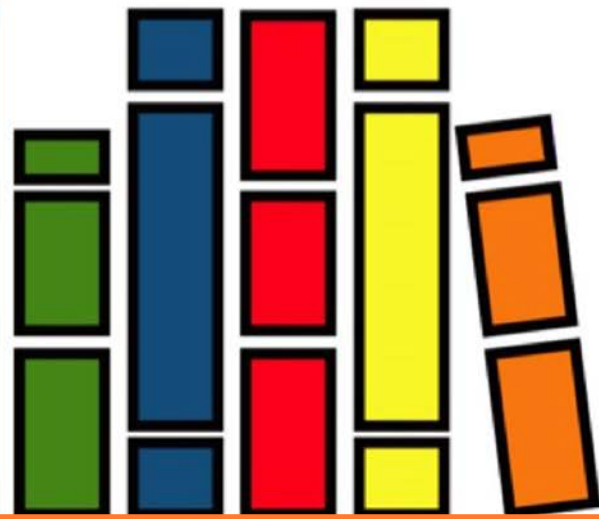


# on the same page



mississippi library commission

fall 2019

## In the Air!

Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director

Although the air is not yet crisp and the leaves on the hardwoods have not yet changed, there is a difference that can be felt in Mississippi. It has nothing to do with the passing of Labor Day on the calendar, nor does it have anything to do with the last of our camping trips or beach vacations for the year. What it is that is being felt is the fact that, with the sense of the Fall season approaching, it is football time throughout the state. In small towns and in cities, high school teams have started their advance toward state championships. Like the high schools, the football teams of the Junior Colleges, our Universities, and the NFL's Pros (GEAUX Saints!) have begun their seasons seeking success. In an identical way, excitement is in the air as the NHL season (GO, GO Predators) begins concurrently as the baseball season (Yea Cardinals!) progresses toward a World Series conclusion. Indeed, the air is changing, and all these changes are progressing as the result of planning. Indeed, each team begins each campaign with a plan of success, and they work to achieve their plan's goals.

Our public libraries are also progressing due to their strategic planning that is more than words written to fulfill a governmental mandate for planning. These plans, made after thoughtful considerations, are comprehensive documents that set goals for programs and services, management operations, fundraising and finance, facilities and governance. Depending on the library's degree of planning, other elements often considered include approaches to enhance the marketability of the library as well as a progressive outline of communication opportunities and the abilities needed to meet the opportunities outlined. In short, these are plans designed for success.

Planning begins with a vision that describes the library's desired future. It has an interior focus as it projects the future of the library in terms of programs, services and budget while answering the exterior focused question of what the library wants to be, as well as what needs to happen to carry the library forward as a vital contributor striving to satisfy the needs in their community. Indeed, the organized library's plan brings an air of accomplishment. Fulfillment of the plan brings an air of success.

Continued....

No library plan exists in a static, stationary environment. As governmental, political, and economic factors affect and impact the pursuit of success within any plan, changes in the world of the library present both challenges and opportunities while dealing with changes in demographics. Undeniably, these factors bring a requirement of adaptability. Just as our favorite sports team must be open to being reshaped considering a current situation, libraries must also be able to respond to change and although the library's plan may call for certain specific procedures, when circumstances change, the plan changes.

Successful plans bring winning results to the library's patrons within the library service area. Let's embrace the challenges brought with the season ---- score a winning touchdown, put the puck in the net; or, hit a bases-loaded homerun! It's in the air.



International *Observe the Moon Night* is an annual worldwide public event that encourages observation and appreciation of the Moon. All are invited to observe the Moon, learn about NASA planetary science and exploration, and celebrate cultural and personal connections to our nearest neighbor. Each year, thousands of people participate at museums, planetaria, schools, universities, observatories, parks, businesses, and backyards around the world. Anyone can participate. All you need to do is look up! Any astronomy club, interested group, or individual can host an event; events range from small family gatherings to community events that draw hundreds of visitors!

If you are interested in hosting an event, visit this website for all sorts of materials.

