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# MPLA Newsletter

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## President's Letter

By Carol Hammond

### Let's Get Ready to Rumble!

*Of a good beginning cometh a good end.*

– John Heywood

Like many millions of other people, I pause in January to remember what went on in the world and in my own life in the year just past, and ponder what will happen in the year to come. Some of that is predictable, some is unknown, and some will only happen if you make it so. I am focusing on the latter category! But before I get to that, I want remember to for a minute some of the best of last year.

At the top of the list is the terrific joint conference with REFORMA, MPLA and the Nevada Library Association at Lake Tahoe. What a setting! And the partnership with REFORMA brought a very welcome new dimension to the conference, with attendees from many states outside our region. Much applause--loud, heartfelt and grateful--goes to the hard working and well organized conference committee from the Nevada Library Association who worked all year to put together outstanding programs and regional experiences – from local authors signing their books, to the cruise on Lake Tahoe, for which they arranged perfect weather, no easy task on a winter day. Continuing Education is one of our most important missions and the joint conference is the centerpiece of that effort. I found strong presenters and new ideas in every session, and many opportunities to network with colleagues. This was also our most profitable conference ever. Nevada, we can't say thank you enough for that wonderful conference!

We also completed our second very successful Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. This has been one of our most significant innovations, and one that is building the talent our profession needs for a strong

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future. We get more applicants than we can accommodate, so it is a highly selective group who are chosen as participants. This is another committee that has done a tremendous job for us, and that I would like to acknowledge as well for their accomplishment.

Some of our other committees also did an outstanding job. We were able to make awards in every category this year, identifying very deserving winners. Continuing Grants gave out more money and Nominations and Elections managed the annual process that brought us strong new officers and board members. Continuing Education defined its direction for the year ahead, and clarified its tasks in the strategic plan so they are do-able, and the Bylaws and Procedures Committee is finishing a much needed update of the procedure manual. Electronic Communications tested a variety of online meeting software. Our Webpage got over 6,000 hits to the home page and an incredible 15,000 to the job line – which clearly shows a service which is being used. As you can see, much of the work of the organization is going forward with excellent results.

And now for what we can make happen: we must positively impact our membership numbers. MPLA mem-

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## 2003 Joint MPLA/Nevada Conference Hugely Successful!

I can't believe it's over! The 2003 MPLA/NLA Conference was attended by 505 people. Of these 152 were members of MPLA only and 39 were exclusively members of REFORMA. 149 were members of NLA only; however, 270 registrants were from Nevada.

Despite high costs associated with the hotel, the conference was able to make money for all three associations. REFORMA received \$5,625; this represents the total amount of pre-conference registration fees. NLA and MPLA split the remaining profit of \$61,251.18, allocating \$30,625.59 to each.

Special events included the Tahoe Queen cruise (with 237 tickets sold), Literary Evening at Lakeside (201 preregistered to attend in addition to approximately 30 authors), NYRA Luncheon (attracting 90 adults, 15 children and 3 authors) and Presidents' Award Dinner (with 165 tickets sold).

bership has been declining over time and this is something we all need to address since our future depends on it. The Membership Committee and the board will be looking at ways to increase our membership and put in place a strategy to meet some new membership goals. We need your help; talk to your colleagues about the benefits of MPLA and be an active recruiter. Get the word out about the low cost and opportunities our organization can provide. It is time to renew your membership now, so take a minute to update your own membership.

We also made the decision to join Memberclicks, an online membership management system that will allow everyone in MPLA to access directory information online, initiate an e-mail to another member or group of members, pay dues online, and update and change your personal information. This tool should help all of us stay in touch more easily, help our committees and roundtables work more effectively, and provide an additional service for members. It is helping us use technology to bridge distances, one of our strategic goals. You can expect to hear from us more frequently in your e-mail from now on!

I am now planning a good beginning, so that we will certainly come to a good finale in the fall. My wish is for a year of progress for each of you and for MPLA.

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By Linda A. Wilson, 2003 Conference Chair

Many people worked hard to make this event happen. I am VERY grateful to my conference chairs: Phyllis Sargent, Diane Baker/Linda Deacy (Exhibits), Danna Sturm (Local Arrangements), Linda Deacy (MPLA Representative), Nancy Ledebor (Programs), Susan Antipa (Publicity), Joyce Cox (Registration), Maria Champlin (REFORMA), and Arnie Maurins (Technology). Others who served on conference subcommittees included: Valerie Andersen, Patty Timmens, Pam Greek, Deb Keller and Don Regis-Bilar (Local Arrangements); Jean Hatfield and Carol Hammond (MPLA); Susie Skarl, Teresa Manix, Laura Golod, Joan Vaughan, and Angel Avila (Programs); Sharon Honig-Bear, Mary Wood and Dan Chaney (Publicity); Mona Reno, Sandie Draper, Keri Putnam and Duncan Deacy (Registration); Larry Calkins and Pepper Sturm (Technology).

I also thank all of you who attended. Each of you helped to make the 2003 conference a success!

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**MPLA made a profit of \$30,625.59 from the 2003 Joint Conference with Nevada!**

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# MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute a Fond Memory

By Mary Bushing

The rugged landscape of the southern end of the Colorado Plateau frames the Ghost Ranch living complex and provided the backdrop for the MPLA Leadership Institute again this year. Here, from Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately after the MPLA Annual Conference, 30 participants and six mentors from the 12-state membership region came together for six days of reflecting, learning, sharing, and professional growth. This year, as last year, Maureen Sullivan, nationally recognized library management and leadership consultant, provided three full days of theory and structure for pursuing issues of leadership, interpersonal relationships, and self-knowledge. When not engaged in classroom activities, individuals made new friends, discussed their challenges in home institutions, reflected upon career goals, and explored the beautiful world around them.

The five regular mentors, chosen from the MPLA member states, all have made their mark on the profession as leaders, mentors, and dedicated and caring individuals. The sixth mentor, a participant in 2002, brought his unique perspective to the group and provided a sense of continuation. The expertise and openness that these individuals provided encouraged participants to seek them out for small group or private conversations about career plans, challenging situations, personal insights, and professional issues. The MPLA members chosen as mentors for 2003 were: Amy Owen, recently retired state librarian of Utah; Debbie Iverson, MPLA Past-President and director of the Sheridan College Library; Dorothy Liegl, deputy state librarian of South Dakota and a popular presenter on many topics; Lola Todd, manager of the Hardesty Regional Library in Tulsa, OK and a woman with many different types of library experience; Jane Hatch, administrator of the

Coffey County Kansas Public Library who has been a key player for many years in the Kansas library community, and Peter Kraus, an Institute participant last year, current MPLA state representative from Utah, and a librarian at the University of Utah. These individuals willingly served as mentors and gave a full week of their busy lives to serve as resources for other members of the profession in the unique leadership Institute environment. The bonds they have formed with junior colleagues during the institute will continue for years to come. What a great way “to pass it on” and share the joy as well as the lessons from one generation of librarianship to the next.

Participants who attended this year’s Institute were: David Alexander, Brookings, SD; Kristen Becker, Salina, KS; Tracy Cook, Great Falls, MT; Angela Creel-Erb, Yuma, AZ; Elizabeth Cuckow, Cheyenne, WY; Tammy Gieseking, Las Vegas, NV; Scott Goldy, Wichita, KS; Wendy Holliday, Logan, UT; Cindy Jaye, Denver, CO; Katie Jones, Cheyenne, WY; Peggy Kaney, Tahlequah, OK; Cecelia Lawrence, North Platte, NE; Olivia Li, Los Alamos, NM; Britton Lund, Midvale, UT; Kim Martin, Bonner Springs, KS; Jeanie McCallister, Rapid City, SD; Jeanne Narum, Minot, ND; Nikki Ney, Phoenix, AZ; Valerie Nye, Santa Fe, NM; Shannon O’Grady, Golden, CO (EBSCO representative); Cassandra Osterloh, Albuquerque, NM; Al Peterson, Bismarck, ND; Lori Phillips, Laramie, WY; Todd Quinn, Madison, SD; Cylinda Richardson-Martin, Moore, OK; Tom Riedel, Denver, CO; Marla Roberson, Norman, OK; Susan Simmons, Broomfield, CO; Susan Spicer, West Jordan, UT; Michael Whitchurch, Salt Lake City, UT

The preparation of the final evaluation report for the Leadership Institute Committee is currently underway and the committee, chaired by Patti Butcher from Kansas, will review the report and make recommendations for the next Leadership Institute during their conference call meeting in January. Mary Bushing, Institute coordinator and “mother hen” for the Institute is compiling the evaluations provided by participants, mentors, and facilitator Sullivan. Recommendations that are feasible will be considered by the committee and Bushing, and the 2004 Institute will be informed by suggestions provided this year. With a commitment to continuous improvement, each year of the Institute has been informed and partly shaped by the suggestions from the previous year. The evaluations once again indicate very high marks for the location, content, organi-

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The 2004 Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute Mentors.

