

Newsletter

MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Big Horizons, Close Community

April - May 2025

mpla.us

Vol. 70 Number 2

From the Desk of the President

In this issue of our newsletter is a call from our nominating committee for folks to step up and run for Vice-President of MPLA. As someone who did that, then served as Vice-President and is now serving as President (and is looking forward to serving as Past President!), I thought I'd share some of my thoughts on the position with you all. Serving as the President of MPLA has been incredibly rewarding for me both personally (I got to meet so many wonderful folks) and professionally (I've picked up skills in meeting management, consensus building, crisis action, and more). I've put all of my organizational and project management skills to use and enjoyed working with others to help this organization take a step or two forward and prepare for the future of libraries under my watch. I have found it to be work - certainly - but rewarding and fulfilling work that left

me feeling good about the organization itself as we finished each project and moved on to the next. The next few years will be (hopefully) less intense as we have our new software to manage the association and we have folks on staff who are dedicated and talented and are hopefully going to stick around for a while! All of this has happened because I responded to the nominating committee's call to serve! I would like to add my voice to those of the nominating committee in asking you all to consider serving in this position yourselves. While the work is real, the rewards are outsized!!

Robin Hastings president@mpla.us

In this Issue

- Announcements
- Around the Region
- Join the Community
- Professional Development
- Conferences
- Grants
- Online Learning
- <u>Leadership Institute</u>
- <u>Membership</u>
- Support MPLA
- <u>State Representatives</u>
- Board & Staff Members
- Quick Links

FYI: all images and bold blue text in this newsletter are linked. Click to visit associated websites.



Announcements

Nominations - President Elect - 3 year term

Do you want to be the next President of MPLA?

You have the opportunity to provide our organization Leadership & Advocacy, Strengthen MPLA Collaboration, Support & Empower Library Professionals, and so much more. This is a three year term, beginning with pres-elect, president, then past president duties.

Any member interested in nominating themselves or others can contact Brenda Hemmelman at nominating@mpla.us





Announcements

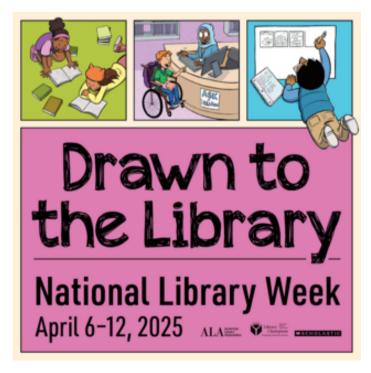
National Library Week - April 6th-12th

Drawn to the Library

National Library Week 2025, themed "Drawn to the Library," runs from April 6–12, 2025 and celebrates the role of libraries in communities. Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud serve as honorary chairs. The week includes special days: Right to Read Day (April 7), National Library Workers Day (April 8), National Library Outreach Day (April 9), and Take Action for Libraries Day (April 10). Free resources and social media materials are available for promotion. Learn more at ALA's website.

How are your patrons Drawn to your Library?

Promote on your Social Media, Create a fun Event relating to Graphic Novels or Comic Books, or inspire your community patrons to Advocate and take Action during this week.







Announcements

April 22nd is Earth Day

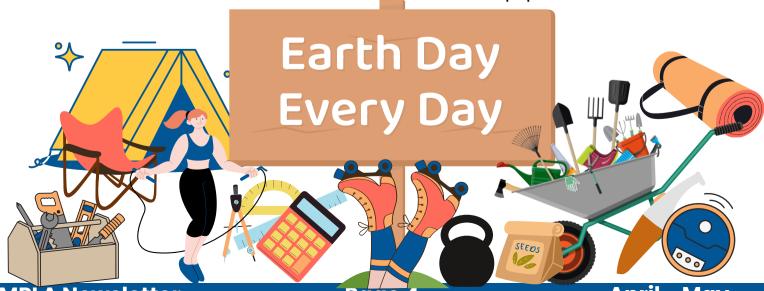
Sustainability at the Library: **Borrowing More & Buying Less**

Libraries have the opportunity to make a big impact every day with our sustainable services, programs, and practices. In April promote or add to your Library of Things so your patrons buy less and borrow more, develop a Fix-It clinic with one of your handy librarians, or create a recycling program. Let your community know about your environmental practices and display books on gardening, DIY, and household repairs. Learn more about libraries and sustainability here: SJSU has an article about Earth Day and Libraries, click here to read. Or click here to find information on the Sustainable Libraries Initiative Webpage.

