reading! Visitors will have a wonderful literacy experience as they journey through the garden, with Classic Characters from toddler books to pre-teen featured in the floral designs, including Alice in Wonderland, the Wizard of Oz, Curious George, the Very Hungry Caterpillar, Clifford the Big Red Dog, and others.

We will be focused on engaging youth in reading with our Story Boxes, strategically placed throughout the garden to encourage families to take some time to read one of the beautiful books contained within. If you would like to donate a book or two from our book list, please click the [Amazon link](#), select your choices, and they will be mailed directly to the IPG. We have received 44 books so far! We appreciate your consideration and support of our Children's Books and Reading theme and the International Peace Garden!

We will also be having Storytime in the Garden on Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, featuring Manitoba and North Dakota libraries. If your library would like to participate, read a storybook and do a follow-up activity, with support from the Education and Volunteer Coordinator, the following dates are still available: July 17th and August 28th. If you have additional questions or would like to schedule your library for Storytime in the Garden, please contact Debra McCallum at coordinator@peacegarden.com or call 701-263-4390.

June Primary includes 5-mill levy question for Mayville Public Library

Residents in Mayville, ND will head to the polls in June to consider a 5-mill property tax increase that would bolster the finances of the Mayville Public Library.

Supporters are hopeful the tax increase will allow the library to recruit and retain a new librarian following the death of longtime library director Margaret Rice in January.

Rice's passing forced the library's board of directors to temporarily close the doors to the historic library until a group of volunteers pitched in to reopen the facility in March.

"We need a little more money to be able to afford a librarian, although whether that's a full- or a part-time librarian, we still don't know yet," Dennis Peterson, said the library board's president.





New Eastern Oklahoma Library System (EOLS) Executive Director

Kathy Seibold comes on as the EOLS Executive Director during a transformative time, “Libraries in brick and mortar have started to become more like community centers,” she said. “They provide a lot programming around and support the other agencies that are in the community, work in partnership not only with non-profits but other entities, cities, schools.”



She said opportunities for transformation drew her back to EOLS, which has branches in 15 communities. “Being able to carve out what the next iteration of libraries will look like in the future, especially rural libraries,” Seibold said. “A rural area might need more services in terms of supporting schools because rural schools sometimes don’t have nonprofits or other support systems in the community, so it becomes really important for the library to support them.”

“The challenge is to figure out how much service we need in a community because we centralize here,” she said. “You need to know the patrons at your local library, we have this collective group of patrons, but we also have to look at each branch and location from their viewpoint.”

Seibold said libraries remain important because they are information connectors, especially for people who don’t have other avenues for getting reliable information.

Read the full article:

[New EOLS director sees transformations at libraries](#)



Stephanie Miller-Davis Library Summer Reading Grant Program

[The Stephanie Miller-Davis Library Summer Reading Grant Program](#) is now in its fifth year of supporting summer reading programs in small rural communities in partnership with the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF) and the South Dakota State Library (SDSL). The program to date has distributed nearly \$200,000 to libraries in rural communities across South Dakota.

“My mother would be so excited to see the impact this money is having on so many kids lives,” said Stephanie’s daughter Kate Davis. “Access to books was a passion of hers and she would have loved to support the work of so many parents, teachers, librarians, and other community members in towns across South Dakota,” added Stephanie Miller’s daughter Anne Franz.

In 2024, each of the following libraries were awarded \$1,500 to support their summer reading programs:

- Alcester Community Library
- Armour-Carnegie Public Library
- Bison Public Library
- Britton Public Library
- Canton Public Library
- Emil M. Larson Public Library (Clark)
- Evelyn Lang Public Library (Springfield)
- Freeman Public Library
- Grant County Public Library (Milbank)
- Gregory Public Library
- Jackson County Library (Kadoka)
- Langford Public Library
- Lennox Community Library
- M. P. Beebe Memorial Library (Ipswich)
- Parker Public Library
- Parkston Public Library
- Piedmont Valley Library
- Redfield Carnegie Library
- Tripp County Library – Grossenburg Memorial (Winner)
- Viborg Public Library
- Wage Memorial Library (Groton)
- White Lake Community Library
- Wilmot Public Library
- Woonsocket Community Library



New Director

Cara Rothman has been appointed director of the Utah State Library Division, a program of the Department of Cultural & Community Engagement. She will begin her new position in June.



Rothman brings a wealth of experience working in public, school and corporate libraries in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, most recently as assistant director at the Wellesley Free Library. She holds masters degrees in library and information science and educational technology.

“Cara Rothman is passionate about the work the libraries do for — and with — our communities, which is just one of the reasons why we’re so excited for her to lead our team of smart, skilled, and dedicated librarians,” said Kat Potter, deputy director of the department.

“I am sincerely honored and thrilled to join the team at the State Library,” Rothman said. “I am eager to continue the innovative and important work being done to support libraries and residents across Utah, and I look forward to getting started in June.”

The Utah State Library develops, advances, and promotes library services and access to information to residents across the state. The division provides grants and training for 148 public libraries and headquarters in the state, helps staff and support five bookmobiles that serve eight counties, and provides resources to the western part of the United States through the Library For the Blind program.

Utah’s Library Pets

Libraries are so much more than books. Sometimes, libraries are homes to guinea pigs and stray cats, but sorry, you can’t check them out.

