



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community

Election Edition

mpla.us

Volume 69 Number 1 Election Special

Voting Information



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.

<https://mpla.us/community/2024-mpla-officer-election/>



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

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



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

Vice President/President Elect Candidate #1



Erin Wahl

Assistant Professor/University Archivist. New Mexico State University. Las Cruces, New Mexico. February 2023-present

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

Mountain Plains Library Association: “Mountain Plains Library Association Leadership Institute,” May 2023.

Chair, Membership Committee, Mountain Plains Library Association. Joined committee in 2021. Appointed chair in August 2022.

New Mexico Library Association State Representative to MPLA, 2022-2025.

*If elected, I would step down from my Chair and state rep positions to make space for others to lead those conversations.

I am very involved in research and publishing activities and am happy to provide a complete list of all publications to anyone interested.

Reviewing Activities:

Peer Reviewer for American Archivist (<https://meridian.allenpress.com/american-archivist>)

Peer Reviewer for Journal of Sustainability Education (<http://www.journalofsustainabilityeducation.org/>).

Peer Reviewer for the International Journal of Librarianship (<https://journal.calaijol.org/index.php/ijol>)

Peer Reviewer for the Journal of New Librarianship (<https://newlibs.org/index.php/jonl>)

Reviewer for the Library Writing Cooperative’s First Draft Matchmaker program. (<https://sites.google.com/uri.edu/library-writing-cooperative/first-draft-matchmaker>)

Advisory Board Member, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), 2024-2026.

Judge, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Campus Sustainability Research Award. 2020-present.

Co-chair, Border Regional Library Association Southwest Book Awards Committee. Joined committee in 2018. Appointed co-chair in 2023.

Library Advisory Board member, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. At-large member. Appointed by mayor and council in 2022. Term ends 2024.

Co-Chair, New Mexico Library Association Conference 2022-2024.

-continued on next page

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

Two of my main areas of research interest are sustainability and also library work environments. So I would be interested in seeing how MPLA could contribute to the conversation in those areas. I think one of my big strengths is my creativity and my vision. I have a lot of ideas and I've learned how to choose what I go forward with based on the bigger picture of things. I also feel like I have had a lot of success mentoring early career librarians and getting folks to participate and lend a hand in different initiatives. My focus is on my community.

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

As Vice President/President Elect, I would really like to continue the work of the current Board and President towards updating our procedures manuals and making sure MPLA continues to run smoothly and efficiently, as well as make sure that any projects started by past presidents are completed. Continuity and follow-through is important for MPLA's future. I would like to seek out opportunities for us to partner with other regional, national, and maybe even international library and related groups to bring more benefits to our membership and continue proving that MPLA is not only an investment in our region, but that our work is important in informing the library community on a national and global scale. I want to create opportunities for MPLA members to shine in new spaces we haven't explored before. I really want to dig into what our members want from us as an organization, and what's going on in member states that we could contribute to in some way, and I'd like to get more of our members active in the workings of MPLA in ways that are fun, move us forward, but also sustainable considering the ever-increasing workloads and challenges we are all dealing with in our 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..."



Vice President/President Elect Candidate #2



Royce L Kitts

Director of the Liberal Memorial Library

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

Mountain Plains Library Association

- Recording Secretary, 2011-2012
- MPLA Leadership Institute Participant, 2010
- MPLA Leadership Institute Committee, 2021-current
- Friends of Kansas Libraries, Board Member 2014-2017

Kansas Library Association

- President 2011-2012
- Vice President/President Elect 2009-2011
- 2011 Kansas Library Conference Planner
- Chair of Public Library Section 2016-2017

Kansas Leadership Center, participant 2016-2023

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

My current top talent is the ability to keep pushing forward through the peaks and valleys that is librarianship. I love problem solving and working towards making the organizations I am a part of the best! I like being the person who leads a group to success and I equally like being the person who helps the group to success.

The current issues in librarianship that I am focusing on are book challenges and early childhood literacy. Basically, how do I get books into the hands of kids and how can I make sure they know how to read them when I do. Book challenges are going to be a real thing for a lot of us here soon. I'm hoping that I can be an advocate and a resource as we face the challenge.

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

Hmmm. That's a good question. I would hope to guide the organization through a successful year of renewed and new memberships, a wonderful shared conference, and the knowledge that we got some work done. On a more practical level, I would hope to accomplish the goal of public librarians prepared to handle book challenges. Hard to predict the future. Who knows what could be the hot button issue by the time a potential term of office would start.