## **Does One Have to Be a Born Leader?**

By Angela Creel-Erb  
Director of Library Service  
Arizona Western College

Can leadership and management skills be learned? As the newly appointed director of an academic library, I was sure that one must be born with these two ambiguous traits. Who were the lucky few who were “born leaders?” How could I continue to develop these qualities? I found the answers to my questions at the Leadership Institute. The answer to my question, “Can leadership and management skills be learned?” was a resounding “Yes!” Becoming an efficient and productive leader is possible. Many times one learns these skills by necessity or through trial and error. If one is a self-educator, she/he may learn through research and getting feedback from colleagues with similar experiences. On the other hand, some managers never develop these skills.

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) has developed a program to guide emerging leaders in the field of Library or Information Science. They created a weeklong Institute at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM. Its purpose is to give new professionals in the field, that have demonstrated leadership potential, the chance to learn more about what makes a great leader. The candidates had to have graduated from library school in the last 10 years. I applied for the Leadership Institute not knowing much about it. I saw “leadership” and “learning” (which translated to “help” for me) in the call for applications for the Institute. It sounded like fun! Meet new people, learn a lot about yourself, spend a week without technology, learn how to become a more effective manager, etc. I said, “Why not try?”

When I received the news that I had been selected from the 80+ applicants to be a part of this exciting experience, I was both nervous and excited. The experience was one that cannot easily be translated into words. The 30 excited attendees were in a class setting for up to six hours per day, working through exercises and techniques. Maureen Sullivan, founder of Maureen Sullivan Associates facilitated our learning in areas such as strategic planning development, organizational change, team building, needs assessment, and the

**(Continued on page 6)**

## **Moments for Personal Reflection**

By Valerie Nye  
Public Library Consultant  
New Mexico State Library

There is not a better way to spend a week in November than with librarians at the rustic Ghost Ranch camp near Abiquiu, NM reflecting on librarianship and personal career goals. The Mountain Plains Library Association and EBSCO Information Services hosted a week of leadership learning for 30 attendees with less than ten years of post-MLS library experience. The Institute also successfully gathered support from six mentors who were available for one-on-one conversations and consulting throughout the week.

Maureen Sullivan, the Institute’s leader, drew from her enormous research and experience when presenting Institute topics that included sessions on interpersonal communication, managing conflict, and working with groups and teams. Her insights and teaching style allowed time for all participants to reflect on personal careers and goals for our libraries. The invaluable leadership concepts she presented will serve as a foundation for many up-and-coming leaders in the Mountain Plains community.

The week ran smoothly and comfortably due to the tireless work of Leadership Institute Coordinator, Mary Bushing. Mary made sure that all attendees had flashlights to light the way through the pitch night, healthy food (including chocolate) to keep us nourished, and rides to move us smoothly between the airport and the ranch. The coordination of events was flawless thanks to Mary.

One of the most valuable aspects of the Institute was the opportunity attendees had to network with each other. Because the access to phones and computers was extremely limited (and there were no televisions on the ranch) every minute of free time was spent talking with colleagues at meals, meeting with mentors during breaks, and developing new friendships on hiking expeditions.

All of the elements of the Institute came together to allow for valuable moments of personal reflection. On the last day of the Institute all

**(Continued on page 6)**

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## Born Leader

(Continued from page 5)

improvement of leadership and management skills. Maureen has been an Organizational Development Consultant since 1991. She has a wonderful sense of humor, a talent for making the group become cohesive and reflective, and is very knowledgeable.

I found that Maureen's style of instruction was more "facilitative" than dictative. We were prompted to look within ourselves for the answers and to try to begin to understand the complexity of leadership, administration, supervision, and setting a vision. We examined theories from experts in the field. We experimented with brainstorming and morale boosting techniques. We walked away with a variety of resources and techniques to refer back to in the coming years. I have many tools from which to draw upon in my journey as a leader. However, I walked away with much more than techniques and resources. I now had a renewed confidence in myself and in the library profession and made lasting bonds with the other participants and mentors. One piece of advice that I will carry with me always is:

§ Focus and build on your strengths, not your weaknesses

Leadership and management skills can be taught. Even better than this, is knowing that we are all "born leaders," and with a little soul searching and facilitation, we can realize the potential within ourselves.



Beautiful Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM serves as the setting for the MPLA Leadership Institute.

## Personal Reflection

(Continued from page 5)

participants developed a list of time-oriented personal leadership goals. The course work, relationship building, and personal reflection done earlier in the week allowed attendees to create a list of solid goals we all hope to accomplish within the coming year. Because the Institute encourages forward thinking and personal growth as tools for keeping librarianship vital, the Institute will have a guaranteed impact on the future of libraries for years to come.

Please encourage librarians less than ten years out of graduate school to attend next year's invaluable Leadership Institute. Or if you are interested in attending please visit: <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/leadership/>

MPLA Leadership Institute 2004!  
Applications for the third annual MPLA Leadership Institute will be accepted from Feb. 2-April 30, 2004. The registration form is available at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/leadership/leadershipform.html>.

## Grants for Human Rights Video Project Available

Applications are available for The Human Rights Video Project, a new initiative that will award grants to 300 public libraries across the country. To obtain a grant application, please visit [www.ala.org/publicprograms](http://www.ala.org/publicprograms). Applications must be received by March 1, 2004.

The Human Rights Video Project will provide two types of grants. The first, supported by the MacArthur Foundation, will provide packages of 12 videos and supporting materials on human rights topics to 250 public libraries in the U.S. The second grant, supported by the Ford Foundation, will award an additional 50 libraries the sets of videos plus \$750 to present public programs on human rights topics in partnership with a non-profit community activist organization.

For more information, please visit [www.ala.org/publicprograms](http://www.ala.org/publicprograms) or [www.nvr.org](http://www.nvr.org).

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(Continued from page 4)

zation, and concept of the Institute. Some individuals had difficulty this year as last, with adjusting to a more primitive environment despite lots of information concerning the “ranch” and “church camp” aspects of Ghost Ranch, a continuing education and retreat facility owned and operated by the Presbyterian Church. Others found the long trip—airline travel to and from Albuquerque with a 3-hour van ride between the airport and the ranch—to be tiring. It is! No location is perfect or without its drawbacks. The Leadership Committee and by far the majority of participants both this year and last agree that the ultimate destination is worth the difficulty of getting there although it poses some challenges.

The Nevada Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Joint Conference was filled with Leadership Institute reminders and events. The “class of 2002” held a no-host reunion dinner at the conference this year in Nevada and the class of 2003 plans to hold a similar event in Denver at the conference in October, 2004. All Institute alumni will be invited including participants and mentors from 2002 and 2003. The bonds of friendship and the group identity created will continue for many years to come. The professional ties forged during the Institute will help to define many careers over the next 25 years.

In addition to the alumni dinner, a number of Institute attendees from 2002 attended their first MPLA Conference and some gave very successful presentations and programs during the conference. These individuals are implementing many of the things they learned during the Institute and are actively pursuing career and leadership goals forged at Ghost Ranch. It was a real pleasure to see so many familiar faces from Ghost Ranch and to watch them take substantial steps in their careers.

Of special note for the Leadership Institute was the awards ceremony when two key players in the Institute received awards. On behalf of those who have attended so far or who will attend in 2004, we extend a special thanks to Stan Terry and EBSCO Information Services for their financial sponsorship of this endeavor with a gift of \$30,000 to aid the association for the three years. All of us associated with the Institute were especially pleased to celebrate the presentation of the MPLA Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award to Stan Terry for his support and belief in the Institute. His vision and leadership, as well as his friendship and professionalism, have made EBSCO Information Services a truly sterling example in

the MPLA region of the type of partnership that is possible between libraries and vendors of integrity. Congratulations once again, Stan!

In addition to the award to Mr. Terry, the Leadership Institute was “featured” at the award ceremony when Marilyn Hinshaw was presented with the MPLA Distinguished Service Award for her many contributions over the course of her career. For those who have benefited from the Institute, it is her service as first chair of the Leadership Institute Committee that is most noteworthy. As chair, Marilyn not only shepherded the first Institute into existence but she “made it happen” one year earlier than the most optimistic expectations. Her own leadership and belief in the value of such programs helped to make the MPLA Leadership Institute a reality. Congratulations once again, Marilyn!

With one Institute hardly behind us, it is already time to begin planning for the MPLA Leadership Institute to be held in 2004. For those already looking forward to the next and final Leadership Institute under the currently funded program, the application form and further details of the 2004 MPLA Leadership Institute will be made available on the MPLA Website ([www.mpla.usd.edu](http://www.mpla.usd.edu)) on Feb. 1, 2004. The deadline for applications this year will be Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at midnight. All applications are submitted electronically from the Website. Following the submission deadline, applications from each state will be forwarded to the MPLA state representative for each state for review and ranking by a committee of the state representative and the state association president. Each state representative has the option of including the most recent past-president of the state association, the state librarian or designee, and/or the former state representative. State committees may therefore be as small as two people or as large as five. It is up to the state representative to determine how to provide the best possible informed representation to evaluate both confidentially and fairly the applications from school, public, academic, and special librarians. The state evaluations will be due by June 31<sup>st</sup> and selected applicants will be notified in July. The final dates for the 2004 Institute are still under negotiation. We are looking forward to another “crop” of suburb professional individuals to attend the 2004 Institute at Ghost Ranch.

