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2022 MLA Annual Conference Registration is Open!

Register now to take advantage of our early bird conference registration rates. Join us October 27-28, 2022 in Duluth to:

- Learn about opportunities and solutions that emerged during the pandemic;

Lunch Keynote Speakers:

- Justice Alan Page
- Reanna Esmail

For more details, go to the MLA 2022 Annual Conference event site.
- Network with staff from all library types, including ITEM members (now officially part of MLA!);
- Catch up with old colleagues and meet new ones at our first in-person Annual Conference in three years; and
- Attend sessions presented by colleagues from throughout the state!

Register now to take advantage of the great early bird rate!

Rates increase on August 22, 2022, and pre-registration closes at 5pm Central on October 13, 2022.

ARLD Day Keynote Recording Now Available

Thank you again to all who attended ARLD Day 2022! We are happy to share the [recording](#) of Derrick Jefferson’s fantastic keynote “Connecting the Dots” with all our members.

Connecting the Dots is a conversation led by Derrick Jefferson that explored and examined not just identity, but how multiple intersectional identities engage on both personal and professional fronts. How do these identities work in conjunction? Do they coexist? Work in parallel? Create tension? Or do they collide? How do we deal with these results and how do they inform how we do our jobs? This presentation explored issues of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and labor in librarianship by centering ourselves and our roles in the library.

Girls Who Code Club

As you think about future youth STEM programming, consider a [Girls Who Code Club program](#)!

Girls Who Code Clubs:

- Are free
- Can be hosted in-person, or 100% virtually
- Create a girls-supportive environment that welcomes students of any gender
- Provide a flexible plug-and-play style curriculum with training and resources from our team
- Do NOT require any prior coding experience for an adult 18+ to lead a Club
If you would like to start a community partnership between Girls Who Code and your local library, contact Halley McArn, Outreach Research and Data Specialist at: halley.mcarn@girlswhocode.com

**Host "We Are Water" at Your Library**

We Are Water MN is a community engagement and capacity building program that uses a traveling exhibit and public activities to build people’s relationship with water.

Information about the program and the application process for 2023 is available [here](#). Applications are due on July 22, 2022. Check out [this blog post](#) from former program participant Troy Goodnough, one of the hosts for the program at the University of Minnesota Morris.

The exhibit has been hosted at the Lake City Public Library and Meinders Community Library in Pipestone. It will travel to Fergus Falls Public Library and Dakota County Library - Pleasant Hill in Hastings later this year.

Jennifer Tonko at Minnesota Humanities Center is happy to talk with anyone about what participation in the program might look like for them or how to prepare an application. She can be reached at jennifer@mnhum.org or 651-772-4264 to schedule a time to discuss further.

**Legislative Committee Updates**

**Attend the Monthly Legislative Committee Meeting**

Join the monthly Legislative Committee meeting on **Wednesday, July 6 at 10:00 a.m.** via Zoom to hear an update from MLA Lobbyist Sam Walseth and his team, and to learn more about the upcoming Legislative Forum.

Click here to view the [agenda](#) and the [notes](#) from the June 1st meeting.
Register for the monthly meetings by visiting [Upcoming Events](#) on the MLA website.

**Frontline Worker Pay**

The Legislative Committee and Capitol Hill Associates have been fielding questions about whether library workers might qualify for [Frontline Worker Pay](#) and what happens if they apply.

Libraries are not listed as an identified [frontline sector](#) in the legislation. According to the Fact Sheet the list is not exhaustive but gives a general idea of the type of employment covered under the frontline sectors. “You can review the eligibility criteria and further guidance at frontlinepay.mn.gov. If you are unsure whether you are eligible, you should review the law and guidance and truthfully fill in and submit the application during the 45-day application period.”