Recording Secretary Candidate #1



Rachel Kercher

Youth Services Library--Leach Public Library (Wahpeton, ND) 2012-present

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

MPLA--2023: Leadership Institute; 2024: Award Committee member

NDLA--2015-16: School Library and Youth Services Section Chair

ALA--2019-21: Rural, Native and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds (RNTLOAK) Committee

Associate; 2023-25: Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Travel Conference

Grant Committee Member; 2024: Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table

(GNCRT) Will Eisner Growth Grant Committee Member

Richland County Historical Museum--2022-Present: Museum Board of Directors

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

I'm flexible and enjoy learning new things/skills. I really enjoy taking on new tasks, learning what I can about the situation and helping to find work arounds and solutions.

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

I would like to become more involved in MPLA, and the wider library community, so that I can share my skills and talents as well as learn from the experiences of others.

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



MPLA CHEW & CHAT



"Chew & Chats"

When: 4th Wednesdays of each month.

1 PM Central time; Noon Mountain; 11 am Pacific

Register in advance for this meeting at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkdO6tqj0rH9HcF1dDKPWiTd5RWtvraoHb>

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.

Recording Secretary Candidate #2



Cassandra Osterloh

Tribal Libraries Program Coordinator, New Mexico State Library

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

NATIONAL

- American Library Association, Member 1998-present.
 - ALA-APA Councilor, 2023-present.
 - Member, Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee, 2023-present.
 - Member of numerous committees and round tables.
 - Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums, Member 2021-present.
 - Tribal Library Council, (Inaugural) Member 2022-present.
 - International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums, Programming Committee Member, 2023.
 - American Indian Library Association, Member 2021-present.
 - Communications Committee, Member, 2023-present.
 - COSLA, Tribal Library Coordinators. Chair, 2022-present.
 - American Association of School Librarians, Member 2007-2014.
 - Learning4Life, State Coordinator for NM, 2008-2014.
 - School Library Media Specialist Job Description Work Group, 2009-2011.
 - Association of College and Research Libraries.
 - Publications Committee, Intern 2003-2004.
 - Instruction Section - Emerging Technologies in Instruction, Member 2003-2006.
- WebJunction
- Rural Watch Committee, Member 2006.
 - Statewide Trainer, Spanish Language Outreach Program, 2004-2006.
 - Statewide Trainer, Rural Library Sustainability Program, 2005-2006.
 - National Trainer, Rural Library Sustainability Program, 2006.
 - New Mexico State Editor, 2005-2006.

-continued next page

REGIONAL

- Mountain Plains Library Association, Member 2019-present, 2004-2016.
- MPLA Leadership Institute Attendee, 2003.
- Member, Awards Committee.
- National Network of Libraries of Medicine / South Central Region.
- New Mexico Regional Advisory Committee, Member 2008-2012.
- Western Council of State Libraries, Member.
- Advisory Committee for Core Competencies, Member 2005-2006.

STATE

- New Mexico Library Association, Member 2002-present.
- President, 2008-2009.
- Vice-President/President-Elect, 2007-2008.
- ALA-APA Councilor, NM Chapter, 2023-present.
- Native American Libraries Special Interest Group, Secretary, 2021-present.
- Member at Large, 2021-2023.
- Member, chair, co-chair of numerous committees and task forces.
- New Mexico Academic & Research Libraries, Member 2002-2005.

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

I consider myself to be very organized and consistent, following procedures, bylaws, guidelines, and formatting requirements. I communicate well with others through various formats and take responsibility for what is needed in the position that I am serving. I have always felt that it is important to serve in any organization or association to which I belong. To this end, I have enjoyed serving in different capacities at state, regional, and national levels in the library field as well as within other organizations for which I volunteer or am a part (such as USA Track & Field, Lutheran Campus Ministries, and Girl Scouts). I have served as recording secretary for many committees, associations, and organizations throughout the past 25 years. I believe I take clear and thorough records and work well with other board and committee members.

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

As MPLA Recording Secretary, I will work with the MPLA Executive Board, MPLA Administrative Committee, as well as other MPLA committees (as needed), to record and organize the minutes and reports of the association. I will also assist with other correspondence as called upon by the President or Vice-President/President-Elect.

We will see you at ULA in May 2024!



Just Winging It

MAY 8-10, 2024
SALT PALACE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

2024 Joint MPLA Conference

More information

<https://mpla.us/community/mpla-conference/>



KEYNOTE



Emily Drabinski
ALA President



Sy Montgomery
Author and Naturalist

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

Job Title: Webmaster

Organization: Mountain Plains Library Association
<https://mpla.us/>

About Us:

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve-state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.