For further information about the Institute, contact Mary Bushing, Leadership Institute Coordinator, at [marying@msn.com](mailto:marying@msn.com), (406) 587-4742, or contact Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary.

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# MPLA Members Receive Grants

## Grants Program Supports Continuing Ed and Research Experiences

The MPLA Professional Development Grants program is designed “to improve library services in the Mountain Plains region by supporting continuing education and research experiences for individuals employed in the library or related professions.” This past year 11 MPLA members received grants.

**Jan Brue Enright**, Circulation/Reference Librarian, Mikkelsen Library, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, received a \$600 regular grant to attend ACRL’s Institute for Information Literacy. The Institute was held at the University of Rhode Island in August 2003. In her evaluative report Jan states, “This is a competitive program, with only about half of the applicants invited to attend the program. Approximately 90 librarians from around the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean attended the intensive five-day program. . . . Immersion offered the opportunity to have several very full days to think about how people learn and teach, and how to become a better teacher. The program was uniformly excellent.”

**Heidi Nickisch Duggan**, Assistant Professor, Head of Access Services & Systems, Lommen Health Sciences Library, The University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Vermillion, SD, received a \$150 mini-grant to attend the 2003 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in San Diego in May 2003. For Heidi the highlight of the conference was the John P. McGovern Lecture given by Lawrence Lessig, J.D., a Stanford University law professor and founder of the Stanford Center for Internet and Society. According to Heidi, “Professor Lessig is one of the country’s leading experts on copyright, technology, and the Constitution. Much of his lecture revolved around copyright term extensions, and his work in developing Creative Commons ([creativecommons.org](http://creativecommons.org)), which promotes the innovative reuse of intellectual works.”

Five MPLA members received grant assistance to attend the NLA/MPLA Conference in Lake Tahoe in November 2003. **Donna Norvell**, Youth Services Consultant, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City, OK, received a \$600 regular grant. Mini-grants of \$150 each were awarded to **Theresa Dickson**, Associate Director, Planning and Operations, Pioneer Library System, Norman, OK; **Sharon Osenga**, Administrator, Meridian Library System, Kearney, NE; **Anne Liebst**, Assis-

tant Director for Technical Service, Mabee Library, Washburn University, Topeka, KS; and **Michelle Swain**, Library Director, Arkansas City Public Library, Arkansas City, KS. All agreed that the conference was a huge success.

**Phillip Jones**, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Nielsen Library, Adams State College, Alamosa, CO, received a \$600 regular grant to participate in a librarian exchange between Adams State College and Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez. Phil’s primary activity was to assist with the teaching of an advanced reference workshop for employees of the Main Library at the Universidad. He would recommend an international exchange “to any librarian as a way of sharing experiences and extending their understanding of librarianship.”



Two boys reading in the children’s area of the Biblioteca Hermanos Escobar, the newest branch in the public library system of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

**Steven Decker**, Director, Cedar City Public Library, Cedar City, UT, received a \$600 regular grant for coursework toward his M.L.S. from Emporia State University, School of Library and Information Management, Emporia, KS. Steven expects to complete his degree at the end of summer 2004.

**Betsy Bemfeld**, Library Director, Teton County Library, Jackson, WY, received a \$600 regular grant for a spring 2004 course from the School of Information Resources & Library Science, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. Betsy was recently accepted into the school’s Ph.D. program.



**Dustin Larmore**, Technical Services Librarian, Dakota State University, Madison, SD, received a \$150 mini-grant to attend the ALA Midwinter meeting in San Diego in January 2004.

Congratulations to the 2003 MPLA grant recipients!

The Professional Development Grants Committee hopes you'll consider applying for an MPLA Professional Development Grant. Information and application forms are available from the MPLA Website: <http://www.usd.edu/mpla>.



## Business Sense

Jean Anderson  
Business Librarian  
Fort Collins Public Library, CO

(Note: This column is designed to be a handout for public library business patrons. I would be happy to share this column and previous columns with you - Word format. E-mail me at [anderson@julip.fcgov.com](mailto:anderson@julip.fcgov.com).)

### Venture Capital

Will entrepreneurs see more money soon? Try out these sites to learn more about the venture capital world.

### National Association of Investment Companies

[www.naicvc.com](http://www.naicvc.com)

NAIC is an industry association for venture capital and private equity firms. Its members are privately owned equity investment firms, small business investment companies licensed by the U.S. Small Business Administration, and investment companies chartered by state and local governments. This site offers several resources for entrepreneurs including a self-test for equity financing.

### National Association of Small Business Investment Companies

[www.nasbic.org](http://www.nasbic.org)

NASBIC is a nonprofit industry association, which has represented and served small business investment companies (SBIC) for over 40 years. It provides educational programs for investment professionals through the Venture Capital Institute and cooperates with other business associations.

### National Association of Venture Forums

[www.ventureforums.org](http://www.ventureforums.org)

This organization was formed to benefit venture forums.

(Continued on page 10)

# Have You Visited Collaboration Station?

**You might not know what you've been missing!!**

Collaboration Station can be reached by traveling to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/pathway>, and clicking on the link "Collaboration Station."

You'll travel to a faraway place where librarians can meet in cyberspace and share their planning questions, answers, tips, and plans.

Thomas Reddick, automation coordinator for Northeast Kansas Library System, modified an open source blogging software called SquishDot. Working with Patti Butcher and Cindi Hickey, developers of the "Pathways to Planning" Website, Reddick kept the "look and feel" of Pathways while exploiting the tools and applications deployed by SquishDot.

Collaboration Station debuted Oct. 17, 2003, for the State Library Advisory Commission. An LSTA grant from the state library made possible the enhancements to the Pathways Website.

In addition to Collaboration Station, new links and resources were developed and added to "Pathways to Planning." Pathways was developed in 1998 by Marty Hale and Patti Butcher. It is a planning process and workbook specifically for small and medium-sized public libraries. Cindi Hickey developed the Pathways Website from the print workbook.

Collaboration Station will grow as librarians visit and post messages. It should be a valuable addition to "Pathways to Planning."

### Resources:

"Pathways to Planning" - <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/pathway>

Collaboration Station - <http://198.248.80.160:8080/ControlPanel/Products/Squishdot/CollaborationStation/>

For more information:

Thomas Reddick - [treddick@nekls.org](mailto:treddick@nekls.org)

Patti Butcher - [pbutcher@nekls.org](mailto:pbutcher@nekls.org)

Cindi Hickey - [chickey@sunflower.com](mailto:chickey@sunflower.com)

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(Continued from page 9)

clubs, and associations. The organization has a nationwide network of members and provides education on venture industry issues. This site offers a searchable database of venture organizations throughout the United States.

### **National Venture Capital Association**

[www.nvca.org](http://www.nvca.org)

The National Venture Capital Association is a trade association providing advocacy, education, and networking opportunities for the venture capital industry. The association boasts over 400 members representing the majority of venture firms invested in U.S.-based companies. This site has numerous press releases, statistics, and industry news items.

### **PriceWaterhouseCoopers Moneytree Survey**

[www.pwcmoneytree.com](http://www.pwcmoneytree.com)

This survey, sponsored by the accounting firm of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, provides a comprehensive list of venture capital investing by industry, stage of funding, geography and type of financing on a quarterly basis. The report tracks venture capital firm investments and the enterprises receiving capital by region/state and industry.

### **Private Equity Analyst**

[www.assetnews.com](http://www.assetnews.com)

This monthly newsletter covers the private equity market, dealing mainly with venture capital, leverage buyouts (LBOs), mezzanine investing, and turnaround.

### **Venture Capital Journal**

[www.venturecapitaljournal.net](http://www.venturecapitaljournal.net)

*VCJ* is a monthly journal covering the private equity and venture capital industry. It provides news and analysis of deals, company profiles, and interviews. Sector wrap-ups and monthly headlines are free. Premium information is available with a subscription.

### **Venture Economics**

[www.ventureeconomics.com](http://www.ventureeconomics.com)

News, statistics, production information, and a glossary of terms are to be found on this site, provided by a publisher of journals and research on the venture capital industry worldwide. Premium services include a Limited Partners Directory, the Pratt's Guide, and the Ventureexpert Web.

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## Venturewire

[www.venturewire.com](http://www.venturewire.com)

This Website hosts a family of publications that are exclusively devoted to the private equity marketplace. *Venturewire Professional*, the site's flagship publication, features the latest news on fundings, acquisitions, venture capital firms, and key personnel changes in venture-backed businesses.

