



O-1 President's Report

Jan 8, 2024

- Attended October board meeting
- Attended Kansas Library Association Meeting
- Attended October meetings of
 - Leadership Institute
 - Membership Committee
 - Communications Committee
- Approved checks for expenses, gift for Melanie as she steps down from Newsletter position
- Joined MPLA Canva Pro account
- Wrote "From the President's Desk" for newsletter
- Attended Nov meetings of
 - Leadership - helped choose LI's fellows for the Institute, agreed to be one of the "mentors" for this coming session
 - Membership
- Wrote letter in support SD State Library (see attached text)
- Attended Dec meetings of
 - Leadership Institute
 - Membership Committee

Naylor Project

- Worked on Member Data Worksheet, met with committee to discuss/finalize data types and structures
- Submitted, fixed errors, and resubmitted worksheet to Naylor. Discussed member details with Kirk, DNS issues with Roy, lots of issues with Sherrie
- Tested data import with Roy and Kirk, approved import for go-live on 12/9

Newsletter Editor Job Search

- Worked with 4 candidates to schedule interviews with Admin committee
- Attended 4 interviews, chose a candidate

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Hastings

Proposed Letter of Support to MPLA Members

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is deeply concerned about the recently proposed budget which will remove most funding for the South Dakota State Library. Libraries are essential to the educational, economic, and cultural well-being of our communities, and the impact of this decision will resonate across the state and our region.

The South Dakota State Library plays a pivotal role in supporting local libraries, providing access to critical resources, and ensuring that residents—particularly in rural areas—have equitable access to information, technology, and lifelong learning opportunities. Without adequate funding, these services will be jeopardized, leaving a significant gap in support for both individuals and institutions.

In addition to South Dakota, MPLA advocates for the interests of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Utah. The precedent of removing funding for the South Dakota State Library could have significant consequences across the wider region. MPLA enjoys and benefits from the excellent leadership of librarians from South Dakota, who serve on committees and in leadership positions, attend conferences, share ideas, and represent their state and their communities with pride and intelligence and care. Their engagement in our library association brings strength and perspective to our organization and to the libraries of the Western region of the United States. October 2025 will see librarians from MPLA member states come together with the South Dakota Library Association and the North Dakota Library Association to celebrate a triple conference in Grand Forks where we expect our colleagues from South Dakota to come together and shine bright in sharing their work in the state.

We urge state legislators to consider this decision carefully and explore solutions that maintain access to these vital resources. MPLA stands in support of South Dakota's library community and the residents who rely on its services. Together, we must ensure that libraries continue to thrive and serve as a cornerstone of opportunity and growth.