President’s Report – Jamie Formanek

Thank you to our Executive Board and Committees for a wonderful year. This year we received many challenges with book ban policies and libraries reaching out for assistance. I worked closely with Eric Erickson, our Lobbyist, in February and March through all the legislative bills that we were seeing pop up during legislation. Our main message is that library policies already handle these issues at the local level which best serves the community in which the library resides. I believe this is a great message to stick to as we prepare for next year.

Throughout the year, I have been working on this year’s conference which includes setting up a conference schedule, working with the conference budget, selecting keynote speakers and breakout presenters, and working with our Local Arrangements team headed by Terri Davis.

As President, I presided over four Executive Board meetings this past year. Additionally, an Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday evening of the conference as well as the general SDLA business meeting on Thursday evening.
Report of the past president – Shari Theroux

The following items have been completed as part of the role:

• Attended executive board meetings
• Finalized 2022 conference details, including updating conference documents in Google drive to better reflect conference planning procedures/details
• Assisted the current president with various SDLA details
• Met monthly with current president and president-elect to discuss SDLA procedures, president duties, conference planning
• Worked with nominating committee to come up with possible names to run for office
• Evaluation of contracted employees—will be finalized at the November meeting
Vice President/President Elect – Sarah Jones-Lutter

As part of the position duties this year I’ve:

- Attended the executive board meetings
- Helped plan details for conference 2023
- Set the conference theme for 2024 “Stronger Together”
  - Kelly Thompson made the logo. Thank you Kelly!
- Prepared the budget for the 2024 year
- Filled committee openings for 2024 spots
Recording Secretary – Daniel Burniston

The Executive Board met on the following dates:
February 6, 2023 (Video Call)
April 19, 2023 (Video Call)
July 24, 2023 (Video Call)
Will meet September 27, 2023 (SDLA Conference)
Minutes were recorded for each meeting, sent to the President and Executive Secretary, and uploaded to the SDLA Google Drive.

The Freedom to Read Statement is the best known of ALA’s documents supporting the principles of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights. The Intellectual Freedom Committee is conducting a review of the document. American Library Association (ALA) members are strongly encouraged to attend one or all of the upcoming listening sessions focused on revising the Freedom to Read statement. 5 listening sessions will be held coming up soon this fall, focused on specific themes. More info: https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2023/09/ala-announces-listening-sessions-revising-freedom-read-statement

There is a lot of conversation across the country for library associations to sever ties with ALA. SDLA’s Executive Board is closely monitoring press and communications related to this issue. There is no call to action for members at this time.

All documents for the ALA Council meetings I attended can be found here: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/virtual-llx-and-annual-conference-council-meetings

My voting record can be found here: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/attendance_voting/vote_tallies

I attended ALA LibLearnX (virtually) January 27–30, 2023

Attendee report: 2653 attendees at LLX, 1711 are reg members (i.e. not vendors, corporate members, free attendees)

- Emily Drabinski, ALA president-elect and chair of the Committee on Committees, presented the nominations for the elections to the Executive Board (CD#11). The candidates for election to three-year terms (2023–2026) on the ALA Executive Board are Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, Stephanie Chase, Maria F. Estrella, Dorcas Hand, Sophia Sotilleo, and Steven Yates.
- Karen G. Schneider, chair of the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC), presented the committee’s report and proposed resolution (CD#33-33.1) to continue virtual access to ALA membership meetings, which had been referred to BARC during the June 2022 Annual Conference for fiscal review. The resolution passed.
- A tribute recognizing the Chinese American Librarians Association’s 50th Anniversary (T#1) was read.
- Committee updates were provided by Lesliediana Jones, chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee (CD#19); Ed Garcia, chair of the Committee on Legislation (CD#20); and Carla Davis-Castro, chair of the Committee on Diversity (CD#14).
- ALA Treasurer Peter Hepburn presented the Association’s FY2024 budget objectives and programmatic priorities (CD#13.1). They were approved.
- Drabinski put forward an application for affiliate status for LiteracyNation Inc. (CD#45), which was approved.
- Resolution on Human Rights and Freedom of Speech and Expression in Iran (CD#51), as put forward by Ramin Naderi, councilor-at-large, was approved.
ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition was in Chicago, IL — June 22-27, 2023