## Vcapital

[www.vcapital.com](http://www.vcapital.com)

This is an exchange site for entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and business service providers, sponsored by BattersonVenture partners. It features an "Ask the Expert" section with articles giving practical advice and help.

## vFinance Inc.

[www.vfinance.com](http://www.vfinance.com)

This commercial site offers plenty of extras for both investors and entrepreneurs. Try out the VC Quiz or VC Starter Pack. Users can post business plans or search through a database of venture capital firms or angel investors. Quarterly and annual reports are available as well as a host of premium services like a business plan review.

**Jean Anderson is the Business Librarian for the Fort Collins Public Library, Fort Collins, CO. Suggestions for future columns are welcome: [anderson@julip.fcgov.com](mailto:anderson@julip.fcgov.com). Current and past issues of *Business Sense* are available at: [www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php](http://www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php).**



**Bozeman Public Library representatives from left to right: Stay-at-home dad and library patron Chuck Knighton, Brenda Davis, board of trustees chair, and Alice Meister, director and MPLA member, accept the National Award for Library Service from Laura Bush. Photo by Steven E. Purcell.**

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# Bozeman Library Receives National Award for Museum and Library Services

The Bozeman Public Library, in Bozeman, MT, is at the center of one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Though it is a city library, it has an inter-local agreement with Gallatin County to provide its services to a population of almost 50,000 residents. More than 1,200 people with diverse interests and needs use the library daily.

The Bozeman Library is energetic and responsive, meeting the wide ranging needs of its community, guided by a vision and strategic plan developed with substantial citizen input. As a technology leader it supports a portal to 150 community Websites enabling residents access to cultural, political, educational, and practical local information. An example of its public outreach is a unique partnership with public radio, enabling the Yellowstone Public Radio (KEMC) in Billings, MT, to operate live from a recording booth in the library and to give voice to local experts, including library directors in the broadcasts.

The library provides innovative programming. A lecture series was offered in conjunction with Montana State University on such topics as the extinction of dinosaurs and the history of rock and roll. Summer reading programs enable children to interact with Intermountain Therapy Dogs and to read aloud to these non-threatening canine listeners. From classes in Japanese conversation and dialogs with Mongolian economists to Sunday music concerts, the library has something for everyone.

"I'm thrilled that the Bozeman Public Library has received a distinguished award from such a prominent organization," said library director Alice M. Meister. "It validates the hard work of our staff and volunteers. We are grateful for the recognition."

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## MYTH of the MONTH #100

Guy Rocha, Nevada State Archivist  
A Capital Name: Kit Carson and Carson City  
(Excerpts)

"I inquire if the correct name of this place is Carson City," asked M. G. Parker of Silver City during the second Nevada State Constitutional Convention in July 1864. Delegates were preparing to approve Carson City as the proposed state capital of Nevada. "I named the city myself," delegate and co-founder of Carson City Frank Proctor proudly proclaimed on July 27, 1864, "Carson City is what we used to call it."



The passage of time has obscured the facts surrounding the beginnings of Carson City, and today Abraham Curry is

generally given the credit for naming the town and not Proctor.

It has long been incorrectly assumed that "Uncle Abe" named the community after Christopher "Kit" Carson because Carson passed through the small valley as a scout for John C. Fremont in his expedition of 1843-44. Fremont's journals and the maps of the expedition clearly demonstrate that Carson did not come within 30 miles of Eagle Valley. While Fremont named the Carson Lake (Sink) and Carson River in honor of Kit, the explorers did not follow the river through Dayton, Eagle and Carson Valleys to its source but veered southwestward into Mason and Antelope Valleys, then turned north, and eventually crossed the Sierra Nevada just south of Carson Pass. Fremont did not name Carson Valley or Carson Pass; those names would be applied after the publishing of the survey maps in 1848.

What most people don't know is that Kit Carson  
(Continued on page 14)

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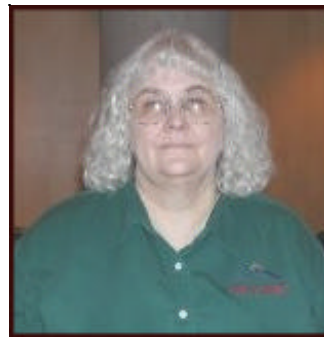
## Librarian knows her way around a roulette wheel!

I am Linda Deacy, the representative from the Nevada Library Association to the Mountain Plains Library Association since December 1999. I am currently the library director of the Douglas County Public Library in northwestern Nevada. Douglas County borders California and contains a portion of Lake Tahoe. Our main library in Minden was home to the library cats, Baker and Taylor, who were used in the B&T advertising for many years.

I am a native of Northern California and earned my bachelor's degree in classical history in the infamous "Bay Area" of the 1960s. Freshly graduated, I was recruited by the federal Teachers Corps program. I began my teaching career in rural north Georgia the year the Georgia schools were desegregated. While earning an M.Ed. from the University of Georgia, I taught in several southern states. During this period I was also fortunate to be able to teach in an elementary school in Greece on the island of Rhodes for 18 months.

My next adventure as a teacher began when I left elementary schools and returned to Lake Tahoe. I secured a position teaching casino workers for Harrah's and then for Caesars Tahoe. Over a period of 14 years, I taught keno game administration and then craps, 21, baccarat, and roulette.

In 1990 I accepted a position with the Douglas County



Public Library. I started as an entry-level technician. In 1991 I entered the MLS distance program at the University of Arizona. I progressed through positions as library technician, automation librarian, and public services librarian before becoming library director in 1998.

I am active in the Nevada Library Association, teach a library certification class for the University of Nevada, Reno, and am a member of the Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute Committee in MPLA. I am on the BCR Nominating Committee and a member of the consortium board that provides library services in 15 of Nevada's 17 counties.

My family consists of a grown son, Michael, and his family who live near Atlanta, GA, my husband Duncan, and my younger son Andrew. Duncan is a retired casino dealer and currently a full-time student who hopes to be an elementary school teacher. Andrew is a junior in high school, an Eagle Scout, and active in marching band, jazz band, and wind ensemble.



## History of the Nevada Library Association

Excerpts by Billie Mae Polson  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas Library  
(with later revisions)

In 1946, a group of six librarians met in Reno, NV, to discuss the possibility of forming a state library association. They drafted a letter to other librarians in the state giving the following reasons why the establishment of the Nevada Library Association (NLA) would be of value to the state. The first **Constitution**, adopted June 4, 1946, stated that the object of the Nevada Library Association shall be to promote library service and librarianship.

The Nevada Library Association during its first years was organized into geographical districts reflecting the interests of all groups within the boundaries of the district. The Southern District includes the counties of Clark, Esmeralda, Nye, and Lincoln; the Northwest District includes the counties of Washoe, Pershing, Storey, Churchill, Carson City, Lyon, Douglas, and Mineral. The Northeast District includes Elko, Lander, Eureka, Humboldt, and White Pine.

The Public Library Association of Nevada and the Nevada Association of Library Trustees were merged into one section of the Nevada Library Association in 1971. In its new organization, PLAN/NALT published **Standards for Nevada Public Libraries** in September 1972. In 1989, the Advisory Council on Libraries approved new Minimum Public Library Standards.

Among the most active of the standing committees of the Nevada Library Association in the early years was the Certification Committee, which established policy for and administered the certification of Nevada librarians. This voluntary program for certification was started in the 1950's. By 1978, this program was seen to have outlived its usefulness and was abandoned. In the early 1990s, interest in public library certification revived in response to the closing of various library schools in the country. The Cer-

tification Committee was not restarted, but NLA and the Nevada State Library and Archives sponsored SB232 which authorized library certification in Nevada (and passed in the 1995 legislature). See NRS 379.007-379.009.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee was organized during the 1962 convention in Reno, NV. When Nevada statutes had to be changed due to the Supreme Court's decision on obscenity, the Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Martha Gould, was placed on a Legislative Interim Study Committee on Obscenity to develop legislative proposals for consideration of the next Legislature. During the 1979 session for the Legislature, AB 143 passed with the Committee's recommendations which provided for the exemption of schools, libraries, and museums in obscenity statutes. See NRS 239.013. An *Intellectual Freedom Manual* was produced and printed by the committee in 1984 and 1994.

The Nevada Library Association has held an annual convention/meeting since 1946. Joint conventions with the Mountain Plains Library Association were held in 1978, 1985, 1994, and 2003. The association has from its beginnings worked for the strengthening of the state library and its functions. At the first convention, the board of trustees voted to affiliate with the American Library Association, and during the 1958 convention the Nevada Library Association joined the Mountain Plains Library Association.

In common with most of the western states, Nevada has vast distances and a sparse population base with the exception of the two urban areas of the state, Reno and Las Vegas, conditions which do not help libraries, which are usually low on the budget priority; but as the Nevada Library Association has grown during the past years so have library services in Nevada. Of course, the association has not been the only factor in the improvement of library

(Continued on page 14)

## NEVADA FACTS

Name was officially adopted in 1861 when territory was established by Congress; from Spanish meaning snow-capped.

