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news from the mississippi library commission

winter 2017

FEELS LIKE COMING HOME

by Sharman Smith, Interim Executive Director

Retirement four years ago did not come easy. It took quite a while to find my way. Then after getting involved in some statewide committees and doing some public library consulting, I settled into my new normal.

But when the MLC Board approached me to come back as interim executive director as the search for a permanent director continued, I hesitated for only a moment. The opportunity to work with and for Mississippi libraries again was too important.

During my first week back, MLC held its annual Public Library Directors' Symposium. It was so good to see old friends and colleagues and to get to know new leaders in our public library community. This outstanding group of dedicated, knowledgeable and hard-working public library directors reaffirmed my decision to come back if only for a few months.

My goals for the agency and libraries have not changed. While here, I will work with library advocates and with local, state and federal funding authorities to ensure that all Mississippians have access to quality library services. Adequate funding at all levels is essential to providing the library services our citizens have come to expect and to demand. Cuts in state funding for libraries in the last few years have severely threatened those services.

Today, public libraries are more critical than ever. Technology and the internet has only heightened the need. Without question, public libraries are central to the vitality of local communities.

I will also be working with the MLC Board of Commissioners assisting with the search for a permanent executive director. I am confident the Board will find a leader with the knowledge and skills to lead the agency into the future.

Until then, I am home for a long visit and plan to make the most of every moment.

Sharman

Poyner Named Chair of MLC Board of Commissioners



MLC is pleased to announce that Suzanne Byrd Poyner has been named Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Poyner was the president of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs from 2012-2014 and has served on MLC's Board since 2014.

A huge book lover, Suzanne was raised in a reading family. Her parents and grandparents all loved to read, and she raised her son to be a reader too.

She is a big fan of her local public library in Florence. Poyner said, "I believe that every child deserves to have a book in their hands. Access to libraries makes this possible for so many people that otherwise wouldn't have this advantage." Poyner also admires libraries for their role in making technology available to people who don't have access to WiFi, computers, and the internet. She points out that "In many towns, the library is the center of the community." Join us in welcoming Suzanne as Chair of the MLC Board of Commissioners!



Mobile Archive Project

The Mississippi Digital Library (MDL), a shared digital collection platform for Mississippi institutions, is a great way for Mississippi's public libraries to share items from their archives with the world. Photographs, documents, historical papers, letters, and more can be uploaded to and hosted by the MDL for free!

However, many public libraries may not have the time, resources, or equipment to start digitizing local collections. That's where MLC's new Mobile Archive Project is invaluable. MLC staff will visit a library, bring the equipment, and scan materials. The agency can also figure out how to format metadata and connect a library with MDL.

Project leader, Digital Documents Coordinator Katie Gill said, "It's such a great experience to visit with libraries and to help them bring their hidden gems to a wider audience."

Yalobusha County Library System and Pearl River County Library System were the first to take advantage of the Mobile Archive Project. To learn more, contact Katie Gill at kgill@mlc.lib.ms.us.



Madison County Library System gets 'APPY!



Madison County Library System recently unveiled a new look for their system. Along with a new logo, they have the very first public library app in Mississippi! The app includes directions to their locations, updated news, and a texting feature for the important messages you don't want to miss from the library. The new app features a QR code reader to use with their digital wallpaper posters. The posters are equipped with easy to scan QR codes of their most popular adult fiction, teen, and children's books. Patrons can go to any of the supporting local businesses in Madison County and easily download eBooks and audiobooks to mobile devices while on the go.

The goal of MCLS is to increase access, expand programming to meet patron needs, and increase library visibility at Ridgeland, Flora, Canton, Camden and Madison. In addition to the new app, they also have an updated website which was partially funded by a LSTA grant administered by the Mississippi Library Commission for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Take a look at the new website at www.mclsms.org.

Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System



MLC's Interim Executive Director Sharman Smith, Library Consultant Ally Watkins, and Public Relations Director Susan Liles recently traveled to the Attala County Library to learn more about the exciting things going on in the 13 libraries of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System. System Director Richard Greene and his team shared some of the system's new offerings to patrons, including Hoopla, a service of free movies, TV shows and more. Information was also shared about their extremely active Teen Library Councils and the Attala County Library's outstanding genealogy department. Plans are already underway for the 2018 Summer Library Program and programs for all ages. To find out more about MMRLS libraries www.mmrls.lib.ms.us.