Earth Day 2025, themed "Our Power, Our Planet," focuses on promoting renewable energy and tripling global clean electricity by 2030. Find resources, toolkits, and ways to get involved at **EarthDay.org**.

Promote sustainability with a wide range of items in your Library of Things such as:

- **Tools**
- Vacuums
- Camping gear Math supplies
 - Roller-skates/blades
 Gardening Tools
 - Baking Tins
- Seeds
- Jump Ropes / Exercise Equipment



Elevate Your Learning



Information professionals around the world turn to the San José State University School of Information as a leader in the field and a valuable resource for lifelong learning. With over 13,000 alumni, we have the largest MLIS program in the country—and are changing the way the world interacts with information.

Check out our free programs, including:



Information Gone Wild Podcast:

Adventures in traditional and non-traditional organizations

- Cibraries, Literacy, and Cats:
 Short conversations with
 SJSU iSchool alum Mychal Threets
- Culture and Community Symposia: Engaging stories, resources and best practices
- Bringing technology and digital literacy into libraries





100% Online MLIS Program

Continue your own story with a Master of Library and Information Science degree from SJSU iSchool. When you enroll in our flexible online program, you'll gain the skills you need to advance your career—and join a vibrant community of information professionals from across the globe.

- 100% online courses
- No GMAT or GRE test required
- Multiple career pathways, including School Librarianship
- Free access to Career Academy on Coursera



APPLY NOW FOR FALL 2025

ischool.sjsu.edu

Let's Chat

Download the SJSU iSchool Popups app to learn what 100% online learning is really like—and explore new career opportunities.











ARIZONA

Mesa Public Library has launched "Mesa Reads," a year-long initiative promoting daily reading of at least 15 minutes. The program aims to enhance literacy and



lifelong learning, allowing participants to track their reading with the Beanstack app or a paper log for a chance to win monthly prizes.

Library Director Polly Bonnett emphasized the program's goal of uniting the community through reading. Learn more about Mesa Reads here.

COLORADO



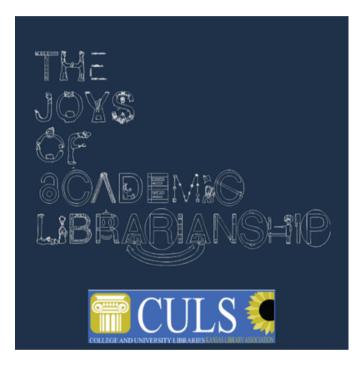
Sunshine & Stories

Sunrise & Stories is a Colorado State Library podcast focused on summer programming in public libraries. The 2024–25 season runs August to May, with twice-monthly episodes covering topics like performers, incentives, outreach, volunteers, and impact measurement. Featuring interviews with library staff and professionals across Colorado, the podcast aims to inspire and support both new and experienced library programmers. It provides practical insights and creative ideas for designing inclusive summer programs for all ages. Click here to find their latest and past episodes.



KANSAS

The Joys of Academic Librarianship: A 50-Year Anniversary Celebration



The Kansas Library Association and College & Univeristy Libraries (KLA-CULS) 2025 conference, "The Joys of Academic Librarianship: A 50-Year Anniversary Celebration," will take place on May 12-13 in Emporia, Kansas, at Emporia State University's William Allen White Library. The event includes a Birds of a Feather unconference for networking on May 12, and a keynote by Deb Ludwig, former dean of Forsyth Library, discussing the future of academic libraries on May 13. Learn more about the celebration here.