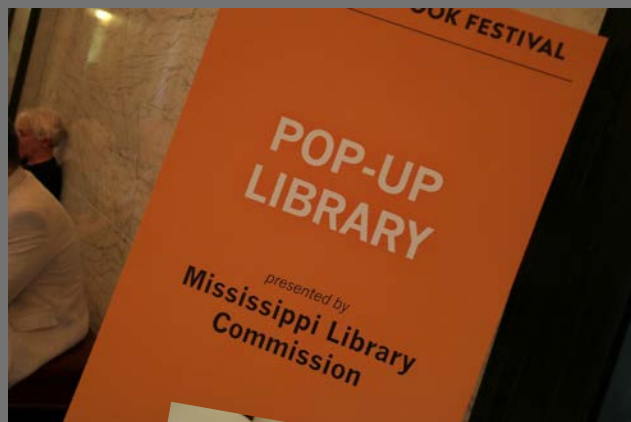
<https://moon.nasa.gov/observe-the-moon/event-materials/>



MLC was delighted to be a part of the Mississippi Book Festival this year! We offered those in attendance a place to cool off and read one of the books featured at the festival. Our pop-up library was very popular with all ages and we were able to share information about our services!



MLC Executive Director Hulen Bivins with Elvis Potter.



Eudora and Tennessee stopped in to say hello!  
\*Wink Wink\*



MLC staff attended a luncheon the Friday before the festival to meet and greet with author Dave Pilkey. Librarians from across the state were also in attendance.



Enjoying cooling off and looking at the books.



MLC's Katie Gill shares information about Talking Book Services



Attending the Mississippi Book Festival at the Capitol were (L to R) Hulen E. Bivins, MLC Executive Director, MLC Board Chair Ann Marsh, and former MLC Director Sharman Bridges Smith.

# Mississippi Library Serves The Community



Inspired by a comment at a Public Library Directors meeting held earlier this year, Amanda Knecht at Marshall County Library System got board approval to create a food pantry shelf at the Holly Springs location. The shelf launched this July after a Food for Fines

kickoff drive. Some of the items featured in this popular and well-used shelf have included locally grown sweet potatoes, canned goods, beans, breakfast foods, and toothpaste.

Congratulations to Amanda and Marshall County for serving the members of the community in a very meaningful way.



## MLC Welcomes New Board Members



Join us in welcoming Becky Wright, president of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs to the MLC Board. A little bit of history: nearly 100 years ago, the MFWC decided that every county in the state needed their own library. The organization is a fixed and integral part of Mississippi library growth and development. She's a big library fan, and has been a library volunteer for many years. She has shared her love of books by reading to students at local schools in her community of Bruce. She has been very impressed with the services of MLC and is looking forward to serving on the Board!



Lori Ward Barnes brings over thirty years of library experience to the MLC Board. Not only does she have a lot to offer by way of expertise and experience, but she's eager to learn and grow. She wants to make a difference in public libraries across Mississippi and feels very positively about what MLC does for them. She says MLC's services are extremely valuable, especially to our state's small, rural libraries. These libraries can do just as many wonderful things as library systems with multi-million dollar budgets--they do it all the time, but MLC is key to making that happen.

# The Institute of Museum & Library Services Visit Mississippi

MLC receives federal funds each year from the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) through the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States program. In order to receive these funds to support Mississippi's libraries, MLC must have a federal five-year plan in place that provides direction for how these funds will be spent. During the five-year period, the program officer from IMLS assigned to Mississippi comes for a site visit. Recently, Jennifer Peacock, Administrative Services Director and LSTA Coordinator, with Susan Liles, PR Director, accompanied the IMLS staff members Dennis Nangle and Chris Catignani on site visits to six Mississippi libraries.

Special thanks to all the libraries involved including Vicksburg-Warren County Library System, Humphreys County Library System, Madison County Library System, Noxubee County Library System, Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, and Central Mississippi Regional Library System. These directors were able to showcase some of the projects funded through LSTA grants, and highlighted the importance of these funds to their communities.



# The most important asset of any library goes home at night – the library staff.

–Timothy Healy

## Opportunities For Libraries

### JANE SMITH LITERACY AWARD

MLC is pleased to announce that the Mississippi Center for the Book is seeking applications for Mississippi's Jane Smith Literacy Award, which recognizes an existing literacy project or program that is:

- outside of traditional library service
- innovative in nature
- in a Mississippi public library

Projects/programs should have a participating partner (school system, Friends group, community organization, etc). Nominations are open to public libraries only.