Final attendee report: 15842 registrations, 9459 paid (i.e. not vendors, corporate members, free attendees)

- Annual was hybrid, and I attended virtually, AKA the Digital Experience!
- Resolutions passed to no longer require preregistration for members to vote in person at hybrid membership meetings (CD#10.2); to reaffirm the freedom to read (CD#55); to condemn discrimination against library workers and support the LGBTQIA+ community (CD#58); to investigate the possibility of changing dates for future Annual Conferences, noting LGBTQIA+ members regularly have to miss their local Pride events to attend (CD#59); and to call on the Policy Manual Revision Working Group to review the process for vacancy appointments to the ALA Executive Board and the Bylaws Committee and develop recommendations regarding a process in which Executive Board actions “may be reviewed, amended, or overturned by Council or Membership” (CD#60).
- A resolution that ALA Bylaws Article VII, Section 2 be amended by striking “may be held virtually” and inserting “shall be held virtually” was referred to the Bylaws Committee.
- Julius C. Jefferson Jr., chair of the International Relations Committee (IRC), presented a resolution asserting ALA’s objection to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) choosing Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as the location for IFLA’s 2024 World Library and Information Congress because of the country’s criminalization of homosexuality. Proposed amendments clarified ALA’s disapproval of the location unless IFLA can ensure the protection of LGBTQIA+ participants and the unfettered inclusion of related programming, or otherwise find a new location in the region. The motion passed as amended.
- Brian Schottlaender, chair of the Bylaws Committee, presented an action item to amend Article VIII, Section 1(A) of the ALA Bylaws, removing the listing of each current standing committee (CD#25.1). The motion passed.
- Carla Davis-Castro, chair of the Committee on Diversity, presented an action item to review and approve the 2023 edition of the ALA Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated or Detained (CD#14.1), which passed nearly unanimously.
- Andrew Pace, chair of the Committee on Organization, provided an update on the committee (CD#27.1) and introduced action items to modify the charge of the ALA Conference Committee and modify the name, charge, and composition of the ALA Council Orientation Committee. Both motions carried.
- Toni Negro, chair of the Policy Monitoring Committee, proposed two amendments to the ALA Policy Manual (CD#17.1), which were approved by Council.
- Erin Berman and Sara Dallas, cochairs of the Core Values Task Force (CD#34), shared an update on the work of the task force and requested an extension until 2024 to complete their work, which passed.
- Council heard reports from Committee on Legislation Chair Ed Garcia (CD#20.1), Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair Lesliediana Jones (CD#19.1), and Freedom to Read Foundation President Peter Coyl (CD#22.1).
- Lastly, ALA President Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada read a tribute resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (T-2).

Respectfully submitted

Danielle Loftus
MPLA Representative –Melanie Argo

In October 2022, MPLA transitioned to Google Workspaces for association correspondence. Also updated was the website. [https://mpla.us/](https://mpla.us/)

The 2023 MPLA joint conference was held in March with the Oklahoma Library Association. It was MPLA’s 75th anniversary celebration [https://www.oklibs.org/page/annual_conference](https://www.oklibs.org/page/annual_conference) There were 450 in attendance.

Institutional memberships amendments were approved at the March conference. Here is the new list and added perk.

