

# Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department  
for Libraries and Archives

August 2012

## In This Issue

[Multi-Award Winning  
Trustee Goes on to New  
Challenges](#)

[Friends Group Celebrates  
Successful Book Sale and  
20 Years](#)

[Trustee Connection  
Focus on Friends](#)

[KDLA Congratulates New  
Certification Holders](#)

[KDLA Welcomes New  
Trustees](#)

[PLA 2012: How My  
Experiences Will Influence  
My Decisions for the  
Library](#)

[PLA 2012](#)

[My First PLA Conference](#)

[Breaking Down the PLA  
Conference Experience](#)

[PLA Conference Infused  
with Enthusiasm](#)

[PLA Conference Filled With  
Ideas](#)

## Multi-Award Winning Trustee Goes on to New Challenges

By JC Morgan, Director  
Campbell County Public  
Library



Poland on a visit to libraries  
in Western Kentucky

## PLA 2012: How My Experiences Will Influence My Decisions for the Library

By Peggy Mershon  
Laurel County Public Library

*Editor's Note: this issue of Libraries & Archives Monthly  
features articles from KDLA 2012 PLA Conference Scholarship  
winners.*

Since I primarily do adult programming at my library, I tend to gravitate toward conference sessions aimed at that area. As this was my first PLA conference, though, I aimed to include different tracks in my schedule.

One session that I attended concerned making sure that your library's meeting room policies contained appropriate wording to avoid legal challenges, particularly in the area of religious worship and religious activities. The program was presented by a representative from ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and an attorney for the Freedom to Read Foundation. Besides an informative session, the question and answer session introduced many other related questions to which the presenters could offer their opinions and their awareness as to whether other libraries had faced similar questions.

[Read more...](#)

## PLA 2012

By Valerie Zempter, Director  
Mason County Public Library

First thing Friday morning I sat in my seat with no expectations of a session devoted to 'new models for public library development.' It sounded like the title of a survey course in Library Science that *wouldn't* be scheduled for 8:15 a.m. When Rolf Hapel, director of the citizens' services and libraries in Aarhus, Denmark began his presentation, I was electrified.

Using the demographic profile of his service area, his organization recognized the need to provide for new

How can I wax poetic about Paul Poland? That's the question. You've probably read somewhere, someplace, maybe even on his own Facebook page (he's not humble like me) that he's a MULTI-AWARD WINNING TRUSTEE.

There's a certain level of truth in that, but it's also likely that people were bribed and that adult beverages were served in the decision-making process of at least some of those awards.

You know how librarians can be.

[Read more...](#)

## **Friends Group Celebrates Successful Book Sale and 20 Years**

Thanks to community support, proceeds from Friends of McCracken County Public Library's 2012 Summer Used Book Sale topped \$13,900. The fundraiser included approximately 15,000 items, with most items selling for \$1 or less.

Over the last 20 years, the group has donated over \$250,000 to the library's collection development and service expansion.

Friends plan several special events to celebrate their 20th anniversary. For more information call 270-994-2122.

citizens, an aging population, and polarized elements of the community; those who were underemployed, had literacy issues and/or were in need of basic services. This led to development of new products, new strategies and new allies.

[Read more...](#)

## **My First PLA Conference**

By Ben Nunley  
Circulation Services Supervisor  
Boyd County Public Library

Attending the PLA Conference for my first time proved to be a very positive experience. The sessions I attended were very informative and the exhibit area was loaded with all the latest and greatest. I had the opportunity to meet several authors while there and I really enjoyed the quick wit and words of wisdom delivered by the closing speaker Betty White. All of this great stuff at our disposal in one place and the historic city of Philadelphia with so much to offer on its own.