Here are some potentially clarifying questions & answers received via email by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry:

1. **Is there a penalty for applying and not receiving or being denied payment?** There is not an automatic penalty for applying and being denied payment. However, as part of the application, the applicant must certify their eligibility to each of the eligibility criteria set forth in the Frontline Worker Pay law. One of the application questions asks the applicant to certify that they worked in one or more of the identified frontline sectors and identify the sector(s). There is also a final certification where the applicant must acknowledge the following statement: “I certify and affirm the above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I submit a false claim for payment, I may be charged with an attempt to commit theft of public funds. I understand there may be other penalties for not telling the truth on this application.”

2. **Will staff who apply with a public library listed as their employer be categorically denied?** No, but there are a number of mechanisms built in the system to verify eligibility. As stated above, as part of the application, the applicant must certify their eligibility to each of the eligibility criteria set forth in the Frontline Worker Pay law. There will also be verification through the Department of Revenue related to AGI, verification through DEED related to UI benefit payments, and statistical sampling related to employment eligibility. If a payment is made to an ineligible individual, the law allows the commissioner of revenue to “issue an order of assessment to the individual receiving the payment for the amount of the payment.”

**Legislative Forum**

Join the Legislative Trio on **August 9** to learn about the legislative process and share your legislative priorities for the 2023 session:

- MN Legislature 101 with Sam Walseth and Mollie Stanford. This online session is from 9-9:45 a.m. and will discuss how to become an effective library advocate. Register in advance by visiting the [MLA Community Calendar](#).
Libraries and Veterans National Forum Toolkit

Veterans, service members, and their families can be found in any library across the country and may have unique needs due to their military connections. Student veterans who are deployed overseas during the semester may need expanded access to online resources, or veterans in public libraries may need information about eligibility for VA benefits. To support these populations effectively, libraries may need to cultivate new partnerships, such as with campus veterans centers, local veteran service organizations, and county or state VA officials.

Although many librarians recognize the importance of supporting veterans in their libraries and communities, getting started with this work can be challenging. Librarians may have difficulty navigating the confusing jargon of the military and VA, lack connections for building new collaborations, or just not know where to get started.

The Libraries & Veterans National Forum Toolkit is intended to make it easier for librarians to support the veteran and military-affiliated communities, whether they are just getting started with this work or have long-standing programs. The Toolkit contains ideas for programs, services, exhibits, and other resources contributed by experienced librarians from all types of libraries. Librarians can browse the toolkit to find examples of materials used for veteran-related displays, authors for author talks and book clubs, furnishings and layouts for veteran study spaces, strategies for orientation presentations, and much more.

Explore the toolkit here!

Trans and Nonbinary Online Book Club for Youth Patrons

Trans and nonbinary youth are invited to participate in an online book group, Affirmations Trans Book Club, once a month that reads a mix of graphic novels, fiction, and nonfiction titles centered on trans and nonbinary characters. Book club participants are divided into ages 8-13 and 14-18.

The group started in western Massachusetts but now includes youth from around the country. Book club discussions are inspired by the book content, but
it isn’t necessary to read the book to participate. Discussions are facilitated by nonbinary middle school librarian Jordan Funke with Edmunds Middle School.

If you are gender-expansive/gender-creative/gender nonconforming/etc and interested in occasionally co-facilitating a book club session with Jordan Funke, you can reach them by email. Affirmations Book Club meetings are held either on the first Tuesday’s (for patrons ages 8-13) and third Tuesday’s (for patrons 14-18) from 7-8 pm on Zoom.


Visit MLA News

Have ideas for future Roundup articles or social media posts? Want to nominate a colleague to feature them in the next Roundup?

Submit your ideas to the forms on the MLA News page! These forms are available 24/7 with a rolling deadline.

Welcome New Members!

Eveleth Public Library
Dana Williams
Jolynn Lassonde
Kathryn O'Brien
Margaret Sullivan

Thank You Renewing Members!

Alexandre Adrian
Dawn Dailey
Elisabeth Trana
Jacqueline Kramer
MLA is strong because of you.
Thank you for being a member.

Please edit your text here.