The winner of the Jane Smith Literacy Award will be nominated by the Mississippi Center for the Book for a Library of Congress (LOC) State Literacy Award. The LOC awards up to ten State Literacy Awards per year. Patsy Brewer's Laundry and Literacy project at Waynesboro-Wayne County Library System was a 2019 winner!



The application will be open until November 20, 2019: <http://bit.ly/2020LOC>

Continued.....

## THE ANDREW MELLON FOUNDATION

The mission of the foundation is to endeavor to strengthen, promote, and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic societies. <https://mellon.org/grants/grants-database/>

## FREE BOOKS

Contact either of the State of Mississippi's US Senators, Cindy Hyde-Smith or Roger Wicker, with a request to receive new books acquired as publisher's copies by the U.S. Library of Congress. With your request, note a preference of fiction or non-fiction, desired subject matter category, and favored reading level. No deadline.

## GOOD NEIGHBOR CITIZENSHIP GRANT

State Farm focuses their company grants on three areas: safety, education, and community development. Eligible organizations include: educational institutions; programs conducted by municipal, county, or state government entities; and 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organizations. <https://www.statefarm.com/about-us/community-involvement/community-grants/good-neighbor-citizenship-grants> DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31

## WALMART LOCAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

Walmart's Local Community grants provide funding directly from Walmart and Sam's Club facilities to local organizations. Local Community grants range from \$250 to \$5,000. Applicants must be a recognized government entity (state, county, or city); be a K-12 public or nonprofit private school, a community/junior college, or a state/private college or university; or have a 501(c)(3) status.

<https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/rfps/rfp9692-walmart-foundation-accepting-applications-for-community-grant-program> DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31

## CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT GRANT

The Pilcrow Foundation, a national non-profit public charity, provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries for the purchase of up to \$1200 worth (at retail value) of new, quality, hardcover children's books. To qualify for the grant, libraries must be located in a rural area within the 50 United States, have a limited operating budget, have an active children's department, and raise \$200-400 through a local sponsor. <https://thepilcrowfoundation.org/childrens-book-project/> DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1

## SHELL OIL

Shell considers charitable contributions to eligible nonprofit organizations with priority given to organizations serving in or near US communities where Shell has a major presence. They seek to fund community, education, and/or environment-focused projects and organizations. They have a focus on civic and human needs in the community, promoting healthy lifestyles, and projects that promote access to underserved students and communities. They also focus on energy awareness, increasing interest in technical careers among students (STEM), and professional development in science and math among educators. They support K-12 programs that boost math and science skills, as well as university programs that aid engineering and geoscience students and departments. See: <https://www.shell.us/sustainability/request-for-a-grant-from-shell.html>



# Calling Small Libraries: IMLS Opens Grant Program for Second Year

For a second year, the Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting grant applications for Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries (APP). The deadline to apply is December 2, 2019. APP is a special initiative of National Leadership Grants for Libraries, a program that supports library and archives services nationwide by advancing theory and practice. The funding opportunity, launched for the first time in the fall of 2018, was designed to strengthen the ability of small and/or rural libraries, archives, and related organizations to serve their communities. In July, IMLS announced the first awards made under the program.

## Categories

The initiative is in line with the IMLS Strategic Plan 2018-2022, Transforming Communities, which includes goals of lifelong learning, increasing public access, and building capacity. Three categories of APP grants are available to applicants:

- **Transforming School Library Practice:** School libraries support learning and the development of critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration skills. IMLS is interested in furthering how K-12 school library professionals can serve as integral instructional partners to classroom teachers. Grant projects could include programs and services that prepare students for success in college, career, and life, or foster early, digital, information, health, financial, media, civic, and other types of literacies.
- **Community Memory:** Libraries and archives not only serve as stewards of our nation's knowledge and collections, but also as trusted spaces for community engagement and dialogue. This project category centers on engaging local communities in the collection, documentation, and preservation of their local histories, experiences, and identities. Proposals could include events and programs to digitize materials related to community histories, such as photographs, artifacts, or texts, or oral history projects that involve community members in the documentation and preservation of local histories.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Libraries have an important role in promoting digital inclusion and increasing access to information, ideas, and networks. This category focuses on projects that support the role libraries play in promoting digital literacy, providing internet access, and enabling community engagement through civic data and civic technology. Grant proposals could include deploying technologies to provide residents with increased abilities to address the homework gap, increase small business development and entrepreneurship, or plan for emergency preparedness.