We had two and a half session filled days with a variety of topics to choose from. The challenge was deciding which sessions to take since there were so many interesting ones. The speakers provided me with a better understanding of how to meet our community's needs and offered lots of ideas on improving and expanding patron services. One hot topic I noticed throughout the conference was the trend towards and the importance of providing plenty of eResources to our patrons. [Read more...](#)

## **Breaking Down the PLA Conference Experience**

By Christina Cornelison  
Madison County Public Library

My PLA experience began before it even officially started. Upon learning that I was going to attend PLA in Philadelphia, I decided to Tweet from and about the PLA conference in order to communicate in real time with fellow MCPL staff and others. My first Tweet was: "Goal 1 for #pla: meet @Nancy\_Pearl." Soon after, Nancy Pearl herself replied: "Let's do it. I just got to Philly and am on my way to my hotel." I was still in Lexington at that point, but this spiked my PLA fever, and I knew that this was going to be an outstanding experience.

The PLA conference can be broken down into three parts: networking, sessions and exhibits. When I first arrived in

## Trustee Connection

By Mindy Woods  
Carter County Public Library  
Secretary, KLTRT  
[graysonwoods@yahoo.com](mailto:graysonwoods@yahoo.com)

The KLA/KSMA Joint Conference is coming up September 20-22 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville and I encourage all trustees to attend! There is a wealth of information you will gain, in addition to networking with trustees from all over the state.

The featured speakers are always entertaining and top notch. You will hear from award winning writers, including Tess Gerritsen, author of the Rizzoli & Isles series; Silas House, author of *Clay's Quilt*; children's book authors Tammie Lyon and Michael Buckley; illustrators James L. Barry and Mark Wayne Adams, among others.

[Read more...](#)

## Focus on Friends

### ***That's What Friends Are For***

By Nelda Moore  
Communications Director  
Friends of Kentucky Libraries

What can Friends of Kentucky Libraries do for you? Several things, actually, and let's explore the purpose and benefits to members. First of all, our Mission Statement is twofold: to advocate for public libraries on the local, state, and national

Philadelphia, I went straight to the exhibits. This was what I called the "Sea of Librarians," there were librarians as far as the eye could see, looking at and discussing all things library. The exhibits offered information about the array of products and services, but they also provided unique opportunities to meet people from all facets of the library world.

[Read more...](#)

## PLA Conference Infused with Enthusiasm

By Angie Gabbard  
Grant County Public Library

Before the 2012 Public Library Association conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I had never been a part of such a large group of library lovers! The entire conference was infused by the enthusiasm of the more than 8,500 people who attended. From the people I sat next to in educational sessions to those I met in the exhibit hall or those I stood in line with to meet an author, I could not have met more friendly people. It was fun to meet librarians from all over the United States. I was also excited to be there representing Grant County and Kentucky libraries.

During the conference I was able to attend a number of great educational sessions that I believe will benefit me in my job duties. I took pages of notes and brought back ideas and suggestions related to readers advisory, library programming, collection development and book discussion groups. All of these are things that I work on every day at my library.

[Read more...](#)

## PLA Conference Filled with Ideas

By Jamie Malley  
Allen County Public Library

My name is Jamie Malley and I work at the Allen County Public Library. My duties include Young Adult book orders & programming, our adult book club, circulation desk, reader's advisory, and whatever else comes up. I won a grant from KDLA to attend the PLA 2012 conference in Philadelphia. Here's what happened...

I arrived in Philadelphia on Wednesday evening, excited about my first national conference. I met up with several other Kentucky library staff members at a cheese steak place where we discussed sessions we wanted to attend and talked about our respective libraries. One of my favorite things about attending conferences is the

levels; and to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters.