Institution Membership
Institutional Membership - Based on Total Annual Library Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Library Budget</th>
<th>Dues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $50,000</td>
<td>$70 plus 1 complimentary personal membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $99,999</td>
<td>$100 plus 2 complimentary personal memberships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $499,999</td>
<td>$175 plus 3 complimentary personal memberships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,000 – $999,999</td>
<td>$250 plus 4 complimentary personal memberships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 million – $3 million</td>
<td>$500 plus 5 complimentary personal memberships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $3 million</td>
<td>$750 plus 6 complimentary personal memberships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MPLA held a new logo contest, after review of submissions, the winner chosen was SDLA’s very own Kelly Thompson. She won registration to the [UT/MPLA conference in May of 2024](https://www.oklibs.org/page/annual_conference) . The new logo was launched in May 2023.

The MPLA Leadership Institute was held in May, at YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO. There were 27 fellows, 4 mentors, and facilitator, Maureen Sullivan. SD fellows were: Shari Theroux – South Dakota State University & Krista Ohrtman - Augustana University, South Dakota.

Judy Kulp, Executive Secretary, is retiring in 2024.

MPLA’s Manual of Procedure being reviewed for updates and changes that reflect current trends and procedures of the positions of the MPLA organization. Board will begin review discussion at the Sept 2023 meeting.

Association management platform committee: The committee which includes at least the MPLA webmaster & systems administrator will review the current platform and consider others that may be of better use to the organization.
Executive Secretary/Treasurer’s Report – Krista Ohrtman

Current Membership:
401 Individual Members (including trustees, legislators, students and retirees)
31 Institutional Members

Current Account Balances:
Wells Fargo Savings: $25,560.80 (as of September 8, 2023)
Wells Fargo Checking: $3,028.19 (as of September 8, 2023)
Ameriprise Savings Certificate #1: $14,907.74 (as of June 30, 2023 - reported quarterly)
Ameriprise Savings Certificate #2: $19,544.02 (as of June 30, 2023 – reported quarterly)
Leon Raney Endowment: $100,000.84 with $13,620.51 available to spend.

Activities:
Regular monthly tasks include processing memberships and conference registrations, correspondence, bills, and reconciling accounts.
Worked with KMWF (our account firm) to prepare annual tax returns and federal filing.
Filed annual reports of sales tax with SD Department of Revenue and annual incorporation of non-profit status with the SD Secretary of State.
Supported annual conference preparation:
  - Set up conference registration process on website
  - Filed completed session proposals/contracts
  - Supported registration process for individuals and exhibitors
  - Served as member of Awards committee

Supported Branch Out preparation:
  - Set up Branch Out registrations for 3 individual locations
  - Assisted members with registration

Supported creation of proposed 2024 annual budget

Provided members of the audit committee with documentation pertaining to 2022 fiscal year.

Dispersed professional development funds from the Leon Raney endowment as directed by the professional development grants committee.

2023 Annual Conference statistics:
138 individual registrations
21 Exhibitors

2023 Branch Out statistics:
Custer – 12
Madison – 13
Pierre - 17
This is the seventh year I have produced the *Book Marks* newsletter! I have produced a quarterly digital-only edition of the newsletter since 2020. This is the second year we have used the Sched app for conferences in lieu of a printed conference program. The move to digital communication has streamlined the entire process and saved money on printing. I applied for and received a free non-profit subscription for Canva. I have been using the free version of Canva for years but the subscription has useful additional tools.

I continue to encourage submissions from librarians, library staff, and library stakeholders so the content of the newsletter reflects the diversity of libraries represented by SDLA. Next year, I plan on soliciting articles on specific themes, such as a garden issue in the summer, to inspire more submissions.

This is the second year SDLA has hosted the Teen Choice and Children’s Award information pages and assisted with communication for the awards. Last year, I reconstructed the pages from the State Library’s website and this year it was just a matter of updating. We continue to improve the awards websites – the awards committees will send in summaries for the next round of books.

This year was a Branch Out year; I supported Josh Easter, chair of the Support Staff, and his Branch Out group with their website as well as social media/email communication for registration.

I regularly update the SDLA website including the home page, keeping the career center fresh, the conference page, and the abovementioned awards pages. Our website and member database vendor, YourMembership, is a struggle to work with. The customer support is really lacking and the product itself is clunky and looks outdated. I look forward to the possibility that we can migrate to another product.