## Cohort Learning and Evaluation

APP was also designed to build grantee capacity through participation in a community of practice based on their project category. Three third-party mentor organizations will lead these cohorts, providing expert guidance and facilitating communication between grantees. This component of the grant is designed to promote shared knowledge, build grantee capacity in relevant areas, and grow networks in the library and archives fields. In addition, IMLS intends to identify and support a third-party organization to evaluate this initiative.



## Who is Eligible?

This grant opportunity is designed for small and/or rural libraries and archives, and applicants should consider how their organization might be a good fit. There are a number of ways to be “small,” and attributes of “small” libraries or archives could include:

- number of staff members and volunteers;
- operating budget and sources of revenue;
- size of the collection and range of services provided;
- size of facility and property;
- types, numbers, and geographic distribution of audiences served; and size relative to other organizations of the same discipline or within the same geographic region.

Institution types could include rural or urban public libraries, Native American tribal libraries, school districts representing elementary through secondary school libraries, or research or special libraries.

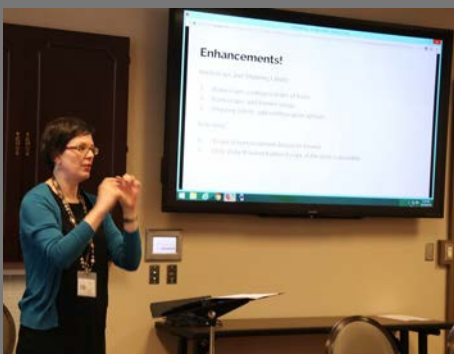
For more details, please read the notice of funding opportunity:  
<https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/fy20-ols-app-nofo.pdf>



## Mississippi Library Association Hosts Annual Conference in Jackson

The Mississippi Library Association's annual conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in Downtown Jackson, October 22-25. The Pre-Conference featured speaker on October 22 is Ryan Dowd with the Homeless Institute. Opening general session featured speaker on October 23 is Mississippi Arts Commission Executive Director, Malcolm White.

The conference is filled with outstanding sessions that will help librarians be successful in today's libraries. Make plans now to attend! Visit [www.misslib.org/conference2019](http://www.misslib.org/conference2019) for more information.



# Inside the Commission

## News from Administrative Services



### MLC Bids Farewell!

MLC recently bid farewell to David Collins, the Grants Program Director at MLC for almost fifteen years. His new journey takes him to Maine where he has accepted a position at the University of Maine working in the grants department.

David regularly talked about moving back up north for cooler weather. He will be greatly missed by his coworkers and those who had the opportunity to meet him. Join all of us at MLC in wishing David the best of luck in his new adventure!

## MLC Welcomes New Facilities Maintenance Staff Member

MLC recently welcomed Gavin Gainey to the staff! Gavin will be assisting with maintaining the building and grounds.

Gavin loves MLC's Talking Book Services and thinks that those who are visually impaired should be able to enjoy reading just like everyone else. He thinks libraries are incredibly important for making sure that everyone has access to information regardless of their social status, age, or disability.

Gavin's favorite book of all time is *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and the last book he read was *The Great Gatsby*.

He spends his free time playing and listening to music, and using his skills as a photographer and graphic designer.



## News from Library Development

This year the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference (ARSL) was held in Burlington, Vermont. MLC was able to send three staff members to this continuing education event, Library Development Director Lacy Ellinwood and Library Consultants Shellie Zeigler and Louisa Whitfield-Smith. Below are just a few takeaways from this year's conference.



Louisa and Shellie at ARSL

Dealing with space constraints is always an issue for libraries, and MLC staff gained insight into ways to maximize current spaces and what libraries can do to create space functionality. Hint, it involves some industrial casters for shelving and a LEGO wall.

Staff learned about innovative online tools that public librarians can use for little to no money; be sure to check out Unsplash and TechBoomers. They were also able to share some of the great projects public libraries are doing across Mississippi to inspire other rural libraries on a national platform.

Get involved with ARSL and consider attending the 2020 conference in Wichita! For more information visit <https://arsl.info/>

## News from Talking Book Services



Did you know that the Talking Book Service is not just for adults? We serve kids who are blind/visually impaired, physically disabled, and those with an organic reading disability.