**1851**—First settlement in dispute—Genoa, near Carson City, permanently settled by Mormons, then called Mormon Station in Utah Territory. Dayton, also near Carson City, permanently settled by miners and traders, then called Gold Canyon in Utah Territory.

**1854**—Carson County created as part of Utah Territory.  
**1861**—Created as Territory of Nevada on March 2.  
**1864**—Admitted as State of Nevada October 31; a state holiday since 1939.

Nevada entered the Union as a state during the Civil War and just before the presidential election of 1864. The Constitutional Convention met in Carson City on July 4, 1864, just one year after the terrible battle at Gettysburg. The Union needed another state, another supporter of President Lincoln, to prove to the Confederacy that the Union was strong. Patriotism was running high here and those assembled for the Convention felt very loyal to the Union and quite willing to do what they could to support it.

- § **STATE BIRD** - Mountain Bluebird
- § **STATE ANIMAL** - Desert Bighorn Sheep
- § **STATE REPTILE** - The Desert Tortoise
- § **STATE FLOWER** - Sagebrush
- § **STATE TREE** - Single-Leaf Piñon and the Bristlecone Pine
- § **STATE SONG** - "Home Means Nevada" by Mrs. Bertha Raffetto, Reno

- § **STATE CAPITAL** - Carson City; designated in July 1864; also territorial capital dating back to 1861
- § **STATE ARTIFACT** - The Tule Duck was created by early Nevadans almost 2,000 years ago
- § **NEVADA NICKNAMES** - Battle-Born State, Sagebrush State, Silver State
- § **AREA** - 110,540 square miles, 485 miles long, 315 miles wide, 7th in size
- § **POPULATION** - Census 2000 population - 1,998,257
- § **MINING** - Among its products are gold, silver, copper, zinc, brucite, magnesium, magnesite, manganese, tungsten, uranium, mercury, lead, non-metals, oil, coal, iron.
- § **AGRICULTURE** - Cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, poultry, hay, wheat, corn, potatoes, rye, oats, alfalfa, barley, vegetables, dairy products, some fruits.
- § **GEOGRAPHY/CLIMATE** - With mostly mountainous and desert terrain, altitudes vary from 1,000 feet to over 13,000 feet. Climate is arid, abundant sunshine; light rainfall; snow. Average temperature varies from 70 degrees Fahrenheit in south to 45 degrees Fahrenheit in north.
- § **NATURAL RESOURCES** - Minerals — Gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten, uranium, manganese, titanium, iron, mercury, opal, barite, molybdenum, magnesite, diatomite, talc, gypsum, dolomite, lime, turquoise, fluor spar, brucite, antimony, perlite, pumice, salt, sulfur oilshale.



### History of the NLA ...

(Continued from page 13)

services within the state, as the people of the state and the individual librarian must be the motivating factor, but the Nevada Library Association has proved the validity of the reasons given for its establishment: It has acted and will continue to act as a clearing house for library information in Nevada, through meetings and a published newsletter. The published newsletter has undergone four title changes throughout its years of publication, several changes in format, and several editors.

### Myth of the Month...

(Continued from page 12)

passed through Eagle Valley in 1853 on his way to Sacramento from New Mexico Territory. Maybe this event was lost to history because it was only a sheep and goat drive, but herding some 7,000 head of those critters was no mean feat and he sold the livestock for \$32,000.

We do know the town laid out in Eagle Valley was known as Carson City by September 1858, and whether it was named for the Carson River or Carson County, Utah Territory, created in 1854, or directly for Kit himself, ultimately the naming could be traced to Carson's association with the western Great Basin. Ironically, while Kit Carson surely came to know of Carson City, he never visited the community prior to his death at Fort Lyon in Colorado Territory on May 23, 1868.

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# Famous Nevadans

## Did you know Tennis Great Andre Agassi was born in Nevada?

**Eva Bertrand Adams**, born in Wonder, NV in 1908. Ms. Adams was appointed Director of the U.S. Mint by President Kennedy in 1961 and remained in that post until 1969.

**Ben Alexander**, born in Goldfield, NV - An actor, he played Officer Frank Smith on the television series "Dragnet" from 1953 to 1959.

**Andre Agassi**, born in Las Vegas, NV in 1970 - A tennis player, he turned pro in 1986 and has won over 45 singles titles and almost \$20 million in earnings.

**Art Bell**, born in Pahrump, NV on June 17, 1945. Radio Host.

**Helen Delich Bentley**, born Nov. 28, 1923 in Ruth, NV. Newspaperwoman. Ms. Bentley went on to become a Congresswoman for the state of Maryland, holding office from 1985-1995.

**James Hubert Bilbray**, born in Las Vegas, NV - Politician.

**Robert Coles Caples**, painter. 1908-1979.

**James E. Casey**, born in the tiny mining town of Candelaria, NV on March 29, 1888, Mr. Casey became the founder of the United Parcel Service. He died June 6, 1983 in Seattle, WA.

**Hobart Cavanaugh**, born in Virginia City in 1887 - Actor ("Border Town," "Black Angel").

**Walter Van Tilburg Clark**, author of *The City of Trembling Leaves*, *The Ox-Bow Incident*, and others books, Mr. Clark was born in East Orland, Maine in 1909, but his family moved to Nevada when he was eight years old. He died in Reno on Nov. 10, 1971.

**Henry Paige Comstock**, born in 1820, a trapper, prospector.

**Abby Dalton**, born in Las Vegas NV in 1932 - An actor, she played Lt. Martha Hale on "Hennesey" (1959) and Julia Cumson on "Falcon Crest" (1981-86).

**Michele Greene**, born in Las Vegas, NV in 1957 - An actor (Abby Perkins-"LA Law").

**Velma Johnston**, also known as "Wild Horse Annie," was born March 5, 1912 in Reno, NV. For many years, she fought for the protection of the wild horse and burro population. It was through her efforts that laws were passed protecting these animals. Velma Johnston died in Reno, NV on June 27, 1977.

**Jack Kramer** born in Las Vegas, NV in 1921 - Tennis Player.

**Paul Laxalt**, Reno, NV - Former governor and U.S. Senator.

**Robert Laxalt**, born Sept. 24, 1923 in Alturas, CA. Author of *Sweet Promised Land*, *A Cup of Tea in Pamplona*, *A Basque Hotel*, and many other books, Mr. Laxalt is a member of the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. He died in Reno on March 23, 2001.

**Thelma Pat Nixon**, born in Ely, NV - Wife of the 37th President of the United States.

**Harry M. Reid**, born in Searchlight, NV - U.S. Senator.

**David Derek Stacton** - Author, *Minden*.

**Jack Wilson "Wovoka"**, born in Esmeralda County, NV in 1856. Wovoka was a Paiute Indian prophet who created the Ghost Dance religion in the 1880s and 1890s. He died in September of 1932.

**Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins**, born near the Humboldt River in Nevada - She was an author, Paiute interpreter, peacemaker.

## Around the MPLA Region



### ARIZONA

*Phoenix librarians receive national recognition* -- Toni Garvey, director of the Phoenix Public Library, was named 2004 Librarian of the Year by *Library Journal*. Ms. Garvey was recognized for her efforts that salvaged an embattled urban library system by increasing public access

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to the Phoenix Public Library through improved hours, development of strong print and digital collections, building new facilities and improving existing ones, and developing a diverse and talented staff. John Berry, who wrote the *LJ* article announcing her selection, stated that "She has performed with charm and grace and come out of it loving her job, her profession, and her community."

A member of Toni's Phoenix Public Library staff, Kathleen Le Fevre Birtciel, was also named as one of 27 recipients of the *New York Times*' 2003 Librarian Award.

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The annual award honors librarians who provide outstanding public service. Ms. Birtciel, director of the Arcadia and Century Branch Libraries, was nominated by a Phoenix resident for her outstanding work as a partner and leader in making the community a vibrant and self-improving place to live, work, and play. The award program recognizes librarians around the country. The 27 recipients of this year's award were chosen from nearly 2,000 nominations submitted by the general public in 46 states.

*Library school garners significant gift* -- A gift commitment in the amount of \$1.5 million to the University of Arizona Foundation has been established through the estate plans of Duane and Linda Whitaker. The gift is part of "Campaign Arizona," the university's \$1 billion fundraising effort, and the funds will create three endowed professorships in the School of Information Resources and Science. Linda Whitaker graduated from SIRLS in December 2002, and is a project archivist in Special Collections at the main library. Duane Whitaker, M.D., graduated from the U of A Medical School in 1979. He is a faculty member at the University of Iowa College of Medicine and a strong supporter of the University of Arizona.

*LSTA provides \$3 million in support to Arizona libraries* -- The Arizona State Library continues to support a number of statewide programs this year with funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program. A portion of LSTA funds will be available to libraries across the state on a competitive basis this spring.