I have been posting on the SDLA Facebook page/Twitter page with a mix of general library posts, updates on SDLA deadlines and news, and advocacy posts. This year, I would like to work toward combining the PR and Social Media committees.

I am so glad that the South Dakota library community has the opportunity to come together in Rapid City this year and renew our shared goal of providing quality library services to South Dakotans. Legislative season is approaching quickly after the conference and I feel that our time here will help us to bolster our resolve to deal with the inevitable upcoming challenges.

The next issue is Oct/Nov/Dec 2023, with an October 20 deadline. I want to encourage section leaders and committee members to send submissions.
**South Dakota Library Association – Support Staff Section Report**
**September 2023** submitted by section chair Josh Easter

**South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) Branch Out**
https://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/page/BranchOut
SDLA Branch Out is a Mini-conference designed for South Dakota library professionals to provide continuing education and networking opportunities, to gain tools to enhance career performance in the library field.
It is organized by the SDLA Support Staff section typically every other year—though with high turnover of section heads and then because of Covid-19 the last one was 2019 and prior to that was in 2016.
There were four locations in 2019 which was the first time that we held Branch Out in more than one location.
There were 37 total registered participants- 17 for Pierre, 14 for Madison, 6 for Custer. That doesn’t include all of the speakers/organizers.

For 2023 we had 3 locations in South Dakota- Pierre, Madison, and Custer.
Branch Out was a 1 day conference - 10am-3pm at each locations local time.
 -$ Wednesday, August 16, 2023 - Pierre, SD, South Dakota State Library
 -$ Friday, August 18, 2023 - Madison, SD, Madison Public Library
 -$ Wednesday, August 23, 2023 - Custer, SD, Custer County Library

**SDLA Branch Out in Pierre, August 16, 2023.**
Pierre presenters:
交融 George Seamon, South Dakota State Librarian did a quick welcome to the library and SDLA Branch Out
交融 Kathleen Slocum, State Library Continuing Education Coordinator, shared about how library staff can become certified.
交融 Barb Nickolas, State Library Government Publications and Library Associate shared about the free disc cleaning service (DVDs, Blu-Rays, etc) she administers that the State Library offers to South Dakota Libraries.
交融 Mikaela Neubauer, Community Services Coordinator, Brookings Public Library traveled to Pierre and shared many programming and outreach ideas, building program ideas, building partnerships, and more in her presentation. There was also time for others to share their ideas.
交融 We had a lovely networking lunch-a taco bar from Guadalajara’s.
交融 After lunch we had Kim Bonen, Electronic Resources Coordinator, South Dakota State Library.
She presented Thriving or Just Surviving: What is a Healthy Workplace Culture? We learned about bad vs toxic work environments. Some strategies of how to deal with situations and take care of ourselves.
交融 Abby Wright and Josh Easter, South Dakota State Library, Accessible Library Services (SD Braille and Talking Book Library) presented on talking
books and other services for South Dakota residents with standard print reading disabilities.
Standard Disabilities include anything that makes it difficult to read a standard print book from difficulty holding a book for a period of time or turning pages, to people with vision loss or blindness, even dry eye conditions, etc. that make it difficult to read. Also, deaf-blind, those with paper or ink allergies, and those with reading disabilities like dyslexia, etc.

Tara Engel, Gregory Public Library, presented on Supporting Cultural Learning and Understanding in your Library. Learning the demographics of your library service area, outreach and programming ideas for reaching groups, helping expand understanding of cultures, and more.

