April 2024 Roundup

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Children and Young People’s Section (CYP) Looking for a Chair-Elect

Do you love youth and children services? Are you interested in connecting with other library professionals who work in this area? Then you might be the perfect fit for the next CYP Chair! Chairs typically serve for three years, one year as the chair-elect, one year as the Chair, and one as the past Chair.

If you are at all interested or have any questions, contact the current Chair, Kirsten Vaughan, at Kirsten.Vaughan@anokacountymn.gov.

Intellectual Freedom Corner: MLA ITEM and Intellectual Freedom Committee Members to Present at Upcoming THRIVE Summit on May 18

Current, future, and past Information & Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) Presidents Laura Gingras, Rachel Haider, and Sara Swenson alongside Ann Kaste, MLA Intellectual Freedom committee member, have been invited to host an exhibit table and present their experiences and recommendations for working with school boards at the upcoming Time to Thrive Summit being held in Minneapolis on Saturday, May 18.

A program of the Human Rights Foundation, THRIVE was founded with the goal of building a strong network of supportive adults to ensure LGBTQ+ youth don’t simply survive, but THRIVE. The Time To Thrive Summit is a convening to build awareness and cultural competency, learn
current and emerging best practices, gather resources from leading experts and organizations in the field, and connect adult allies on the ground with a regional approach.

Anyone who works with and supports LGBTQ+ youth can register to attend. The cost is $100.00. View the [Summit's information page](#) for further details.

Here is a description of the session:

**Title: Libraries for All: Protecting the Right to Read**

**Description:** The sharp increase in book challenges over the last three years has been targeted at LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities. The outcome of these challenges can vary widely depending on whether or not the school has a licensed school librarian, the makeup of the school board, and the district administration’s knowledge of book selection and reconsideration policies. This session will explain the book selection and reconsideration process and guide you to become a ‘Right to Read’ advocate and ally. Resources from Unite Against Book Bans, the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, and more will be shared.

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[Information & Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) Summer Leadership Meeting July 25: Save the Date!](#)
The ITEM Summer Leadership Meeting is nearly upon us and we have an exciting "unconference" in the works to help support our membership in areas where needed, and can ask questions or provide guidance where we are experts. This meeting is not just for elected positions - we are all leaders!

The meeting this year will likely only be in-person due to the nature of an unconference, but if there is a strong pull for virtual options ITEM may try to make a portion of it live via Google Meet.

We will have a general welcome session with introductions, state of ITEM for the past year, and a look ahead to priorities for 2024-2025. Then breakout sessions around key topics suggested by those attending.

Please take this form to let us know if you plan to attend and/or what topic areas might be of interest to you.

Save the Date!

When: Thursday, July 25

Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.


Lights! Cameras! Posters!

A big thank you to those who volunteered at the Legislative Day READ Poster event! More than 70 people including legislators, legislative staff, librarians, and others turned out to have their pictures taken to be turned into READ posters.

These MLA members & library supporters made it a great afternoon: Claire Heins, Jenny Sippel, Julia Carlis, Jodi Grebinski, Sally Mays, Paula Mielke, Margaret Stone, Stacey Hendron, Bethany Kauffman, Carol Walsh, Sara Wakefield, Richmond Kinny, and Heather Adamson set up, took pictures, managed the flow of people, and struck the set. Emilirose Rasmusson, Ann Kaste, Claire Heins, and Sally Mays turned the photos into posters.

Thanks, too, to Minitex for bringing the backdrop and lights, Anoka County Library for bringing books, and to the multicounty multitype library systems for printing the invitations. A good time was had by all as we celebrated our 2023 legislative success. Browse the finished posters here!
MLA Nominating Committee Seeking Board Nominations

The MLA Nominating Committee seeks nominations for the 2025 Board of Directors from members. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged!

On the ballot this year are the following positions:

- MLA President-Elect
- Secretary
- Legislative Chair-Elect
- ALA Chapter Councilor
- Intellectual Freedom Chair-Elect
- Member at Large-Elect

Not sure what each position does? Review the job descriptions here.

Taking a leadership position with MLA builds your skills and can benefit your career. Please use this form to nominate yourself or a colleague.

Nominations must be submitted by May 8. Thank you for considering running for a board position and keeping MLA strong!
Public Libraries Division Update: New Member-at-Large

PLD welcomes new Member-at-Large, Lydia Beller-McKenna. Lydia is an Adult Services Librarian at Anoka County. Welcome Lydia!

Student Round Table Seeking New Leadership!

Are you a library student who is passionate about supporting other library students in Minnesota? Consider joining the leadership team of the Student Round Table! This is a great way to get involved in MLA at a student level and is a limited time commitment.

Open positions include:
- Chair (or Co-Chairs)
- Secretary
- Members-at-Large.

These one-year terms will begin in June. Please email a brief (2-3 sentence) statement of interest to current Student Round-Table co-chairs Lydia and Cammie. Feel free to contact us with questions about the open positions!

Know a library student who would be great for this role? Send them our way!

Welcome New Members!

Thank You Renewing Members!

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