More than half of the state's almost \$3 million in 2004 LSTA funds are committed to statewide services such as FirstSearch, digital government initiatives, a cultural inventory project, continuing education classes, the Carnegie Center's Life Options project, network support, ABI/INFORM databases, interlibrary loan, the Arizona Convocation, field travel, and a number of other programs that benefit the entire state. The other half of the money is invested in field-based competitive grants. Currently, LSTA Grants in Arizona are available in five areas: Community Focal Point, Cultural Diversity (programming for or about underserved, diverse audiences), Families and Children (literacy, early childhood, family, children), Information Technology (computer classes, technology, promotional materials), and Strategic Partnerships (resource sharing, joint programming, economic development).

## COLORADO

*The library budget situation in Colorado* -- The issue of primary concern to all libraries in Colorado continues to be budgetary situation. Results of a fall 2003 survey by the Library Research Service of the Colorado State Library indicate that 78% of academic libraries and 67% of



public libraries reported budget cuts since July 2002. Total cuts approach \$11 million. For the complete report, see [http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/202\\_budget\\_cuts.pdf](http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/202_budget_cuts.pdf).

The state's Regional Library Service Systems, which provide services such as a heavily used courier service and state purchasing discounts, have been heavily affected by the budgetary cuts. In fact, funding for state library programs was reduced by 79% in FY 03-04. As a result, two of the seven Regional Systems have closed and/or combined with other systems. All have laid off staff.

The state library reports that Local Needs Grants and Statewide Leadership Project applications will not be offered in FY03-04. Due to the 79% reduction in state funding for library programs in the state, the state library and its advisory committees recommended using LSTA funds to support ongoing library services that used to operate with state funds. This decision will be reexamined next year. If the fiscal picture has improved for libraries, the state library may issue grant applications beginning in October of 2004.

On a more positive front, the Ask Colorado virtual reference program is becoming more and more popular. After a slow start, usage was reported to have nearly doubled in November!

*Board keeps challenged book* -- A book challenge at the Weld Library District in Greeley received statewide publicity in December. The Board voted to retain *It's Perfectly Normal: A Book About Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health* by Robie H. Harris, but moved it from the children's to the young adult section. Evans resident Jeannie McAllister had objected to the cartoon-like illustrations of nude adults used to illustrate various biological changes and reproductive issues, as well as the author's references to sexual orientation.





**KLA Executive Director Rosanne Goble presents the CULS Beginning Professional Award to Suzanne Araas Vesely at the CULS Conference in Wichita, KS, Oct. 24, 2003. Photo by Max Burson.**

## KANSAS

Dr. Suzanne Araas Vesely, copyright/reference librarian at Forsyth Library and head of the Copyright and Intellectual Property Center at Fort Hays State University, received the Beginning Professional Award

for the state of Kansas on Oct. 24, 2003 at the CULS (College and University Library Section of the Kansas Library Association) annual banquet, which is part of the annual CULS Conference. At the conference she also made a presentation: "Is your Library Litigation Literate?" In the presentation, she said that through the efforts of her office, Fort Hays State University has become a national leader among universities in copyright and intellectual property awareness. In considering her for the award, CULS evaluated the FHSU Copyright and Intellectual Property Center. Over the course of a year, the Center has evolved into an important resource unit for the University. Its Website can be found at: [http://www.fhsu.edu/forsyth\\_lib/copyright](http://www.fhsu.edu/forsyth_lib/copyright).

Additionally, Vesely has made over 40 individually tailored presentations on copyright, intellectual property, plagiarism, the USA Patriot Act, and issues of privacy to the Fort Hays State University community. She has also presented as a consultant elsewhere in the City of Hays, in another university, and at conferences.

*Medical library sponsors Christmas gathering* -- The MIRC Library at the University of Kansas Medical Center (<http://www2.kumc.edu/oced/mirc.htm>) co-sponsored a "Christmas Gathering-2003" (<http://www.cieo.com/A/news-7.htm>) in December at the North Kansas City Community Center (<http://www.cieo.com/A/index.htm>), providing online and print information on breast, cervical, prostate cancer, and cancer education and prevention. Area groups including the American Indian Heartland Cancer Network, American Indian Center, members of the Coalition of Hispanic Women against Cancer, and the Kansas Cancer Institute also provided consumer health information and prevention materials along with a variety of tasty dishes and deserts. Sacred drumming, a spiritual blessing, musical entertainment, and Christmas caroling was offered to all in the community who gathered in harmony, good fellowship, and learning.

*Complying with CIPA* -- Kanguard, the Internet content filtering service, made its public debut in December 2003. The state library, in cooperation with the Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS), and with assistance from technical staff of the Kansas Regional Library Systems, sponsors this free service

## Welcome to MPLA New Members

### COLORADO

Dan Lawrence  
University of N. Colorado

### MONTANA

Honore Bray  
Hearst Free Library

Jan Fandrich  
Montana State U.-Billings

### NEVADA

Theron Nissen  
Las Vegas Clark County  
Library District

### NEW MEXICO

John Andrews  
Thomas Branigan  
Memorial Library

### OKLAHOMA

Phillip Fitzsimmons  
University of Oklahoma  
student

### WYOMING

Julie Edwards  
Riverton Branch Library

Nicholle Edwards  
Natrona County  
Public Library

Judith Garber  
Sheridan College

### MISC.

Saleem Babu  
University of Pakistan

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to public libraries in the state as a low-cost option to help them comply with the Children's Online Protection Act (CIPA). The product is being promoted as reliable, low maintenance, easily disabled or reactivated by library staff, minimally disruptive to the user's online work, and available to the library at no charge. It is also said to have no negative effect on the performance of the library's computer, uses decisions on site blocking made by Kansas librarians, and meets the technology protection measure requirement of CIPA. For more information see <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/libtech/kanguard>.

## MONTANA

*Fort Peck publishes books* -- In September 2001, the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) funded a grant to Fort Peck Tribal Library, Poplar, MT, to help republish the stories of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes. The Assiniboine and Sioux Enterprise Community further funded the project. The books are *How the Morning and Evening Stars Came to Be and Other Assiniboine Indian Stories*, *How the Summer Season Came and Other Assiniboine Indian Stories*, and *The Turtle Who Went to War and Other Sioux Stories*. The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Portland, OR, originally published these stories as individual books in the Indian Reading Series. Every library in Montana will receive a set of these books as part of the grant. If you are interested in purchasing extras at \$24 for the set of three or individual books at \$9.95 each, please don't hesitate to contact Fort Peck Tribal Library at 1-866-650-5148. These titles are also available individually from the Montana Historical Society Store at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org).

*Lewis & Clark Activity Books available* -- The Lewis & Clark Task Force is taking orders for Lewis & Clark Activity Books at \$2 each. To order, e-mail [jhedina@manhattan.k12.mt.us](mailto:jhedina@manhattan.k12.mt.us). All orders come with an invoice. Some libraries have asked what the books are for. The answer is anything you want! They can tie in with school activities, summer reading programs, special library promotions, etc. Some libraries are even selling the books. They purchase from the task force, then raise the price and sell to patrons. These are not coloring books. They contain word searches, puzzles, crossword puzzles and lots of links to more information. Spread the word and order your books now!



*Librarian recruitment grant received* -- Montana State Library has been awarded a \$206,167 "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Montana project is entitled "Professional Education and Employment for Librarians" (PEEL). This three-year grant will fund a state-wide promotion/recruitment campaign designed to attract Montanans to the library profession, with an emphasis on recruiting more Native American librarians. Six Montana residents will receive scholarships to attend graduate library school and will be required to work in a Montana public, school, or tribal library for a minimum of two years following graduation. Stipends will also be awarded to help libraries bring these new graduates into their communities to fill professional level positions.

The first step in the project was the formation of a ten-member PEEL Grant Advisory Committee that will provide guidance with the recruitment campaign and application process. The Committee's initial meeting was Dec. 2. Scholarship applications will be available early in 2004 with awards being made in the spring. The state library will use Wired-MT and other venues to keep interested Montanans informed about the application process and deadlines. For more information about the grant, please contact Sue Jackson ([sujackson@state.mt.us](mailto:sujackson@state.mt.us) or 1-800-338-5087) at MSL.

## NEBRASKA

*Public library accreditation* -- The Nebraska Library Commission has been seeking input about the Guidelines for Accreditation for Nebraska Public Libraries used in the Library Commission's Public Library Accreditation program. This program, which serves as a basis for distribution of state and federal funds to public libraries in Nebraska, is being evaluated. Information about the Accreditation program, open-ended questions about the process, and a draft of the Guidelines are available on the Library Commission Website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Accreditation. Nebraska library staff and board members were invited to review these materials and comment to Kit Keller, Library Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, [kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us).

*Program History* - In 1986-87, a committee produced a document called *Gearing up for the twenty-first century: Guidelines for excellence*, which represented a consensus of the public library community in Nebraska. The guidelines assisted many public libraries to attain or exceed a common level in governance, resources, and services. Those

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guidelines were the basis for the Public Library Accreditation and Public Librarian Certification programs and encouraged local planners to adapt services to local needs and conditions. In 1989 the guidelines were revised and recorded in a document called *Guidelines for Service*, published in 1991. The document was intended to assist local public libraries in achieving basic public library service. In order to be an accredited public library, a library had to meet a minimum number of guidelines.