Thanks to all the attendees for taking the time to come (and those that found a way to let them come).
Thank you to the South Dakota State Library staff who worked hard to make it happen. Especially Quynn Verhelst, Sarah Easter, Barb Nickolas, Wynne Nafus Sayer, and Abby Wright.
Thanks to SDLA leadership and especially Krista Ohrtman and Kelly Thompson for their support with registration, financial advice, website updates and promoting.
Thanks to Melanie Argo, Madison Public Library and Sarah Myers with Thea Teasley, Custer County Library for heading up the other two SDLA Branch Out sessions for 2023.
Josh Easter, SDLA Support Staff Section chair coordinated the Pierre location Branch Out and worked with the contacts of the other two locations.
– Josh Easter

SDLA Branch Out in Madison, Friday, August 18, 2023.
Thanks to all the presenters:
Welcome video from Josh Easter

Holly Sathoff, MSW, CSW, QMHP, Outpatient Mental Health Therapist @Community Counseling Services Madison, SD shared about taking care of us so that we can help others.

ROUND 2 for Mikaela Neubauer, Community Services Coordinator, Brookings Public Library who shared many programming and outreach ideas, building programs, building partnerships, and more in her presentation. There was also time for others to share their ideas.

After lunch, Shari Theroux, Systems and Discovery Assistant Librarian, Briggs Library, SDSU shared Time management tips.

Lastly, Melanie Argo, Systems Librarian shared about SDLA & MPLA associations and how they support us at a state level and a regional level.
Thanks to all the attendees for taking the time to come (and those that found a way to let them come).
Thanks to SDLA leadership and especially Krista Ohrtman and Kelly Thompson for their support.
Thanks to Josh Easter, SDLA Support Chair, for entrusting us with the opportunity to shine by hosting! It was a blast to plan and pull off.
Finally to my fellow newbie host: Sarah Myers with Thea Teasley, Custer County Library we are sending good vibes your way for a great day of learning and connecting next week.
– Melanie Argo

SDLA Branch Out – Custer, Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023.

☐ We started the day with a welcome video from Josh Easter and a certification presentation from Kathleen Slocum. Thank you to the State Library for all the support and resources for South Dakota libraries.
☐ Thea Teasley and Sarah Myers from the Custer County Library shared their expertise on programming and how to define a success of a program.
☐ Doris Ann Mertz District Librarian for the Custer School District presented on ways public libraries can partner with their school districts. She also shared great success with dynamic shelving impacting circulation.
☐ The group next learned about burnout and life balance with Mark Perrenoud, PhD in Psychology. Big thanks to Mark sharing ideas and facilitating a space to share.
☐ Terri Davis from the Rapid City Public Library finished day talking about Adverse Incidents and how to prepare your staff to handle situations that may arise.
Thank you to the participants that helped make such a fun day of learning and connecting. Big shout out to those in SDLA leadership that made all the Branch Out session happen. It has been so wonderful to connect on a local level.
We can’t wait to see you all at SDLA conference in September at Rapid City.
– Sarah Meyers

Post SDLA Branch Out 2023 mini-conference Survey Results
Thanks to Melanie Argo who put together and sent out the mini-conference survey via email to registered participants.

37 total registered participants- 17 for Pierre, 14 for Madison, 6 for Custer.
That doesn’t include all the speakers/organizers.

Branch Out Location
15 participants answered the post survey-5 from Pierre, 6 from Madison, 4 from Custer.
Did it meet your expectations?
All Locations – 12 out of 15 said yes, 3 said no

**Pierre** 4 out of 5 responses said yes-Branch Out met their expectations. The No answer wrote “Good information was shared.” And also wrote for what topics would like to see more of question, “Not sure, this seminar was very good.”
Other comments as to why it met their expectation.
“I had never been to Branch Out before and it was great to be able to participate and learn from my peers.”
“I learned of services I did not know about before.”
“The networking is a plus. I always learn at least one new thing.”
“engaging, fun, and with fellows.”

