

ST-9

Oklahoma Report for Mountain Plains Library Association  
July 17, 2009

The Oklahoma Library Association is planning for next year's OLA/MPLA Annual Conference on April 19, 20 and 21, 2010 Monday through Wednesday in Oklahoma City. The Programming Committee and the Board are very excited about sharing the upcoming conference with MPLA!

Program Proposals are due on September 10. Program Proposal forms will be available soon on the Oklahoma Library Association Website [www.oklibs.org](http://www.oklibs.org) . MPLA Program Proposals should be sent to Elvita Landau, MPLA President Elect.

The April dates for the Conference coincide with the Oklahoma City Arts Festival, which will be held next to the conference center in a beautiful park. Tuesday, April 20 is Opening Night for the Arts Festival with great food, wonderful entertainment and, of course, great art! Monday, April 19, is the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Murrah Building Bombing tragedy. A visit to the Bombing Memorial , just a few blocks from the hotel, is a moving experience.

Bricktown begins just a block from the Cox Convention Center and the hotel. Bricktown is the location of many wonderful restaurants and pubs, Bass Pro Shop, a new, multiplex movie theatre, and a canal with boats to ride on and walking paths to explore.

Next year's conference will be informative and entertaining, so make your plans to travel to Oklahoma in mid-April 2010!

The Oklahoma Library Association Executive Board discussed the recent announcement that our state is now officially in recession. The state sales tax collections have gone steadily down in the last quarter reaching a 30% reduction last month. The State Treasurer is expected to announce mandatory budget reductions for state agencies including the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. As other states have experienced, Oklahoma is expecting budget cuts in public, academic and school libraries.

On a brighter note, Oklahoma Library Association is sponsoring an Information Matrix Camp for young people ages 12 to 14 next week. This camp is an opportunity to grow young librarians for our profession. The young people will be learning about Information Services and librarianship. The camp lasts for 5 days and is an amazing, life changing experience for these young people. Kudos to the librarians who have put this camp together. These kids are our future!