The 1991 Guidelines for Service were revised in 1995-96. A review committee formed for this purpose prepared the Basic and Advanced Accreditation Guidelines. Accreditation is one of the eligibility requirements for state aid to public libraries and other grant programs available through the Nebraska Library Commission.

The newly revised *Guidelines* are to be implemented during the fall of 2004.

*Spotlight on Scottsbluff, NE* -- Nancy Escamilla, ILL Library Assistant at Scottsbluff Public Library has been awarded the "Woman of the Year" Award by the Scottsbluff Business and Professional Women's Association. Congratulations Nancy!

"Tickled Pink" (as in Pink Panther) was the theme of the Adult Fall Reading program at Scottsbluff Public Library. 276 people from 15 towns signed up, and 1,335 books were read. The promotional materials for this program were included in a display at the Nebraska Library Association (NLA)/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) conference held in Omaha on Oct. 29-31.



*Planned Giving Fund* -- The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Planned Giving Fund for Nebraska Librarians kicked off a five-year campaign at the 2003 NLA/NEMA Conference in Omaha with a display at the NLA Membership Table and an announcement at the NLA Business Meeting. The program is set-up as an affiliated fund to assist NLA in providing continuing education, training and learning opportunities for Nebraska librarians and library supporters and to increase awareness of the importance and value of all types of libraries throughout Nebraska.

The NLA Planned Giving Adhoc Committee through an initial "quiet" campaign was able to generate \$9,300 in pledges. A primary goal of NLA since its inception in 1895 has been to meet the continuing education needs of

Nebraska librarians. Additionally, many NLA members spend their lives passionately involved in the library community and find that a gift to the Planned Giving Fund is a way of carrying on that commitment. Pledges can be a tool for expressing one's beliefs and values and a gift to an effort that contributes to services available to all Nebraskans across the state through their local libraries.

The opportunity for individuals to contribute to the Planned Giving Fund as part of the five-year campaign was available until Jan. 31, 2004. Prior to that date, contributors of a minimum of \$250, either through a five-year pledge or single donation, were recognized as members of the NLA Legacy Society. Fundraising for The Planned Giving Program will continue after Jan. 31 as an ongoing activity through the NLA Finance Committee in an effort to provide continuing support for library education and publicity throughout the state. For further information or to make a donation contact Nebraska Library Association, c/o Maggie Harding, Exec. Director, Planned Giving Program, P.O. Box 98, Crete, NE 68333-0098, phone: (402)826-2636, fax: (402)826-2636, e-mail: [Gh12521@alltel.net](mailto:Gh12521@alltel.net).

## NEVADA

*Nevada government forms available* -- The Silver Source Forms Clearinghouse is designed to help you quickly find the Nevada state government forms you're looking for. You can download an electronic version of a form to view on your PC or print on your printer at <http://silversource.state.nv.us/default.htm>. Forms include: Business Services, Education/References, Employment/Unemployment, Natural Resources, Public Safety, Recreation, Regulatory Services, Social Services, Wheels, and Other.

*Nevada State Library Coalition offers Lifetime Library program* -- The Coalition received funding to purchase enough copies of the Lifetime Library program to supply one copy to each public library in Nevada. Lifetime Library will support adult education programs so that their students could be guaranteed access to GED preparation resources at their local library.

The Lifetime Library is a comprehensive curriculum covering basic reading, writing, and math, providing hundreds of hours of multimedia instruction. Every student receives the full benefit of the instruction because the courseware accommodates a range of learning styles and skill levels.

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*User Privacy/Freedom of Information Website* -- The Nevada Library Association Resolution In Support of User Privacy and Freedom of Information in Libraries may be located at <http://www.nevadalibraries.org/legislation/pact.html> The Website for the Nevada Campaign to Defeat the Patriot Act may be located at <http://www.ncdpa.org>.

## NEW MEXICO

*Legislative Day* -- The Legislation and Intellectual Freedom Committee of the New Mexico Library Association is planning to hold the annual Library Legislative Day during the regular session of the State Legislature on Wednesday, Feb. 4. This year's effort will be to win support for a \$41 million bond package to be included on the 2004 ballot to purchase books and other materials, such as periodicals and electronic databases.

NMLA has organized a statewide group, the Library Bond Task Force, to coordinate efforts to improve libraries of all types that receive public funding. The Library Bond Task Force includes public, school, and academic librarians working together to seek the support of the legislature and the governor. The last statewide library initiative was the 2002 Library Capital Improvement Bond, which passed with the highest positive vote of all state bonds in 2002.

*Reading Albuquerque* -- Albuquerque Mayor Martin J. Chávez and his wife, Margaret, are hosts of a live radio show reading books to children. This program, "Reading Albuquerque," is a collaboration that includes the City of Albuquerque, 770 KKOB AM radio, Albuquerque business and community leaders, the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), and private sector elementary schools. APS and the Albuquerque/Bernalillo Library System have been responsible for selecting and providing the books for the program.

"Reading Albuquerque" is meant to focus on the importance of literacy. Mayor Chávez and his wife will be joined in the studios of KKOB on the one-hour Sunday evening show by second-graders to read books from the selected reading list for the second grade curriculum. The show airs from 7 – 8 pm, and features community leaders debuting on the program as celebrity readers with the children.

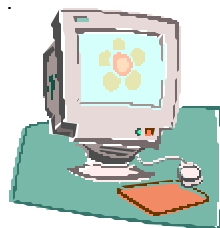
*Reconstructed library dedication* -- The newly reconstructed Erna Fergusson Library, a branch of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo Library System, was dedicated on Saturday, Nov.

1, by Mayor Martin J. Chavez, Councilor Sally Mayer, and other community, city and state officials. The 15,500 square foot state-of-the-art library was built on the site of the original building and is open six days a week. At the geographic center of the city, it serves all Albuquerque and Bernalillo County residents as one of 17 libraries in the system. The original Erna Fergusson Library opened in 1966, and was completely reconstructed and expanded during the last two years.

Library Director Eileen Longworth described the new Erna Fergusson Library as the "jewel of the library system." The building was designed by Edie Cherry/Jim See Architects and constructed by Newt and Butch's Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. The building project cost, excluding library materials is \$3.1 million dollars, paid for out of city and state bond funds. The building has over 100,000 library books, audiovisual items, and magazines as well as public access Internet computers. The attractive children's area has a "secret door" for young readers into the tall tower in the southwest corner of the building. A community meeting room will be available for library programs and neighborhood events. During November, members of the public were also given the opportunity to sign a special bookplate, and place it in a library book to help celebrate this event and their love of reading.

## NORTH DAKOTA

*A different kind of "library school"* -- For most of us, "library school" conjures up images of earning an MLS degree. But for many Mandan students, "library school" means spending out-of-school suspension time at the Mandan Public Library, which provides a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere ideal for tutoring and learning. The Mandan Police Department's Youth Services Division started the grant-funded program a year ago. The focus is on keeping students caught up on their homework and not rewarding them for bad behavior. Instead of sitting home and doing nothing, students who receive out-of-school suspension are doing schoolwork with tutors. Although there are still some bugs to work out, teachers, parents, library staff, and students have been receptive and supportive.



*Grant received for computer lab* -- Beginning computer class instruction of the online catalog, subscription databases, Internet searching, and e-mail usage has been conducted at

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the Minot Public Library two days a week since last summer. Director Jerry Kaup announced that the library has been awarded a \$14,900 grant for a computer lab that will aid in the instruction. A classroom setting will enhance the program and aid the students in more effective learning. Plans are being made to have the lab in place by February class time.

*ODIN migrates to new software* -- The ODIN (Online Dakota Information Network) migration to new library system software from Ex Libris USA Inc. called ALEPH is well underway. In late October the ODIN staff began the process of contacting all ODIN libraries to begin work on conversion. Planning for training ODIN libraries is beginning and user groups can expect to play an important role in preparing for training in the use of ODIN's ALEPH software. Training should start early in 2004 and the actual change from using the current PALS system to using the new ALEPH software is scheduled to happen in July 2004.

## OKLAHOMA

*First-time book festival exceeds expectations* -- The Red Dirt Book Festival lived up to the prediction that its debut would be a major literary event. Reading enthusiasts from 13 states and the United Kingdom gathered in Shawnee, OK, in mid-October for two days of reading, writing, and talking about books.

More than 1,000 participants shuttled between the campuses of Oklahoma Baptist University and St. Gregory's University to enjoy 90 presentations and workshops offered by Oklahoma authors, illustrators, publishers, storytellers, and scholars.

In addition to the workshops, the festival also offered one-on-one writing critique sessions with the authors. Many festival participants used this opportunity to have their manuscripts reviewed before submission to the *Red Dirt Anthology*. The anthology, to be published in the spring of 2004, will include short stories, poems, essays, and illustrations selected from more than 80 submissions at the festival.