Meet Utah’s library pets in [Utah State Library blog](#)



Park County hosts Community Scam and Fraud Awareness event

Originally published in the [March Edition of the Wyoming State Library Outrider](#)

During National Consumer Protection Week, the Park County Library hosted training from numerous community partners that addressed current community crime trends and provided information about financial scams and how community members can prevent themselves from becoming victims of these crimes. Training was provided by many community organizations, including the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Park County Sheriff’s Office, the Powell Police Department, the Cody Police Department, the Wyoming Department of Family Services, Northwest College Center for Training and Development, the Cody Cupboard, and the Park County Library System.

[Librarians: Getting Started](#)





Welcome, New Members.

First Year MPLA Membership Dues Are Half Price For New Members!

MPLA bases its success on an active, enthusiastic, sharing membership. Where our people are so few and distances are so great, each librarian, staff member and library is a vital resource.

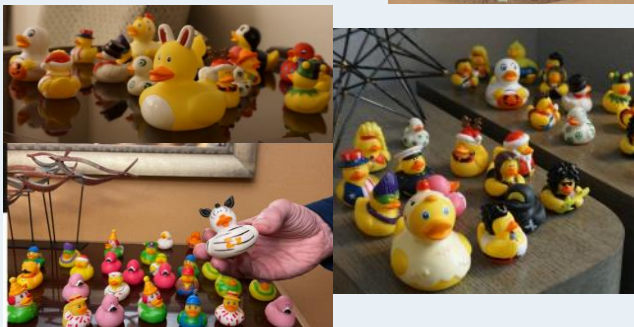
MPLA invites you to make an investment in your future by joining us and laying the foundation for your career development. Participate in this process with MPLA's membership -- active leaders in our region's outstanding libraries.

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..."



Big Horizons, Close Community





State Representatives

Arizona

Amber Kent
City Librarian | City of Casa Grande
Casa Grande, AZ
arizona@mpla.us

Colorado

Sarah Daniels
Kiefer Library, Aims Community College
Greeley, CO
colorado@mpla.us

Kansas

Maribeth Shafer
Central Kansas Library System
Great Bend, KS
kansas@mpla.us

Montana

Rachel M. Rawn
Havre-Hill County Library
Havre, MT
montana@mpla.us

Nebraska

Michael Straatmann
University of Nebraska Libraries
Lincoln, NE
nebraska@mpla.us

Nevada

Luisse Davis
Douglas County Public Library
Minden, NV
nevada@mpla.us

New Mexico

Erin Wahl
New Mexico State University
Zuhl Library
Las Cruces, NM
new_mexico@mpla.us

North Dakota

Randi Monley
Minot Public Library
Minot, ND
north_dakota@mpla.us

Oklahoma

Gloria Farmer
Eastern Oklahoma Library System
oklahoma@mpla.us

South Dakota

Melanie Argo
Madison Public Library
Madison, SD
south_dakota@mpla.us

Utah

Brandon Bowen
Director of Learning Resources at Ensign College
Salt Lake City, UT
utah@mpla.us

Wyoming

Judi Boyce
Sublette County Library
Pinedale, WY
wyoing@mpla.us



Board & Staff

President

Robin Hastings
NEKLS
Lawrence, KS
president@mpla.us

Vice-President/President Elect

Erin Wahl
New Mexico State University
Zuhl Library
Las Cruces, NM
vicepresident@mpla.us

Past President / Administration

Amadee Ricketts
Director, Cochise County Library
Bisbee, AZ
pastpresident@mpla.us

Recording Secretary

Cassandra Osterloh
Tribal Libraries Program
Coordinator, New Mexico
State Library
secretary@mpla.us

Executive Secretary

Sherrie Mortensen
Park City, UT
execsecretary@mpla.us

Newsletter Editor

Melanie Argo
Madison Public Library
Madison, SD
editor@mpla.us

Webmaster

Ryne Andal
Sioux Falls, SD
webmaster@mpla.us

Portal/Server Admin (CPA)

Roy Degler
Oklahoma State University
Glencoe, OK
serveradmin@mpla.us

MPLA Archives

Annie Epperson
University of Northern Colorado
Greeley, CO

Awards

Mary Ann Thompson
Hays, KS
awards@mpla.us

Nominating

Stephen Sweeney
St. John Vianney Seminary
Cardinal Stafford Library
Denver, CO
nominating@mpla.us

Bylaws and Procedures

David Alexander
University of South Dakota Library
Vermillion, SD
bylaws@mpla.us

Communications

Shay Beezley
University of Central Oklahoma
Chambers Library
Edmond, OK
communications@mpla.us

Leadership Institute

Leslie H. Langley
Wister Public Library
Wister, OK
leadership@mpla.us

Membership

Erin Wahl
New Mexico State University
Zuhl Library
Las Cruces, NM
membership@mpla.us

Professional Development

Co-chairs:
Shay Beezley
University of Central Oklahoma
Chambers Library
Edmond, OK

Shannon Leaper
Northwestern Oklahoma State
University (NWOSU)
Alva, OK
prof_development@mpla.us

Program Council

Robin Hastings
Northeast Kansas Library System
Lawrence, KS
program_council@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

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/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:

Sherrie Mortensen
Executive Secretary
PO Box 1014
Orem, UT 84059
execsecretary@mpla.us