So Many Amazing Conferences

MPLA member states have so many amazing conference opportunities. Learn more about them on our **Conference Page.**

Conferences are important for:

- Professional Development
- Networking
- Exposure to New Trends
- Access to Vendors
- Advocacy



And so much

more!



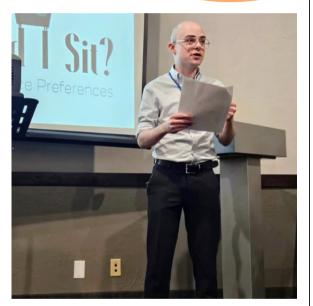
MONTANA

Librarian Spotlight - Nathan Sonnenschein

User Services & Experience Librarian @ Montana State University Billings in Billings, Montana Originally from Casper, Wyoming MPLA member for 2 years

What inspired you to pursue a career as a librarian, and what continues to fuel your passion for this work?

A career as a librarian never crossed my mind until college, when I first met academic librarians and observed their work. (I attended Central Wyoming College from 2014 to 2016, then the University of Wyoming from 2018 to 2019.) I was struck by the diversity of skills required: customer service, technological know-how, problem-solving, teaching. And, I was inspired by the genuine care many



academic librarians have for students. Working as a student employee, I met several wonderful mentors who gave me far more support than I had received in my academic programs, and they encouraged me to pursue this career path.

What's one misconception people often have about librarians?

That we all are bookworms! I like books just as much as anyone else, but I am a slow reader and a busy person, so I only finish about one book a month. Does this impact the quality of my work? Not at all! Customer service expertise, technological know-how, and communication skills can all be developed without literary expertise.



Librarian Spotlight - Nathan Sonnenschein

What skills do you think are most essential for someone in your position?

In my opinion, the ability to approach problemsolving with an open mind is absolutely vital. As librarians, we are the people trusted to help students when they encounter barriers in their research, or when other staff need assistance with issues above and beyond their regular responsibilities. As such, being a determined



and cheerful problem-solving partner goes a long way toward developing the positive relationships that libraries thrive upon.



What advice would you give to someone considering a career in librarianship?

Librarianship does not require expertise in English or History. There are already more than enough librarians from those backgrounds. Experience in other areas, like the sciences, will make you stand out from the crowd because of your unique skills.

How has your MPLA membership been valuable to you?

Serving on the MPLA Membership Committee has helped me become more aware of what libraries are facing in other states, and I have met folks working in all corners of the library profession!

Do you have a favorite book or collection that you've encountered in your work?

I stumbled on a worn-out hardcover of John Berger's "Ways of Seeing" while weeding art books. I thought it looked interesting, yet short and accessible, so I read it during my lunch breaks. Even since, I have approached art through a much more critical lens.





NEBRASKA



Nebraska Golden Sower Award features a list of nominees for children's and young adult books selected for the 2024-2025 award cycle. These books are chosen by Nebraska readers and educators to encourage literacy and engagement in young readers. Click here if you want to learn more about Nebraska Golden Sower.

NEVADA

Libraries go on the News to Celebrate National Library Lovers Month

February was National Library Lovers' Month. Henderson Libraries Executive Director Marcie Smedley went on the Las Vegas Now News segment to speak about everything that Libraries do for their communities. **Watch the segment here.**

The Las Vegas Clark County Library District was also featured on the the news to promote their month long event calendar focusing on using the Library during February. **You can view their segment here.**

Library Lovers can show their support by getting the custom 'I Love my Library' license plate, which is now available at the Nevada DMV. Funds from the plate support free events, programs, and resources to the community.







Librarys in the Legislature

Legislators in New Mexico have proposed House Bill 27 (HB27) relating to libraries; enacting the Library Protection Act; Proscribing the Banning of Library Materials Passes to protect Librarians. Click here to listen about the Bill from this NPR recording.

You can read the House Bill Here.



You can find out more about New Mexico Library
Related Laws on the State Library website. This
information provided on the State Library Website is a
convenience and for informational purposes only.