**Madison** 5 out of 6 responses said Yes-Branch Out met their expectations. The No answer wrote “I mean this in a good way- I expected not to come away with anything, but the camaraderie and the sessions were beneficial.” “looked at it for the networking/building skills aspect.”
“It was great to connect with library staff outside of my particular library.”
“Honestly, I wasn't sure what to expect when I went into Branch Out. I was looking at it more for meeting library staff from other libraries. And of course I did, but I also gained something from each of the sessions.”
“It was great. I learned a lot and meet new people!”
“This was my first Branch Out so I honestly had no idea what to expect.”

**Custer**
3 out of 4 responses said Yes-Branch Out met their expectations. The No answer wrote “There wasn't much content that I was able to really absorbed and implement”
“Great info on topics. Very organized”
“Good information sharing, from the presenters as well as from the participants.”
“It was informative both in presentation material as well as peer insights into common issues.”

How likely would you be to attend Branch Out in the future?
All Locations – out of 5. 9 responded 5, 4 responded 4, 1 responded 3, 1 responded 1 (not support staff but presented).
**Pierre** – out of 5. 4 responded 5, 1 responded 4
**Madison** – out of 5. 3 responded 5, 2 responded 4, 1 responded 3
**Custer** – out of 5. 2 responded 5, 1 responded 4, 1 responded 1
What was your biggest takeaway?

**Pierre**
“To keep trying new ideas”
“Quite a lot, nice to hear that others struggle with Summer reading numbers and question what we can do to get them up and new program ideas to try to implement and I just really like the people in the field of Libraries I get to meet and connect with.”
“I did not know about the disc cleaning”
“support within community, ideas of reaching out”
“Being advised of services and updates. Hearing about programs that work in other libraries.”

**Madison**
“we are in this together and should lean on each other.”
“Connecting with library staff outside of my library.”
“Outside of networking, the adult programing information and resources. Hearing what another library does, help fuel my own ideas. The information on taking care of our own mental health. The time management information (which I really needed) and learning more about the SDLA and MPLA.”
“Programming ideas, and taking care of my mental health!”
“The time for open sharing about practical ideas to implement in our library!”
“That I need to better manage my work/school/home life or else I will burn out- the mental health talk was actually great and prompted great group conversation.”

**Custer**
“The info on self-care”
“I really enjoyed the session on school libraries and the types of programming they do. It gave me a lot of ideas on how I can work with the school libraries in my district.”
“I only say very unlikely to attend in future because I'm not support staff and wouldn't have attended if I hadn't been presenting. But I still filled my notepad with ideas to share with our staff.”
“Policy enforcement chart is a great way to ensure fair enforcement of policies.”

How did you hear about Branch Out?

**Pierre** – 4 from Email, 1 from Colleague/Director
**Madison** – 2 from Email, 3 from Colleague/Director, 1 from “Josh!”
**Custer** – 1 from Email, 3 from Colleague/Director
What topics would you like to see more of at the next Branch Out?

Pierre
“Not sure, this seminar was very good”
“Technology and IT, Computer security”
“weeding”
“just keep it going!!”
“Strategies for the Successful Librarian”

Madison
“NA”; “?”
“Mentoring”
“Technology and its place in libraries”
“Ideas, ideas, ideas for programming for all ages!”
I would love to hear more about:
- How to better use some of the databases provided by the State Library to help answer reference questions
- Outreach ideas and community engagement tactics
- Program/service show and tell where a handful of libraries brag about what they’re doing that they’re proud of
- Leadership development, even if we aren’t in leadership or managerial positions
- Where to find continuing education outside of Library Institute, Branch Out, SDLA conference, etc.
- Better understanding one’s personality/communication style and how it applies to/impacts the way we do our jobs/interact with patrons and coworkers
- DEI concepts, Intercultural Communication, Inclusive practices, Unconscious bias training
- How to advocate for your library- whether that be fighting against book bans, being aware of legislation, getting the community to support your efforts, etc.
- Serving patrons with disabilities
- Boundaries- patron/staff, staff/staff, staff/work
- Technology literacy- for patrons and staff (this could be database basics, how to run Libby on different devices, internet tricks that you commonly need to use with patrons)
- Readers Advisory
- Library ethics (ALA Bill of Rights, how to deal with tough scenarios, roleplaying)
- Career development”
Custer
“Libby purchasing”
“I enjoy hearing more about what other libraries are doing for programming, what works, what doesn't.”
“From some of the conversations, it seems some of the smaller libraries would benefit from discussions of policy development beyond just the basic policies - behavior policies, safety procedures, etc.”
“Relationships between library, board, city/county, and Friends of the Library groups.”

Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

Pierre
“No”; “Hats off to the SDSL for all their hard work!”; “awesome opportunity for the more "quiet" staff of the library!”; “One on one feedback to each library could have impact.”

Madison
“NA”; “It was great and had fun!”; “Thank you!”; “Thanks for letting me present at both Pierre and Madison- Mikaela Neubauer”

Custer
“More time to learn from each other, discuss what we do at our libraries would be really nice”
“Enjoyed the networking opportunity, thank you!”

Excel spreadsheet of responses also attached to email to SDLA President.

The three 2023 location coordinators took notes and discussed how things went. Keeping information, checklists, and additional helpful notes in a shared document for future planning.

Additional Information/Links:
Check out photos of each Branch Out location in posts on the South Dakota Library Association Support Staff Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/SDLASupportStaff
Article in South Dakota State Library’s about SDLA Branch Out 2023.
https://www.smore.com/hc8ub
Children’s Book Award Committee Report – Juliet Heltibridle

The Prairie Bud, Prairie Bloom, and Prairie Pasque Children’s Book Awards are sponsored by the South Dakota Library Association. The Prairie Bud award is determined by PreK, K, & 1st grade students. The Prairie Bloom award is determined by 2nd and 3rd grade students, and the Prairie Pasque award is determined by 4th and 5th grade students.

Students in 28 communities participated in the voting during the 2022-2023 school year. There were 11,578 votes cast for Prairie Bud; 9,904 votes for Prairie Bloom; and 2,440 for Prairie Pasque.

Following are the results from the 2021-2022 South Dakota Children’s Book Awards voting:
- Prairie Bud winner: What about Worms!? By Ryan T. Higgins
- Prairie Bloom winner: Pea, Bee, & Jay: Stuck Together by Brian “Smitty” Smith
- Prairie Pasque winner: Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

The Children’s Book Awards Committee held their annual meeting on July 21 using Zoom. The committee chose the nominations for the 2024-2025 lists. This is Chairperson Juliet Heltibridle’s final year on the committee, which means that the chair will be vacant as of September. There are also 3 additional vacancies on the team which will need to be filled.

Section Chair:
- Attended SDLA Executive Committee Meetings.
- Assisted with questions throughout the year as people reached out.

Sincerely,
Katherine Eberline
Public Library/Trustee Chair
We had a productive meeting at the SDLA 2022 conference and Jennifer Williams-Curl from Western Dakota Tech agreed to be the Vice Chair for the 2023 year. The vice chair assumes the role of the chair after their one-year term and their focus is the poster session that will be held at the conference. The vice chair shared the poster session announcement on social media and the quarterly newsletter *Bookmarks* for SDLA. We currently have five posters registered for the poster session, which is an improvement over last year, but still lower than previous years. We plan to discuss if there are other ways we can better support and grow the poster session at our section meeting at the conference.

Members of the Academic, Health and Special Libraries section also engaged with our colleagues across the state throughout the year. The State Library held Collect and Connect sessions for academic libraries throughout the year that gave librarians a chance to connect with other section members and discuss our successes and challenges. We also have many section members that are sharing their expertise and experiences through Branch Out and the upcoming SDLA conference. We look forward to opportunities to further connect with our colleagues at the conference and plan a productive year ahead.
Bylaws and Procedures Committee - Krista Ohrtman and Daniel Burniston

Updated procedure for the Childrens Book Award Committee was approved by the Public/Trustee Section at conference in 2022 and then at the Executive Board meeting in November 2022.