[Read more...](#)

## KDLA Congratulates New Certification Holders

KDLA would like to congratulate these newly certified library employees:

- Kenny Pace, Leslie County, Paraprofessional
- Jacob Moore, Boone County, Professional I

## KDLA Welcomes New Trustees

KDLA would like to welcome the following new trustees:

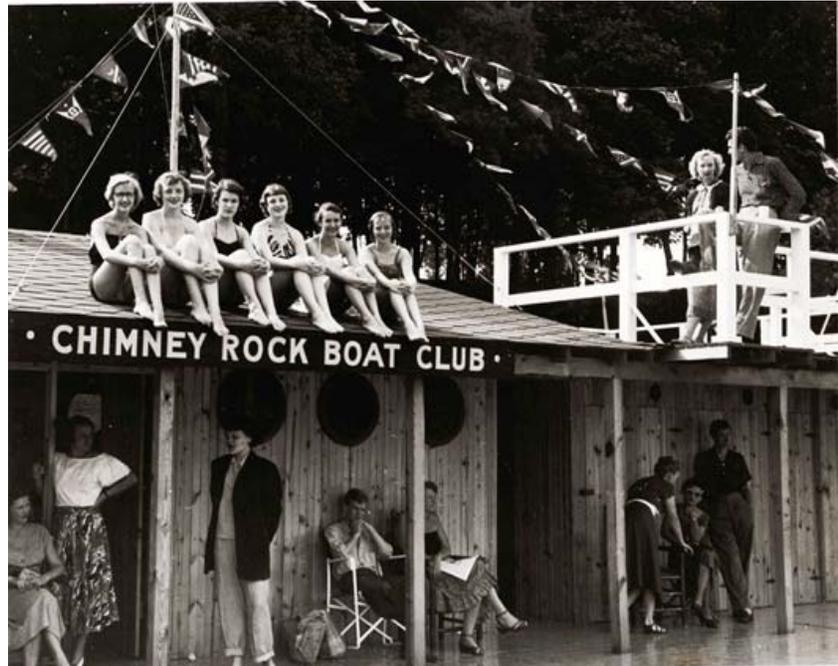
- Gene Kearns, Pendleton County
- Yvonne R. Cubbison, Boyd County
- Phillip G. Lewis, Boyd County
- Stacey Beeler, Casey County
- Gail Spear, Monroe County
- Jill Skaggs, Edmonson County

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

opportunity to talk to others who work in libraries - exchanging stories, solving problems, and just enjoying the camaraderie.

[Read more...](#)

## Archival Photo of the Month



Members of the Chimney Rock Boat Club take a break from boating to pose for a picture. Circa 1960's.

Source: Public Information Photo Collection, Public Records Division - Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives helps libraries provide equitable access to quality library and information resources and services, as well as helps public agencies ensure that legislatively mandated documentation of government programs is created, efficiently maintained and made readily accessible. For more information, visit <http://www.kdla.ky.gov> or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

Please send questions, comments and story ideas for Libraries & Archives Monthly to editor Paige Sexton at [paige.sexton@ky.gov](mailto:paige.sexton@ky.gov) or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

**Full Articles Beyond This**

# Point

## Multi-Award Winning Trustee Goes on to New Challenges

How can I wax poetic about Paul Poland? That's the question. You've probably read somewhere, someplace, maybe even on his own Facebook page (he's not humble like me) that he's a MULTI-AWARD WINNING TRUSTEE. There's a certain level of truth in that, but it's also likely that people were bribed and that adult beverages were served in the decision-making process of at least some of those awards.

You know how librarians can be.

To be honest, there are things that you ought to know about Paul Poland that aren't really written in the record books. Take that Facebook account I mentioned, for instance. Paul Poland has made it a matter of pride that he be "friends" with every single Kentucky state legislator. He's "friended" every single Kentucky public library that has an account. Many, many staff members, directors and library trustees are "friends" with Paul too.

That, in itself, says a lot about Paul. He's never met a stranger and he keeps his friends close (sometimes irritatingly close, but...no matter.)

It's not just a digitized effort for Paul though. I have personally been on trips with him where he's "bagged more libraries." He made it a goal, a mission, to see as many of Kentucky's public libraries (branches included) as he could during his time as chair of the Kentucky Library Trustee Roundtable. He did not only "bag" them by visiting. Nothing is halfway done with Paul. He came to board meetings, he went to groundbreaking, and he spent time (often significant amounts of it) talking to the people who make Kentucky's libraries great.

