

on the same page



news from the mississippi library commission

spring 2018

Time Flies

Sharman Bridges Smith

How time flies!!! These last few months serving as your interim executive director are no exception. Reconnecting with agency staff and library friends has meant so much to me.

Being back at the Capitol seemed very natural and allowed me to once again speak from my heart about the importance of library services and the amazing work and commitment of the Mississippi public libraries. Being there is not a responsibility I take lightly, and it has been my honor to serve once again. Seeing librarians from across the state travel to Jackson each week to advocate has been inspiring, and I believe, truly has made a difference. It really does take all of us working together.

As I leave, I have great confidence in Hulen Bivins and his abilities. His years of experience in the state library world will serve the Mississippi library community well. I also know that you will welcome him and help ensure his success in advocating for libraries.

I leave with many new memories and high expectations. Always remember, the agency and libraries must act as one to truly move library services forward.

Thank you for your support and friendship in recent months and over the years.



Hulen Bivins Named Executive Director of MLC

Please join the MLC staff and board to welcome Hulen Bivins as the new executive director of MLC!

Hulen, as he likes to be called, comes to the agency with an abundance of experience in the library field. He served as the director of the South Carolina and North Dakota State Libraries, and worked many decades with the state library agency of Alabama, completing his tenure there as Assistant Director. Most recently, he served as the director of the Spring Hill Public Library in Tennessee. Bivins holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Lipscomb University in Nashville; a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of Tennessee; and a Juris Doctorate from the Jones School of Law at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama.



Hulen assumed his role on March 1st and will be joining library supporters for Library Day at the Capitol.



You are invited to attend
**LIBRARY DAY AT
THE CAPITOL**
March 13, 2018 ~ 11:00am to 2:00pm

*Join library supporters from across
Mississippi for a day of advocacy at
the Mississippi State Capitol!*

Mississippi's libraries face financial uncertainty due to state budget cuts in recent years. Let your voice be heard by attending Library Day at the Capitol. Advocacy tips and talking points will be available on the day of the event or may be received ahead of time by contacting Meredith Wickham at mwickham@firstregional.org.

Anyone who believes in libraries is encouraged to attend.

Join library supporters from across Mississippi next Tuesday, March 13th from 11:00am to 2:00pm at **Library Day at the Capitol**. This is an outstanding opportunity for you to tell legislators what your local library means to you!

Every voice in support of libraries matters, so won't you join us for a day of advocacy to help to ensure the future of the state's most valuable assets.....its libraries!

For more information, contact Meredith Wickham, MLA Legislative Chair at mwickham@firstregional.org

New Series of Art Exhibits at MLC



The Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) and the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) have partnered to showcase artists adjudicated through MAC's annual Visual Artist Fellowship Grant program. This MAC grant program honors Mississippi artists who demonstrate the ability to create outstanding work in their chosen field, including painting, sculpture, photography, and many other mediums. These grants are highly competitive – only a small number of applicants receive an award. Thanks to this creative partnership, visitors to MLC will have an opportunity to see works by some of Mississippi's finest artists. The first exhibit features the work of painter Roger Allan Cleaves of Southaven, Jackson painter and mixed media artist Amelia Key, and ceramic artist Robert Long of Starkville. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm (except state holidays) through April 26, 2018. A public reception will be held on April 5th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. For more information contact Susan Liles at sliles@mlc.lib.ms.us.



Some Mississippi public libraries will soon be testing out ISSI, or Inter-System Sharing Initiative, which allows other states who use the same interlibrary software to loan to and borrow from each other. The other systems that participate are located in Kansas, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Alberta, Canada. There is no fee for borrowing except for postage. For more information, contact Tracy Carr at tcarr@mlc.lib.ms.us.

Black History Living Museum

Laurel-Jones County Library System



What happens when you partner with a local organization and your local schools to create an event? Pure magic! The Society of Thinkers, in partnership with the Laurel-Jones County Library System, brought fascinating and inspirational figures in black history to life at the library on Tuesday, February 27th. Over 600 students from the area had a chance to see these history-making individuals, as brought to life by student actors. The outside of the building was covered in portraits done by Laurel High School art students. This event was a winning partnership for the entire community.



Contract 5000 Update

The State Master Contract 5000 was protested by a vendor and is currently at a standstill. In an effort to ensure services for the coming year, ITS obtained approval from USAC to extend the current Contract 4000 for an additional year.

Libraries are currently entering their information in the portal for both current services and upgraded services should this matter be resolved during the upcoming fiscal year. MLC will monitor the progress of this matter and provide updates as available. MLC recently held a series of round tables in Tupelo, Hattiesburg and Jackson to help make sure everyone is up to speed on signing up for the coming year.



Mississippi Literary Map Writers on Display



The beautiful portraits of Mississippi writers created by artist Ginger Williams Cook for the Mississippi Literary Map just had to be shown off!

Black oval mats and frames were just what they needed to enhance this wall on the second floor at MLC. Come take a look! Who is your favorite?

• inside the agency •



MLC's Library Development Director Lacy Ellinwood is featured in a recent issue of the *Jackson Free Press*. She says, "I wish more people would see the possibilities of what Mississippi could be. Your public libraries are definitely assets in your communities."

Check out the story!

<http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2018/feb/14/lacy-ellinwood/>



Cindy Nugent

Human Resources and Payroll Director Robin Hedrick, and Cindy Nugent Talking Book Services Outreach Coordinator were recently presented with certificates for their years of service to MLC and state government. Congratulations and thank you so much for all your hard work!



Robin Hedrick



Welcome to MLC!

Derrion Arrington joined the agency on January 16 as our new Library Services Assistant. Derrion has a myriad of duties including responding to reference requests, assisting with interlibrary loan, receiving and shipping, shelving and shifting items in our collection, and acting as backup for the front desk. We are so happy to have Derrion on board!

Libraries ROCK!

Preparing for Summer Library Programs

MLC consultants have been busy helping libraries prepare for the upcoming Summer Library Program season! This year's theme, *Libraries Rock*, promises to be a lot of fun; many great ideas are being shared to make the programs very successful. Training opportunities have been held across the state. A webinar on adult programs is available on MLC's website now (<http://mlc.lib.ms.us/ms-libraries/library-development/continuing-education/webinars/>) and one for teen programs is coming out on March 19th. Let us know if we can help you plan!



The National Library Service, which provides the materials for Talking Books Services, is currently piloting MOCA, or mobile cartridge. Using similar technology as a Kindle, MOCA allows Talking Books staff to send books to a patron's device instead of through the mail. Mississippi currently has five MOCAs—four are being tested with patrons and one is at the agency for staff testing.



CELEBRATE!

National Library Week

April 9 - 14, 2018

MLC Calendar

MARCH

- 13 Library Day at the Capitol
- 20-24 PLA Conference - Philadelphia, PA
- 27 MLC Board of Commissioners Meeting

APRIL

- 4 Tech Academy-Troubleshooting, Batesville
- 9-15 National Library Week
- 19 American Sign Language for Librarians-MLC
- 30 Agency Closed - State Holiday

MAY

- 7 Tech Academy-Troubleshooting, MLC
- 7-8 Nat'l Library Legislative Day - Washington DC
- 9 COSLA Spring Meeting - Washington DC
- 22 MLC Board of Commissioners Meeting

About MLC

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Connect with the Mississippi Library Commission



Susan Liles Editor ~ On the Same Page



The Mississippi Library Commission was established in 1926 to ensure that all Mississippians have access to quality library services in order to achieve their greatest potential, participate in a global society, and enrich their daily lives.

MLC strives to strengthen and enhance library services for all Mississippians.