The Pathways Through the Prairie podcast features North Dakota librarians and library staff, state government leaders and employees, and interesting North Dakotans to gain insights into their work and roles in their communities. Find all episodes on their YouTube Page.





OKLAHOMA



The 2025 Masterlists
are available to
review here

Sequoyah Book Award

With the Oklahoma Library Association's Sequoyah Book Award, Oklahoma honors the Native American leader Sequoyah for his unique achievement in creating the Cherokee syllabary. Sequoyah chose eighty-five symbols to represent all spoken sounds of the Cherokee language. In so doing, he created a way to preserve his people's language and culture. Books considered for the Sequoyah Masterlists must be written by an author living in the United States, published three years prior to the award date, and have received at least one positive review.

Human Creativity in the Age of A.I.

As we move further into the land of automation and artificial intelligence, how can a library support skill development, foster creativity, and promote copyright protections? Can A.I. enhance our creativity or cause it to atrophy? Who owns the output: person, program, or third party?

Join the Oklahoma Library Association's University and College Division on Tuesday, May 20 from 10a-4:30p Central, for the learning module "Human Creativity in the Age of A.I." to help librarians and library staff explore solutions and answers to these questions.



Sign up information will be updated on this website, click here



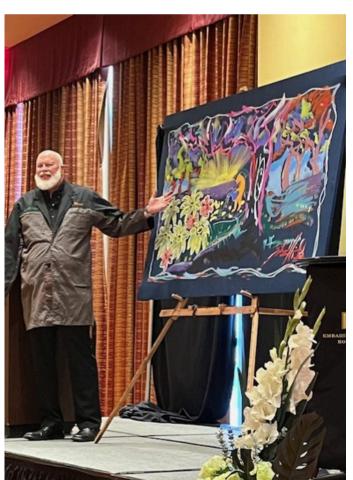
MPLA Around the Region

OKLAHOMA

OLA's 118th Conference

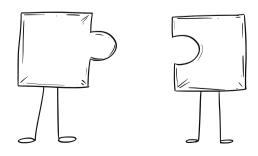
The Oklahoma Library Association held their 118th Annual Conference from March 12-14, 2025 in Norman Oklahoma: Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference 2025 Event Website.

Richard Hight kicked off as the Keynote speaker on Thursday morning. He inspired the group with his story and created a piece of art for the audience. Remember, "what makes you different makes you great." On Friday, Amanda Jones led the closing sessions of the conference with a conversation between Amanda and OLA President, Gail Oehler.



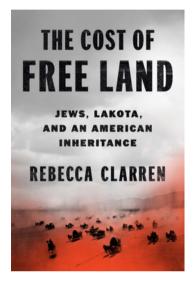
We had many speakers to offer approximately 85 pre-conference and sessions throughout the three days. There were also many participants who were able to participate in board meetings, lunches, and networking opportunities.

Mark your calendars to connect at the 119th Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 11-13, 2026. See you there!









The South Dakota Humanities Council's One Book South Dakota program, started in 2003, promotes statewide reading by selecting a book each year. For 2025, the chosen book is "The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota and an American Inheritance" by Rebecca Clarren, which explores the stories of her ancestors and the Lakota people regarding the loss of Indigenous land and culture. Clarren will tour South Dakota communities in May 2025 for discussions. Learn more about the program here. Many South Dakota Libraries are holding book discussions including Belle Fourche Public Library.

UTAH

Utah State Library Celebrates Bookmobile Program

The Utah State Library's bookmobiles deliver library services all around the state. For Library Lovers Month in February they celebrated the service that has been improving the quality of life for rural Utahns for 66 years. The bookmobiles offer all kinds of library services including materials for checkout, free wifi, story times, a place for community members to gather, and



so much more. Collectively the bookmobiles stop in 114 different locations in Utah and offer access to over 94,200 items!

Click here to see the Utah Bookmobile Love Stories



WYOMING



Friends, Fundraisers, and Chocolate go Hand in Hand

Hot Springs County's Friends of the Library held their annual "Chocolate Lovers" Fundraiser on February 8th. Baskets were raffled off, boxes of goodies were sold, and altogether approximately \$1400 was raised to help fund future library programs.