Photos: (left) Mid-Mississippi Library System staff and MLC staff (center) Printed materials (right) Teen area at Attala County Library

• inside the agency •



MLC Receives Honor

The Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) was recently honored by the Mississippi Association of Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (MAER) with their prestigious "Employment Opportunity Development Award" during a ceremony held at the Mississippi School for the Blind. The award recognizes an individual or organization making noteworthy contributions in assisting persons with blindness or visual impairment to achieve their rightful place in the working world and society.

Pictured: MLC's Talking Books Program Director, Shellie Zeigler

Outstanding Achievement Award

Congratulations to Vivian Sanderford, MLC Senior Network Specialist and E-rate Specialist! Sanderford was honored at the annual Mississippi Library Association Conference with an Outstanding Achievement Award for her years of service to Mississippi libraries. The nomination, made by Jennifer Wann, Director of the Bolivar County Library System, praised Vivian's patience in assisting Mississippi's librarians with their internet and E-rate questions, and for her tenacity, skill and savvy in dealing with statewide network and vendor issues. Wann went on to say, "In 2015 2,500,843 sessions were logged on public access computers in Mississippi's public libraries. Every single one of those 2.5 million sessions was in some small way supported by the work Vivian Sanderford performs in her position at MLC." Congratulations Vivian!



Congratulations!

After 29 years and 11 months at the Mississippi Library Commission, Serials Librarian Connie Jones retired. Staff, friends, and family gathered for a celebration recognizing her many years of dedicated service. She began working with Talking Book Services in 1988 and moved to Serials in 1992. Her unique spirit will be missed.



Pictured: (left) Sharman Smith, Interim Executive Director and (right) Connie Jones

Margaret Murray Grant

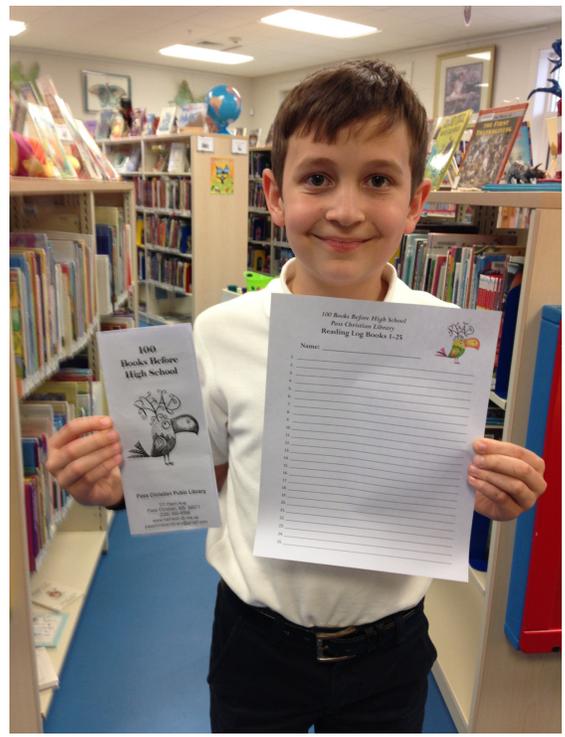
Annual grants for public libraries sponsored by Friends of Mississippi Libraries