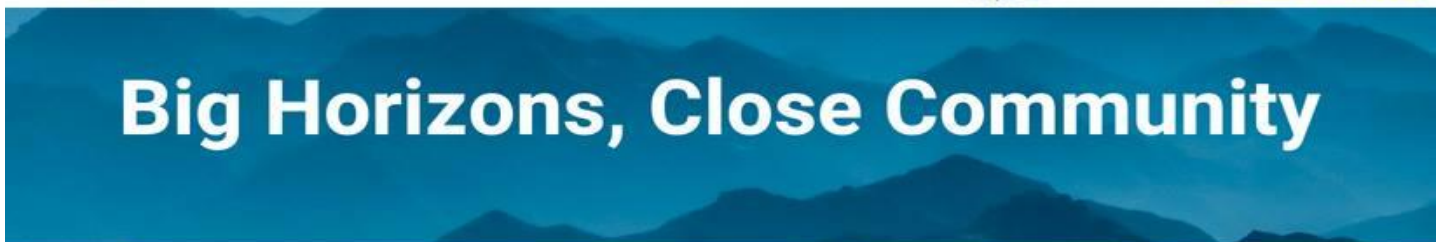
Job Description:

MPLA is seeking a webmaster to play a critical role in enhancing and maintaining our online presence, ensuring that our website serves as a valuable resource for our members and the wider community. The webmaster will work closely with our Executive Board and various committees to develop and implement strategies to improve user experience, drive engagement, and promote our mission.

Key Responsibilities:

- Manage and maintain the association's website, ensuring it is up-to-date and user-friendly through use of uniform fonts, formatting, icons, colors, templates and layout.
- Post new content and updated and revised material identified or created by the Communications Committee or other MPLA sources.
- Ensure the website is accessible and complies with all relevant web accessibility standards.
- Troubleshoot and resolve website issues and technical glitches promptly.
- Stay up-to-date with the latest web development trends and technologies.
- Provide training and support to staff and volunteers contributing to the website.

-continued on the next page



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

Additional Duties and Activities:

- Attend Executive Board meetings.
- Serve ex-officio as a non-voting member of the Communications Committee and the Professional Development Committee.
- Serve as a resource to all MPLA committees.
- Advises the Executive Board and the Communications Committee about emerging technologies, applications and additional uses for the web site
- Retains Board Reports posted on the Association web site in electronic format for at least five years.

Qualifications:

- Proven experience as a webmaster or web developer, preferably with interest in library services.
- Proficiency in web development languages and tools, including HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap, and content management systems (MODX).
- Strong understanding of web design principles and UX/UI best practices.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills.
- A passion for libraries and a commitment to our association's mission.

Compensation:

This is a contract position. The MPLA Webmaster receives an annual stipend of \$1000, subject to evaluation and determination of the Executive Board; free MPLA membership; reimbursement of all travel expenses to in-person MPLA meetings if attendance is requested by the MPLA President.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates must be located within one of the 12 MPLA member states (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, or Wyoming).

Candidates should submit a resume and cover letter outlining their qualifications and interest in the position to president@mpla.us

MPLA encourages applications from candidates of all backgrounds and experiences.

Find us on 



MPLA on Facebook:

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

MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>

MPLA on LinkedIn:

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

The graphic features a blue background with white and yellow text. On the right side, there is a list of grocery stores under the heading 'Cards Are Accepted By'. At the bottom right, there is a colorful illustration of various fruits including an orange, a watermelon slice, and a bunch of bananas.

**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...

The graphic has a blue background with white and yellow text. On the left side, there is a large white magnifying glass icon. The text is arranged in a clear, bold font. At the bottom right, there are three yellow diagonal stripes.

Jobline

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



State Representatives

Arizona

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

Colorado

Elena Rosenfeld
High Plains Library District
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

Amadee Ricketts
Director, Cochise County Library
Bisbee, AZ

president@mpla.us

Vice-President/President Elect

Robin Hastings

NEKLS

Lawrence, KS

vicepresident@mpla.us

Past President / Administration

Brenda Hemmelman

South Dakota State Library

Pierre, SD

pastpresident@mpla.us

Recording Secretary

Luise Davis

Douglas County Public Library

Minden, NV

secretary@mpla.us

Executive Secretary

Judy Kulp

Lakewood, Colorado

execsecretary@mpla.us

Newsletter Editor

Melanie Argo

Madison Public Library

Madison, SD

editor@mpla.us

Webmaster

Open Position

Library

City, State

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

Co-chairs:

Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse

Mulvane Public Library

Mulvane, KS

Jennifer Williams-Curl

Western Dakota Tech Institute

Rapid City, SD

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

Shay Beezley

University of Central Oklahoma

Chambers Library

Edmond, 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:

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