Updated procedure for the Public Relations Committee was discussed in April 2023 and approved by the Executive Board via e-vote.

The SDLA procedure manual has been updated to reflect these revisions.
Children’s Book Award Committee Report – Juliet Heltibridle

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Finance/Membership Committee

VP Sarah reached out to all the section chairs and committee chairs to get budget requests. She then made the 2024 budget and presented the budget to the board during the July Executive Board Meeting. Sarah will present the budget at the upcoming conference during the General Business Meeting.
Intellectual Freedom Committee Annual Report

- 2 challenges have been reported to SDLA in 2023. We know more are happening, but they aren’t being reported.
- The Committee Chair is participating in the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom’s State Intellectual Freedom Network. Information from that organization will be shared as is relevant, but it’s primarily a chance for library association representatives to share what’s happening in their states.
- **Note:** Please use the form on SDLA’s website to report both formal and informal challenges to SDLA, and to ask for support if you need it! We will not share information about your report (who you are, where you work, specific book titles, etc) beyond sharing an overall total number of books challenged in the state. [https://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/page/ChallengeReport](https://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/page/ChallengeReport)
The Library Issues Committee is in a state of transition while SDLA figures out what we will be doing in the future to replace our Library Legislative Day of the past. This year, the committee created an infographic with statistics about libraries in the state and provided this infographic to all state legislators.

No issues came up during the legislative session to require SDLA to activate its members to contact their legislators on a particular issue. The committee continues to be concerned over movements in other states to limit access to materials and ban books through legislation.

This committee would welcome new members to help work with legislators to make South Dakota a great state for readers, listeners, watchers, gamers, learners, and all others that libraries serve.
August 31, 2023

Annual Report

SDLA Nominating Committee

In 2023, the Vice President/President-Elect position was open. The only candidate was Elizabeth Fox, from Hilton M. Briggs Library at South Dakota State University. Because Elizabeth ran unopposed, there was no election, and she will assume office at the conclusion of the Annual Conference.

Submitted by Sandy Biewer, Chair, Nominating Committee
Public Relations Committee Annual Report – Jennifer Williams-Curl

- Posted updated videos of award winners to the social media and website.
- Mailed postcards to schools to get more traction for K-12 librarians at conference and as award nominees.
- Met to determine the 2023 SDLA Award Winners.
- Looking to combine the Public Relations and Social Media Committees.
- Have some suggested updates for the ByLaws
  - Kelly has these
The Social Media Committee is basically dormant. As the chair, I haven't held any meetings or communicated with the volunteers on the committee to support SDLA social media. Association updates come to me and it is simple to make the posts myself. SDLA Support Staff have a separate Facebook group for communication that the chair maintains.
I'd like to work toward combining the PR committee and the Social Media committee this year—it would seem like a natural fit for the PR committee to perform the duties of the Social Media committee as needed.
Young Adult Reading Program (YARP) Committee -- Jeri Light

The Young Adult Reading Program committee is made up of librarians across the state of South Dakota committed to serving our teens and fellow librarians by providing a list of recently published outstanding young adult books to libraries throughout the state and encouraging young adults to read quality contemporary literature.

The Middle School and High School awards are determined by students voting across the state from October 1st until April 1st. During the 2022-2023 school year, there were 838 total votes, including 707 votes for Middle School titles, and 131 votes for High School titles.

The results of the 2022-2023 South Dakota Teen Choice Awards voting are:

- *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps—**Middle School Winner**
- *Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen—Middle School Runner Up
- *Spy X Family* by Tatsuya Endo—**High School Winner**
- *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley—High School Runner Up

The YARP committee held their spring meeting in Sioux Falls, on June 9th. The committee chose the nominations for the 2023-2024 school year. This list is published on the SDLA website and voting will begin on October 1st.
Audit Committee
Audit of 2022 Fiscal year financials not complete as of September 27. Committee members are working through financial documents currently.