He's encouraged us. He's informed us. He's made us laugh. He's made us feel what we are: important.

That's Paul.

Getting back to the Facebook account, I saw a post on his wall one day where someone said that Paul had pushed us outside of our comfort zones. That's true. He has. As he marshaled the merger of KPLA and KLTRT, he made sure, absolutely sure, that trustees wouldn't be absorbed and forgotten. He's made sure, absolutely sure, that trustees would have workshops and recognition at the annual conference. He's made sure, absolutely sure, that trustees and their incredible importance to the world of public libraries would be integral to public library standards and library advocacy.

And then he got started on certification.

The move toward a certification system for trustees was phenomenal. Lots of people, many talented people, brought strengths to the table in the effort to make it a reality, but Paul gave it a face, a smiling, friendly avuncular face that made it clear that certification was a step forward for the work of trustees, never a criticism of the work that had already been done. With that smile and with that enthusiasm, he moved us all forward.

And he will continue to do so.

"While we are celebrating Paul's work for the past 8 years, we are not bidding him goodbye or letting him go! We will continue to call on Paul and use his services for libraries. He is a member of the State Advisory Council on Libraries and he is very deeply involved in development of the trustee certification program. I am also certain we will call on him for advocacy efforts and likely many other areas that involve public libraries," said State Librarian Wayne Onkst.

I, too, am a friend on Paul's Facebook account. I'm also a friend on his bass boat. I'm a friend that sends him text messages when I go fishing on my own and don't catch any fish (again) on some lake or creek somewhere. I think a lot of us can call Paul friend. And that, I say to all of you who are my friends, is the highest honor that we can give Paul Poland. It's the honor that we've all already received from him.

Good luck to you, Mr. Poland. And thank you.



Martha White and Paul Poland



Paul in one of his favorite spots!

[Return to top of page](#)

## **PLA 2012: How My Experiences Will Influence My Decisions for the Library**

Since I primarily do adult programming at my library, I tend to gravitate toward conference sessions aimed at that area. As this was my first PLA conference, though, I aimed to include different tracks in my schedule.

One session that I attended concerned making sure that your library's meeting room policies contained appropriate wording to avoid legal challenges, particularly in the area of religious worship and religious activities. The program was presented by a representative from ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and an attorney for the Freedom to Read Foundation. Besides an informative session, the question and answer session introduced many other related questions to which the presenters could offer their opinions and their awareness as to whether other libraries had faced similar questions. The session definitely made me more aware of the importance of good, sound policies. I also learned that the OIF has many sample policies for all types and sizes of public libraries.

Another session I attended concerned an early literacy program implemented in the Brooklyn (NY) Public Library system. The panel did a wonderful job of explaining how they received grant funding, how the program was structured, and how they had adapted the program in later years to better serve their community. They very generously made available their sample curriculum for other libraries to take home to adapt to their own needs, and I plan on sharing these materials with our children's librarian.

Bringing the library to the people was the subject of another session I attended. Two different libraries - one a small, rural one and the other from a large system - shared how they had each established library access through community partnerships. Virtual libraries were created that allowed computer access, browsing, and pick-up at different points away from the actual library buildings.

In addition to these sessions, I also went to some relating to adult programming - my main focus in my job - such as one on book and film programs and another on the "Sisters in Crime" mystery writers organization. Readers' advisory, programming ideas, and debut authors rounded out my PLA sessions and I have so many ideas that I'm anxious to implement in my library!

Exhibits are always a great part of any conference and those at PLA didn't disappoint. I really enjoyed the opportunity to see new equipment, services and products in person and be able to ask questions of the vendors. It's also nice to be able to meet vendors in person after dealing with them for years by phone and email.

I'm certainly grateful for the opportunity to attend my first PLA conference. I enjoyed the exchange of ideas and came home energized about trying some of them in my library and hope to share more about the conference with others in the region.