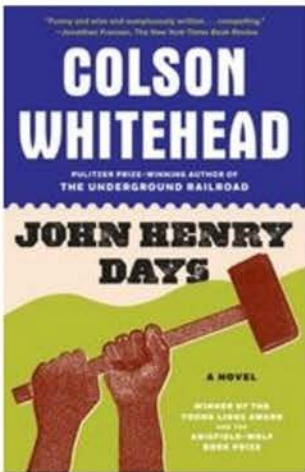
They can download audio or braille books on their smart device or get them in the mail from us!

For more information, contact Talking Book Services at 800.446.0892 or visit <https://mlc.lib.ms.us/tbs/>

# Goodies to Borrow from MLC for FREE!

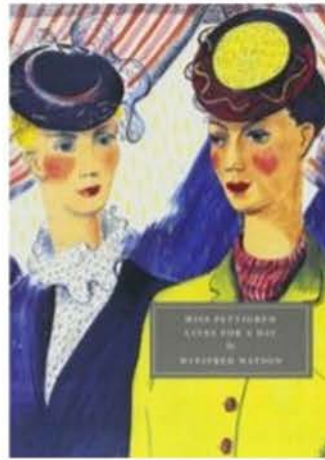
## Fall into a Good Book Club *MLC's Newest Book Club in a Box Kits*

### *John Henry Days* by Colson Whitehead



- Genre: Psychological Fiction
- Theme: Frustrated human energies
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide

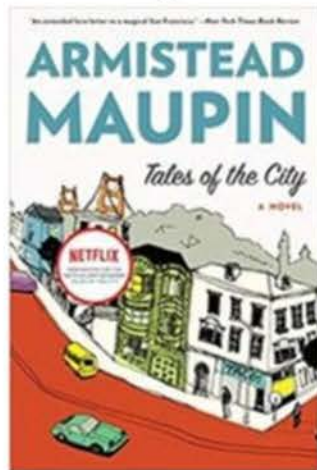
### *Miss Pettigrew Lives a Day* by Winifred Watson



- Genre: Literary Fiction
- Theme: Unlikely friendships
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide

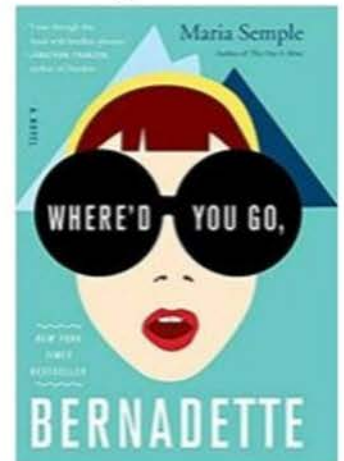
### *Tales of the City: a Novel* by Armistead Maupin

- Genre: LGBTQIA Fiction
- Theme: Hidden truths
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide



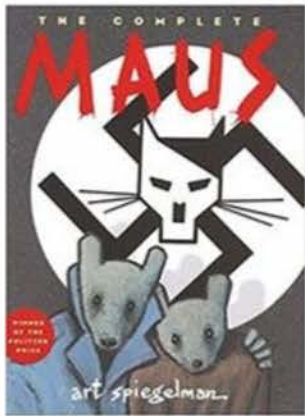
### *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* by Maria Temple

- Genre: Humorous Fiction
- Theme: Web of connections
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide



## *Maus*

by Art Spiegelman



- Genre: Autobiographical Graphic Novel
- Theme: Familial guilt
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide

## *Goldelinde*

by Jimmy Cajoleas

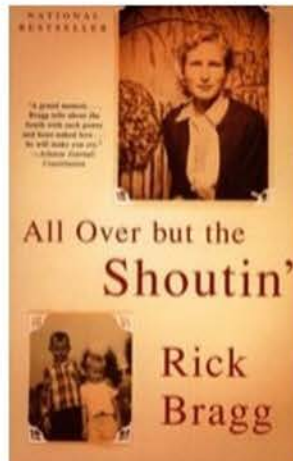


- Genre: Middle Grades/Fantasy Fiction
- Themes: Good v. Evil
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide

## *All Over but the Shoutin'*

by Rick Bragg

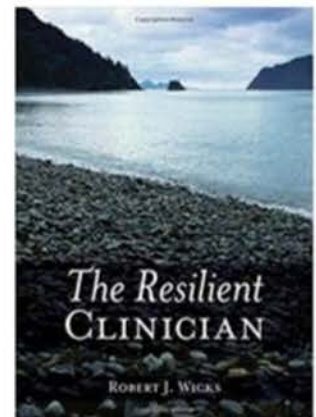
- Genre: Autobiographies and memoirs
- Theme: Family and relationships
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide



## *The Resilient Clinician*

by Robert J. Wicks

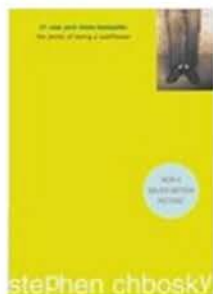
- Genre: Self-Help
- Theme: Self-care
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide



## *Perks of Being a Wallflower*

by Stephen Chbosky

- Genre: Young Adult/Coming-of-age stories
- Theme: Unreliable narrator
- 10 copies
- Discussion guide



Contact Charlie Simpkins,  
MLC's Digital Consultant,  
for more information  
or to make a reservation:  
601-432-4498 or  
[csimpkins@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:csimpkins@mlc.lib.ms.us)



## MLC's "Snappy" New Kits

### Snap Circuit 3d Illuminations



- Ages 8 and up
- 60 parts
- 159 projects

### Snap Circuit Arcade



- Ages 8 and up
- +35 parts
- Over 200 projects

### Snap Circuit Extreme



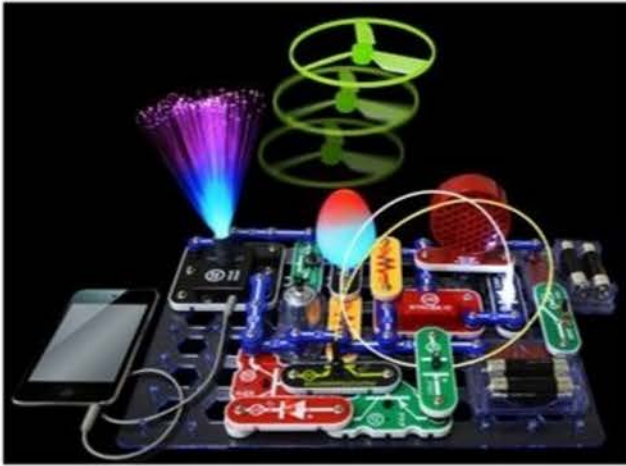
- Ages 8 and up
- 80 parts
- +750 experiments

### Snap Circuit Green



- Ages 8 and up
- +40 parts
- +125 projects

## Snap Circuit Light



- Ages 8 and up
- +55 parts
- +175 projects

## Squishy Circuits



- Ages 8 and up
- Uses conductive and insulating play dough to teach the basics of electrical circuits in a fun, hands-on way, including LEDs, buzzers, and motor with a fan.

## AmScope Kids Beginner Microscope Set



- Ages 8 and up
- 52 piece set
- Discover the invisible world of wonder as you create your own mini experiments.

## Carcassonne



- Ages 7 and up
- 2-5 players
- Approximately 35 minutes of gameplay

Contact Charlie Simpkins, MLC's Digital Consultant, for more information or to make a reservations:  
601-432-4498 or [csimpkins@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:csimpkins@mlc.lib.ms.us)



September is  
**LIBRARY CARD  
 SIGN-UP MONTH!**

*A library  
 card brings  
 stories to life!*



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# MLC Calendar

## September

24 MLC Board Meeting

## October

1 Regional Frontline Training, Cleveland

2 Regional Frontline Training, Meridian

3 Regional Frontline Training, Laurel

22-25 MLA Conference

## November

7-8 Public Library Directors' Symposium

11 State Holiday, MLC Closed

## About MLC

3881 Eastwood Drive  
 Jackson, Mississippi 39211  
 601.432.4111  
[www.mlc.lib.ms.us](http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us)

Hulen E. Bivins  
 Executive Director

Board of Commissioners  
 Lori Barnes, Ocean Springs  
 Stephen Cunetto, Starkville  
 Jolee Hussey, Oxford  
 Ann Marsh, Brandon  
 Becky Wright, Bruce

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.

*This publication is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grants to States Program as administered by the Mississippi Library Commission.*