By Lacy Ellinwood
MLC's Library Development Director

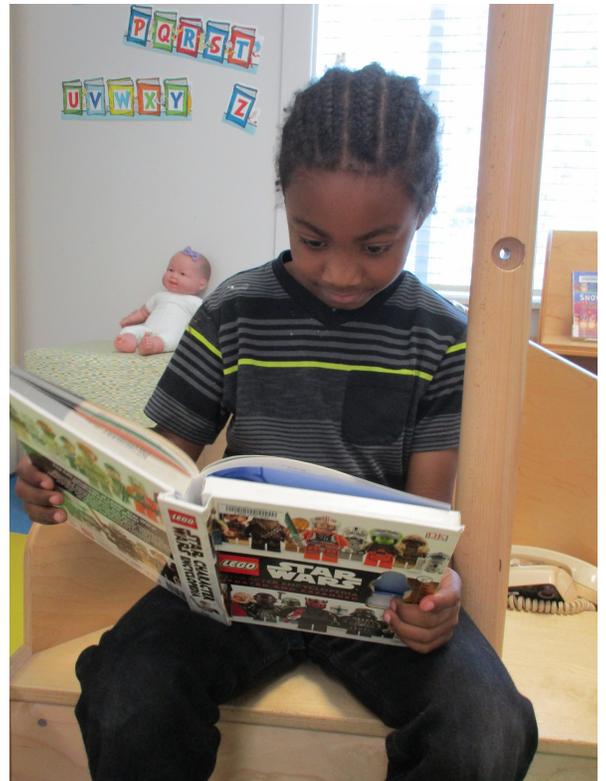
For three years, the Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc. (FOML) has sponsored the Margaret Murray Grant to advance library programming and literacy for Mississippi public libraries through Friend's sponsored activities.

The grant is named for Margaret Murray, a retired MLC consultant, and former liaison to the state Friends of Mississippi Libraries. She actively supported and encouraged many Mississippi public libraries to establish Friends groups. Her efforts resulted in the establishment of over 100 local chapters. The state Friends of Mississippi Libraries support of local libraries has strengthened and enhanced communities across Mississippi over the years.

These grant funds are earmarked for programming, collection development, and literacy activities. In 2017, Friends of the Pass Christian Library received the grant for a literary program to promote reading for fun. "100 Books Before High School" awarded each child a prize for every 25 books read, and when they reached their 100th book, they received a free book to take home. An additional benefit of the program was how it helped students maintain their reading skills during the summer months. National research shows that students who participate in public library summer reading programs score higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than those who did not participate.



The 3rd Annual Margaret Murray Grant is now open and will award three \$500 grants to public libraries with supporting Friends of the Library chapters. The deadline for applications is February 23, 2018. The application can be found on the Friends of Mississippi Libraries website hosted by the Mississippi Library Commission, or by visiting: <http://bit.ly/2C6ZOYc>



Public Library Directors' Symposium



The MLC Public Library Directors' Symposium, held on November 2-3, 2017, brought directors together to learn about trends in library services and technology, as well as, to learn from each other.

The two-day symposium began with a welcome by Interim Executive Director, Sharman Smith. Each of the 40 library directors in attendance shared something good going on in their libraries. The directors talked about everything from plans for fun holiday events, to community members stepping up to fix a library roof, siding and flooring. Information was shared about art shows, autism resource centers, new library branding, and lots of hard work by local Friends groups.

The symposium agenda was packed with presentations, including information on writing press releases to MLC's Mobile Archive Project.

A special presentation was made by Anik Kurkjian, Director of the MS LIGHT Collaborative, a non-profit organization using the medium of light to inspire creativity and collaborations between the arts and technology to promote for more STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) education in Mississippi.

The first International LIGHT Festival was held in Downtown Jackson in February 2017, and showcased 40 light pieces that included collaborations between artists from all over the US, Japan and the United Kingdom. To find out more about this exciting way to teach the children of today, visit <https://www.mslightcollaborative.com/>

On the second day of the symposium, information was offered about outreach and programming to Mississippi's underserved populations. Libraries want to provide the best possible service to the homeless, those in extreme poverty, as well as, citizens with disabilities. The day ended with a peer sharing exercise where attendees were broken into groups and asked to problem-solve.

Special thanks to all who attended, and to those providing the interesting programming.

Photos: Left - Sharman Smith welcomes the group of library directors. Right - Anik Kurkjian with the MS LIGHT Collaborative talks about the work of this non-profit organization.

Happy Holidays!

From the
Mississippi
Library
Commission!



MLC Calendar

December

25-26

Christmas-State Holiday

January

1

New Year's Day-State Holiday

10

Tech Academy, PowerPoint, Batesville

15

MLK Day-State Holiday

23

Board of Commissioners Meeting, MLC

25

Summer Library Program for Children, MLC

31

Summer Library Program, Early Literacy, MLC

February

9-13

ALA Mid-Winter Conference, Denver, CO

15

Tech Academy, PowerPoint, MLC

19

President's Day-State Holiday

20

Summer Library Program for Children, Laurel

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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.