We need your help to make this conference unforgettable! Share your unique insights and expertise with the Wyoming library community. The annual conference will take place September 24-26, 2025 - the emphasis will be on how *Libraries are Places of Joy* - Submit your **Proposals here, Due April 30th.**









Join The Trustee Project! https://tinyurl.com/mryabrrc

Calling all public library trustees and administrators that work closely with them for a research study.

Public Library trustees generally hold enormous decision-making power over policies, hiring directors, and budgets. Yet we know almost nothing about who they are, what they value, how they make decisions, are trained, or how well the trustee-administrator relationship functions. The last substantive national study of them occurred in 1973! The Trustee Project is a 3-year research project exploring all these issues and more, sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

We are looking for any trustee, former or current, or library administrator who works closely with trustees to participate in a 30-minute survey—with an opportunity to participate further.



Join the Community

Member Highlights - Share your Story

We are a community of diverse and interesting people.

Let's connect and share valuable advice to build visibility for our profession.

Have you been in the library field for a long time?
Did you take an interesting path to become a Librarian?
What have you learned that you want to share?
What surprised you about this profession?

If you want to share your story, **use this link** to fill out the questionnaire.

Core Collections

How do you manage the entire lifecycle of your collection, from purchasing to shelving to weeding? Core Collections is a comprehensive, mobile-friendly guide that helps everyone on your staff build and maintain well-rounded collections of fiction and nonfiction books. And with Core Collection en Español, get help for your Spanish collection, too!

Learn more about Core Collections

NoveList





Join the Community

Chew & Chat Zooms

This fun discussion happens over the lunch hour led by lively hosts Jake Rundle and Mary Soucie. Each month a new topic is posed such as AI, unique fundraising efforts, how to apply to national and local grant opportunities, advocacy, library services, and so much more.

Regular Meeting Time: 4th Wednesdays of each month

11 am Pacific

Noon Mountain

1 PM Central time

Click here to register for the upcoming Chew & Chats

Online



MPLA Facebook Page

MPLA LinkedIn Page





Earn your Master of Library Science

Grow your career in the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University — the only university in Kansas with an ALA accredited program!

Earn your MLS, PhD or a variety of certificates fully online.

Learn more at emporia.edu/slim.





Professional Development

Collection Development and Management





Choice, a publishing unit of the Association of College and Research Libraries, supports academic librarians with professional development tools and services. Its Collection Development and Management Archives offer online recordings on current collection development strategies, featuring insights from vendors, library leaders, and practicing librarians

<u>Click here</u> to find their archived videos on more topics.

MPLA - Jobline

- MPLA provides a platform for MPLA members to review jobs within and outside of the MPLA service area.
- Job opportunities for member states may be posted for free on the MPLA Jobline.

Why it's important to look at job listings, even if you're not looking for a job?

- They can be used to assist with the creations of your own job descriptions.
- Provides insights into emerging fields like digital librarianship, data management, and community engagement.
- Reviewing job postings helps identify sought-after skills, qualifications, and certifications, highlighting areas for further training.
- Discovering opportunities in your areas of interest can inspire new career goals, such as leadership, specialization, or expanding expertise.

MPLA Newsletter Page 19 April - May



Conferences

United for Libraries Virtual 2025

The United for Libraries Virtual Conference • * * United for Libraries will take place online from July 29-31, **RTUAL 2025** 2025, for library Trustees, Friends, and Foundations. The event features keynote

speakers, expert panels, and Q&A sessions on advocacy, fundraising, and community engagement. Registration opens on March 24, 2025. Click here for more details on the ALA website.

Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference (UMCC)



Registration is now open for the 2025 Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference! The conference will take place at St. Paul's Union Depot on May 6-7. The theme for 2025 is "Digital Directions: Lessons **Learned and Future Pathways."** Registration closes April 30th.

Click here to learn more about this conference.



