

- Reminders to NLA members about Leadership Institute applications due Nov. 1
- Confirmed MPLA table at the October NLA Conference

The Nevada Library Association's 68th annual Conference, NLA Lighting the Way, will held in Reno, Nevada on October 17th and 18th, 2013. Carol Lloyd, Conference Chair and Director of the Churchill County Library, has announced the program. Among the highlights are the keynote address by Maureen Sullivan, President of the American Library Association and a familiar face to MPLA Leadership Institute attendees and workshops with Sharon Draper, author of a number of outstanding books for both young readers and young adults and the winner of the Nevada Young Readers Award for *Out of My Mind*. The President's reception at the Downtown Reno Library will include a catered buffet, music, awards, a Literary Pub Quiz and a Bomb Shelter Tour. Friday's highlights include a keynote address by Jamie LaRue, Director of Douglas County Libraries in Colorado, and workshops with authors Richard Paul Evans (*Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25*) and Devon Scillian (*Memoirs of a Goldfish*), both winners of the Nevada Young Readers Award in their divisions. A session with Tupalo Hassman, author of *Girlchild*, selected as the Nevada Reads 2013 book, will follow. Registration information can be found at <http://nevadalibraries.org/conference13/registration.html>.

Nevada's school libraries continue to suffer cuts in personnel as school budgets remain tight. This year's legislature provided little additional help for schools, and with the increasing demands of the Common Core standards, allocations for certified librarians, even in secondary schools, are being lost and librarians are being replaced with classified (and often untrained) personnel. Lyon County School District now has only one certified librarian, a high school librarian who acts as a coordinator in addition to her library work. Carson City School District has removed all elementary certified librarians and replaced them with classified personnel. About a third of Washoe County middle schools no longer have a certified librarian, and both middle and high schools have lost assistant positions. Yet school libraries continue to have a positive role to play in education, particularly with the increased emphasis on aspects of research, inquiry, and critical thinking as part of the curriculum.

