February 2021

Message from the 2021 MLA President Stacey Hendren

Why I'm a MLA member and why I "Join the Movement"

Watch Stacey's Message

ARLD Update: Unpacking White Supremacy in Academic Libraries and Archives

The Academic Research Libraries Division (ARLD) invites you to join "Unpacking White Supremacy in Academic Libraries: A Three-Part Series" on March 5, 12, & 19th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., presented by MLA's ARLD, Instruction Roundtable (IRT), and Twin Cities Archives Round Table (TCART).

In this series, we will deconstruct the history and present-day manifestations of white supremacy in academic libraries and archives and develop action plans to enact change on the individual, institutional, and professional levels.

This series is free of charge via Zoom and registration is required. Read more and register via our website.

Questions? Contact Amy Mars.
Call for Volunteers: Join the Movement!

Engage and Educate to Strengthen Libraries.

The MLA Board is excited to announce that the 2021 Annual Conference will be virtual and we need your help!

Volunteer for the 2021 Virtual Conference!

- Gain leadership and event planning experience
- Network with colleagues around the state
- Help build on the success of the 2020 virtual conference

The volunteer committee is filling up, but we are still looking for key roles. Open positions include:

- Keynote Committee: Work with President Stacey Hendren to select a keynote and featured speakers.
- Exhibits Co-chair: Connect with vendors to create opportunities for MN library staff to meet and learn about their products and services!
- Marketing/Communications Co-chair: Collaborate with the Communications Committee to get the word out about the conference and share your creative talents!
- Special Activities (AKA local arrangements) Co-chair: Plan events for fun and networking to enhance the conference experience! More trivia, please!
- Volunteer Co-chair: Help members get involved in ensuring the conference program runs smoothly!
- Silent Auction Co-chair: Collaborate with the MN Library Foundation to explore hosting a silent auction virtually! Proceeds from the event would support professional development events such as MILE.

For more information or to sign up, please email Stacey Hendren.

Thank you,
Amy Boese & Jonathan Carlson
2021 Conference Co-Chairs

Stacey R. Hendren
President, 2021

Intellectual Freedom Committee Relaunches

The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) doubled in size at our last meeting! There is an interest in chronicling the history of intellectual freedom in Minnesota. Plans are underway to update the MLA IFC site and work on conference presentations around-you guessed it-intellectual freedom issues.

Intellectual freedom is a core aspect of library work and is impacted and challenged regularly through broad social issues and individual actions. The ALA Library Bill of Rights and the Office of Intellectual Freedom's Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights are tools to ground us in this important work. Take some time this month and into March to go over these documents, talk
about them with a colleague, or take action by reviewing your library services and policies and how they promote intellectual freedom.

Join the Intellectual Freedom Committee at our next meeting on Tuesday, **March 2nd via Zoom at 11:00 a.m.** to get involved. If you have any stories or materials about the history of MLA's IFC, please reach out to **Dave Collins**, 2021 IFC Chair.

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**Save the Date: MILE All Class Reunion**

**CALLING ALL MILE ALUMS!**

Save the date for our virtual “all class reunion” on **Tuesday, May 4th from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.**

This event will offer a chance via Zoom to reflect on the MILE (MLA Institute for Leadership Excellence) program, talk about your favorite parts of MILE, share ideas for its future, and reunite with your cohort.

May 4th also happens to be Star Wars day; feel free to attend in costume, use a themed background, or bring your favorite toy from a galaxy far, far away! Stay tuned for the Zoom link!

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**Small and Rural Libraries Round Table Update**

Come one, come all to the Small and Rural Libraries Round Table (SRLRT) meeting on **Friday, March 5th at 1:00 p.m!**

The goal of this meeting is to debrief after Library Legislative Week and discuss advocacy strategies that work well for small and/or rural libraries.

Please contact **Nicole Miller** for the Zoom link to the meeting.

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**Virtual Library Legislative Advocacy**

As Virtual Library Legislative Week ends, remember that advocacy happens year-round! Email your **Senator or Representative** and ask them to support the MLA + ITEM active, proposed bills:

**Basic Library System Support (RLBSS)**

- Increased funding of $2M for Regional Public Library Systems and a corresponding formula change
- Bill numbers: SF 1131/HF coming soon
• Chief authors: Senator Mark Johnson & Representative Dan Wolgamott

Legacy

• Support for an annual appropriation of $2.5M for Regional Public Library Systems and $125,000 for the Minnesota Center for the Book from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund
• Bill numbers coming soon
• Chief authors: Senator Bill Weber & Representative Mary Murphy

School Libraries and Media Centers Policy Change

• Support for defining a school library or media center as having an onsite, centralized collection of resources ensuring equitable access to materials, and to employ a licensed school library media specialist (Article 7, Sec. 2.)
• HF 950/SF 788
• Chief authors: Senator Roger Chamberlain & Representative Ruth Richardson
  Note: A standalone bill with this language will be introduced by Senator Kunesh

There are email and call scripts, as well as social media post tips and additional resources on the Minnesota Library Advocacy website. Check it out!

#MNLibrariesLead

We are still collecting library impact stories to continue advocacy efforts.

Please encourage patrons to visit this link to share their stories! Use the #MNLibrariesLead hashtag on social media to show how your library is helping your community.

Pssst. Did you virtually meet with your legislator this week? Don’t forget to send a thank you email!
Welcome New Members!

Natalie Draper
Noella Merchant
Elli Moran

Thank You Renewing Members!

Amanda Alguire
Carolyn Avaire
Brianna Belanger
Amy Boese
Jonathan Carlson
Amy Commers
Shana Crandall
Christine Cundall
Renee Dougherty
Sarah Ethier
Robin Ewing
Jodi Grebinoski
Gail Hedstrom

Brian Kraft
Jacquie Kramer
Stacy Lienemann
Lynn Lucking
Randi Madisen
Kelly McBride
Cortni O’Brien
Bernice Piechowski
Karen Pundsack
Marcia Semerau
Andrea Stelljes
Jennifer Trushenski
Jennie Walker Knoot
Mara Wiggins

MLA is strong because of you. Thank you for being a member.

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