53rd annual conference

Crafting a Future for Information Literacy

- Over 50 presentations and interactive workshops on library instruction and information literacy by academic librarians from all over the country
- Registration opens in mid-February

https://www.loexconference.org/

2025 State Conferences

Arizona - TBD

Colorado - CalCon - September

Kansas - KLA - November

Montana - MLA - March 12-14

Nebraska - NLA - Biannual (next 2026)

Nevada - TBD

New Mexico - NMLA - October

Oklahoma - OLA - March 12-14

North Dakota | NDLA / SDLA / MPLA

South Dakota

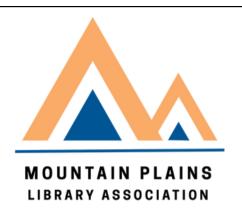
October 1-3

Utah - ULA - May 13-15

Wyoming - WLA - September 24-26







2025 NDLA / MPLA / SDLA Tri-Conference

Be an Early Bird, REGISTER April 1st to May 31st

Early Bird Rates:

Member:

One Day: \$125

Full Conference: \$185

Non-Member

One Day: \$165

Full Conference: \$250 Pre-Conference: \$50

Regular Rates:

Member:

One Day: \$175

Full Conference: \$225

Non-Member

One Day: \$225

Full Conference: \$300

Pre-Conference: \$65

Regular registration is from June 1st through September 15th

MPLA members get the member rate using code:

20TRI25



<u>Discover more about the</u>
2025 MPLA / NDLA / SDLA Tri-Conference using this link



Grants

MPLA & National Grant Opportunities

The MPLA 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. There are two types of MPLA grants available.

- Individual Grants support formal coursework in library science or related disciplines, as well as attendance to library related workshops, seminars or conferences.
- State Association Conference Grants supports continuing education for MPLA members through pre- or post- conference programs at annual state meetings.

Click here to find our more about the Professional Development **Committee and all MPLA Grant offerings**



The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation

The Foundation provides grants to bookmobiles that serve children from disadvantaged populations. The bookmobile grant program provides grants for purchasing children's fiction or non-fiction books.

Learn more about about this grant opportunity here.



The mini-grants program is intended to support projects that foster creative expression, collaboration, and interaction with a diverse community.

Use this link to learn more about this Mini-**Grant**



Believe in Reading funds excellent programs dedicated to the teaching and encouragement of reading for all ages anywhere in the world.

Click here to find out more about this Grant Opportunity.



MPLA Online Learning



How to engage Older Adult Patrons through Creative Aging this Summer and Beyond

Brought to you by: Think 360 Arts for Learning, a leading Colorado arts education organization. Cost - Free

Click here to learn more about this event



Consumer Basics for Your Patrons

Consumer protection doesn't have to be complicated. Join the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) for a free webinar about the FTC's newly updated Consumer.gov website.

Cost - Free

Click here to learn more about this opportunity



Empowering Library Users with AI

A 3 week workshop to learn new developments and practical ways to help library users engage with AI tools. Pros and Cons of AI as well as possible ways. to integrate AI into your library will be discussed. Cost - \$239-284





DigitalLearn.org

A collection of free on-demand tools to help you tackle technology, these could be great to share with patrons. Cost - Free

Click here to browse the offerings



WebJunction Course Catalog

Library-specific courses and webinars available for free through the generous support of OCLC and state library agencies.

Find more on demand trainings here.



Click here to learn more about Online Learning Opportunities.



Leadership Institute

Scholarship Winners

The Past Presidents' Advisory Council of the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is pleased to announce that **Shay Beezley** and **Conrrado Saldivar** are the inaugural recipients of the Past Presidents' Scholarship, which provides \$1,000 toward the cost of attending the MPLA Leadership Institute.

The 2025 Leadership Institute fellows are an impressive group, so the scholarship committee focused on fellows who are MPLA members and plan to contribute to or seek leadership positions within MPLA in the future. Shay Beezley and Conrrado Saldivar exemplify these traits, but it was not easy to select just two individuals from such a strong cohort.