Other festival highlights included on-stage presentations by the members of the Territory Tellers, music from the

Farm Couple, authors reading from their latest works, and an open mike night at a local bistro. Best-selling novelist Tony Hillerman was the featured speaker at a banquet. Luncheon speakers introduced the novelists included in a new book discussion series, "Oklahoma, Re-Visions," and presented recent winners and finalists of the Oklahoma Book Award.

The Red Dirt Book Festival was a project of the Pioneer Library System with major funding from the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

*"Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma"* -- Oklahoma's first statewide one book program is launched. The initiative called "Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma" is a four year program that will feature a book each year on the Oklahoma experience to be read and discussed between now and Oklahoma's centennial year in 2007. The book was selected through a statewide online voting process from a list of six books. Sixteen hundred sixteen votes were cast to select *The Honk and Holler Opening Soon* by Billie Letts as the book for 2004. For more details go to the Website: <http://www.okreadsok.org/>.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

*First Ladies for reading* -- South Dakota's First Lady, Jean Rounds joined 36 other First Ladies from across the nation to be an Ambassador for Reading on Friday, Dec. 5. This reading initiative was part of the fifth annual Scholastic Read for 2004 Day. She spent the day reading to children in Pierre elementary schools and donated 500 Scholastic books to schools across the state. The State Library Children's Librarian, Pam Kringel, worked with the First Lady to select books and develop supplemental reading lists. Pam also worked with Bruce Zachmeier, Library Information Officer, to design a bookmark with the reading favorites of the entire First Family. Lists and bookmarks were distributed to all libraries in the state.

*Harris and Me to remain in library* -- At the November School Board meeting in Beresford, SD, the book, *Harris and Me*, by Gary Paulsen, was challenged for inappropriate language. The book was reviewed by a committee composed of the high school librarian, the elementary school principal, two grade school teachers, and two citizens. The committee recommended maintaining the book in the elementary school library. Because the parent challenging the book was unable to attend the December school board meeting, a final decision was tabled until January. [Editorial comment from Suzanne Miner, MPLA SD rep.:

My first response to this type of challenge is to rush out and read the book. I was delighted by this portrayal of two young boys on a post WWII northern Minnesota farm and all the adventures they created for themselves. The charge that this “introduces swearing to sixth grade students” is extremely naïve, even in South Dakota. The only swearing that goes on is the word “damn” and the boy is reprimanded every time he uses the word. It is definitely a book targeting boys age 10-12 and the recommendation that it be put in the high school library is ludicrous at best. I hope this book remains available and the controversy encourages many more boys to experience this touching story].

## UTAH

*Morris from Colorado becomes state librarian* -- The Utah State Library recently announced the appointment of its new director, replacing Amy Owen, who retired. Donna Jones Morris has been appointed Utah’s State Librarian and director of the State Library Division, effective Jan. 30. Morris is currently the executive director of the Arkansas Valley Regional Library Service System in Pueblo, CO, a position she has held since 1985, in addition to work in Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Morris received a Master of Librarianship degree from Emporia State University and a bachelor’s degree from Fort Hays State University in Kansas.

*New library comes in under budget* -- Cedar City Public Library or Cedar City Library in the Park was opened Sept. 15, 2003. The new facility boasts 29,000 square feet (the prior library supplied only 11,315 square feet), 26 public workstations, and room to expand the collection some two-and-a-half times that of the old facility. The single floor facility is excellent for addressing ADA issues.



The library was dedicated one year, to the day, from groundbreaking and came in well under budget.

## WYOMING

*Library staff helps soldiers in Iraq* -- The library staff of the Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne, made 40 U.S. Army soldiers happy in Iraq this Christmas by providing a touch of home. Fifty-nine pounds of goodies were sent their way in six boxes after a successful Thanksgiving drive among staff brought gifts of every kind for their use. In addition to books, magazines, and playing cards, the library group also gathered up large quantities of snack foods, cookies, meats, and personal products to suit a variety of tastes and needs. One member of the security staff also contributed to the success of the project. The staff also included a disposable camera so the soldiers could take pictures of themselves and their surroundings. The library staff is looking forward to receiving it back and developing the photos so they can share information about them with the whole college. They also hope to continue corresponding and plan to send another box in January. The library staff sent the packages in care of Dennis Norrod, Staff Sargent of Company Bravo which is stationed near Bagdad. He is the grandson of Janet Norrod who previously taught children’s literature at LCCC and was the head of children’s services at the Laramie County Public Library System for many years.

*Election means new library for Laramie County* -- After more than a decade of planning, Laramie County citizens will have a new library in Cheyenne thanks to November’s election results.

Voters approved Proposition 6 with 54.75% in favor of the project and 45.25% opposed. More than 60% of registered voters in Laramie County cast ballots, a successful turnout for an off-year election.

Via the specific purpose (or “sixth penny”) tax, the Laramie County Library System sought \$26.9 million for a new Central Library facility, improvements to the Pine Bluffs Branch, and a new bookmobile to service all of Laramie County.

“We are beyond thrilled,” county librarian Lucie Osborn said. “We’ve always said that a great community deserves a great library, and we can’t thank the voters enough for sharing that conviction.”

Construction is expected to begin within one year, and LCLS will continue to hold public meetings regarding the project throughout the building process.

*New online library calendar* -- The Wyoming State Library is introducing a new online calendar that lists many library workshops, educational events, and training activities that may be of interest to library workers. Two features of the calendar are a link to BCR and all its workshops, and identifiable library seminars and training in contiguous states. The page also allows librarians to submit information about workshops. The calendar allows both directors and staff to look ahead and plan continuing education. The Website for the Continuing Education Calendar is <http://will.state.wy.us:5630/wsce>.

## Teen Reading Program Attracts 3,500 Librarians Nationwide

Nearly 3,500 school and public librarians from across the country have registered for the "Get on Board and Read @ your library" program. The program, which offers teens the opportunity to win a chance to meet pro skateboarder and program spokesperson Tony Hawk, runs through April. ALA and Dean Foods, maker and distributor of HERSHEY'S Milk, sponsor the program.

By registering on the "Get on Board and Read" Website, at [www.hersheysmilk.com/getonboard](http://www.hersheysmilk.com/getonboard), librarians have access to free tools and resources to help them promote the program, such as a downloadable poster, bookmark, and sample programming ideas. The site also contains the official entry form and rules.

"The number of librarians that have registered clearly reflects a strong interest in this program. It's nearly triple the number that signed up for last year's initiative," said Campaign for America's Libraries Manager Deborah Davis.

To enter, teens between the ages of 12-18 select a book from their local school or public library and create an entry about the message of the book and why it's meaningful to them. Entries may be submitted in a written essay or a creative entry consisting of a poem, painting or video, and may be created individually or as a team. Each teen or team must have a local public or school librarian sponsor them in the contest by having the librarian fill out a sponsor form. All entries must be postmarked by April 24 and received by April 30.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 31- April 2	<b>Kansas</b> Tri-Conference, Wichita
April 14-16	<b>Oklahoma</b> Library Association Conference, Tulsa
April 21-23	<b>New Mexico</b> Library Association Conference, Las Cruces
April 24-27	<b>Montana</b> Library Association Conference, Bozeman
May 5-7	<b>Utah</b> Library Association Conference, Ogden
Aug. 11-14	<b>Nevada</b> Library Association Conference, Henderson
Oct. 6-8	<b>Nebraska</b> Library Association Conference, Grand Island
Oct. 6-8	<b>South Dakota</b> Library Association Conference, Spearfish
Oct. 13-16	<b>Wyoming</b> Library Association Conference, Rock Springs

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### UPCOMING MPLA CONFERENCES

- 2004:** (Oct. 21-24) Denver, CO  
(joint with Colorado Association of Libraries)
- 2005:** (Oct. 12-15) Jackson Hole, WY  
(joint with Wyoming Library Association)
- 2006:** No conference  
(transition year to spring conference)
- 2007:** Albuquerque, NM  
(joint with New Mexico Library Association)
- 2008:** Salt Lake City, UT  
(joint with Utah Library Association)
- 2009:** Overland Park, KS  
(joint with Kansas Library Association)
- 2010:** Oklahoma  
(joint with Oklahoma Library Association)

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"Get on Board and Read @ your library" is part of The Campaign for America's Libraries, ALA's multi-year public education initiative to speak loudly and clearly about the value of libraries and librarians in the 21st Century. Dean Foods is a founding partner in the campaign. For more information about the @ your library campaign, visit [www.ala.org/@yourlibrary](http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary).

# MPLA Newsletter

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Vermillion, SD 57069-2390



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I am interested in serving on the following committee(s)  Awards  Finance  Bylaws & Procedures  Continuing Education  
 Electronic Communications  Intellectual Freedom  Professional Development  Public Relations/Membership

I am willing to be nominated for an MPLA office

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