Conrrado Saldivar is the Tech Services Manager at the Natrona County Library in Casper, Wyoming, and serves as Guest Faculty at the University of Washington iSchool. Conrrado is a past president of the Wyoming Library Association, and led the Association through a period marked by adverse legislation and censorship attempts. He has been an MPLA member since 2020.

Shay Beezley is Assistant Director of Metadata & Cataloging at the Chambers Library at University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. Shay is the creator of the Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium, and is an active contributor and recently elected President of the Oklahoma Library Association with her President-elect term starting in July. She is also the current chair of MPLA's Communications and Professional Development Committees.





Welcome New Members

We are thrilled to have you join our vibrant community of librarians and library professionals. As a new member, you are now part of a dynamic network dedicated to supporting the growth, innovation, and advocacy of libraries across the region.

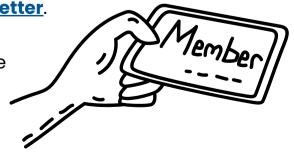
Membership Advantages:

- Professional development grants for courses and workshops.
- Continuing education through **conferences** and seminars.
- Information exchange and educational programs about technological developments and innovative library programming undertaken by MPLA libraries.
- MPLA Awards for outstanding library service contributions.
- Joint annual conferences for idea sharing among librarians.
- Forums for networking with members and national leaders.
- MPLA Newsletter with updates on education and library programs.
- Grants to member states for pre- and post-conference education programs.
- Opportunities for member contributions to the profession.
- Annual Report and Membership Directory via Naylor.
- Promotes regional efforts for resource sharing.
- First-year personal membership dues at half price.

New Institutional Membership Benefits include one or more:

- One staff member receives a free personal membership.
- One free half-page ad in the MPLA Newsletter.

Learn more about committees and how to be involved on the MPLA Website.





Become a Member

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

Click here to learn more about being a MPLA Member on the Membership webpage.

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

Member Portal

MPLA is pleased to invite you to log into your new MPLA Membership account on our website.

If everyone can follow these steps (even if you know your password) it will get you into the new membership system. THANK YOU!

- 1. Go to https://my-mpla.us/login.asp
- 2. Use your email address as your user name
- 3. Click on Forgot your Password? and follow the instructions found on the First Time Log In sheet attached here.
- 4. Renew your MPLA membership for 2025 (All MPLA memberships expire at the end of each calendar year).
 - a.Click the Membership Renewal link found on the bottom of the lefthand menu under Account Details and follow the prompts.

If you encounter any questions or problems resetting your password or renewing your membership, please reach out to our executive secretary, Sherrie Mortensen, at execsecretary@mpla.us.



MPLA Support MPLA

King Soopers / Kroger Reward Program

If you are in an area with any of these Kroger stores this is an easy way to support MPLA!

This took me less than 3 minutes to support MPLA!!!

- Baker's
- City Market
- Dillons
- Food 4 Less
- Foods Co
- Fred Meyer
- Fry's
- Gerbes
- Jay C Food Store
- King Soopers
- Kroger
- Mariano's
- Metro Market
- Pay-Less Super Markets
- Pick'n Save
- QFC
- Ralphs
- Ruler
- Smith's Food and Drug



You can link your loyalty card to our MPLA Community Awards Program account.

Step 1: Go to http://www.kingsoopers.com

Step 2: Log Into your King Soopers/Kroger account

Step 3: Find the tab for **Community Rewards** in your account info

Step 4: Search for <u>Mountain Plains</u> <u>Library Association</u> by name or our account: <u>AR656</u>.

Step 5: Click Enroll.

If you are a new member you will need a valid email address and a loyalty card.

If you have an App for your store you can sign up by clicking on the **3 lines** then **Rewards** then **Inspiring Donations** and type in **Mountain Plains Library Association**



State Representatives

Arizona

Amber Kent City Librarian | City of Casa Grande Casa Grande, AZ <u>arizona@mpla.us</u>

Colorado

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



Board and Staff

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Amadee Ricketts Director, Cochise County Library Bisbee, AZ

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