[Return to top of page](#)

## **PLA 2012**

First thing Friday morning I sat in my seat with no expectations of a session devoted to 'new models for public library development.' It sounded like the title of a survey course in Library Science that *wouldn't* be scheduled for 8:15 a.m. When Rolf Hapel, director

of the citizens' services and libraries in Aarhus, Denmark began his presentation, I was electrified.

Using the demographic profile of his service area, his organization recognized the need to provide for new citizens, an aging population, and polarized elements of the community; those who were underemployed, had literacy issues and/or were in need of basic services. This led to development of new products, new strategies and new allies.

Community members were a huge part of the design process: children and teens provided pictorial evidence of what was right and what was wrong with the library. Library users and non-users were surveyed, interviewed, brought into planning sessions and design testing. The user driven design was based on the need to support relationships rather than transitions, and creating a fusion between physical space and digital influences. In other words, creating a space for experience rather than storage.

The tactics he shared included connecting with compatible agencies, linking the library to their organizations' websites and publications; co-creating and co-producing projects and programs with users and placing information in a meaningful context. My take-away from this session was a better appreciation of the benefit of community involvement, a breathtaking understanding of the possibilities afforded by careful use of technology to support shared experience, and the inspiration to spread the word to coworkers, community members and anyone else who might listen.

A copy of the presentation is available on the PLA website, and there are several videos covering the better part of the program viewable through YouTube. I highly recommend searching for them using Aarhus, Denmark Public Library.

[Return to top of page](#)

## **My First PLA Conference**

Attending the PLA Conference for my first time proved to be a very positive experience. The sessions I attended were very informative and the exhibit area was loaded with all the latest and greatest. I had the opportunity to meet several authors while there and I really enjoyed the quick wit and words of wisdom delivered by the closing speaker Betty White. All of this great stuff at our disposal in one place and the historic city of Philadelphia with so much to offer on its own.

We had two and a half session filled days with a variety of topics to choose from. The challenge was deciding which sessions to take since there were so many interesting ones. The speakers provided me with a better understanding of how to meet our community's needs and offered lots of ideas on improving and expanding patron services. One hot topic I noticed throughout the conference was the trend towards and the importance of providing plenty of eResources to our patrons. Speakers explained the challenges, the benefits and offered us ways of expanding our eResources. I came away from these sessions more knowledgeable and armed with new ideas that I know we can use to expand our eMaterials.

Exhibits opened late on Wednesday and were open all day Thursday and Friday. I could not believe how many exhibitors there were, there were so many booths to visit and so much new stuff to try out. It was kind of like having a playground we could go to while on recess between sessions. Oh, and free stuff! By the arm loads! There were publishers, book signings, and vendors for everything from bookmarks to someone to design and build your next library. I really appreciated the opportunity of having all these vendors under one roof where we could talk to them face-to-face and compare what each had to offer with their competitors, right there on the spot. I couldn't help

but think of how many phone calls, meetings and demo's it would take to sample just a fraction of the products and services offered by the vendors. What a time saver!

I would like to say that attending PLA was an enjoyable experience. Not only did I gain valuable knowledge and was able to network with peers, but I also met some interesting people from libraries around the world. I found Philadelphia and their famed cheese steaks to be awesome. The city had plenty of sightseeing and historical points of interest within walking distance of our hotel, which enabled me to see such things as the Liberty Bell, Ben Franklin's grave, Betsy Ross's house and a walk through Chinatown.

In closing, I look forward to implementing some of the things I learned at PLA and look forward to the next time I am able to attend. I highly recommend that anyone that ever has the opportunity to attend, do so. Thank you KDLA and PLA for the experience.

[Return to top of page](#)

## **Focus on Friends**

### ***That's What Friends Are For***

What can Friends of Kentucky Libraries do for you? Several things, actually, and let's explore the purpose and benefits to members. First of all, our Mission Statement is twofold: to advocate for public libraries on the local, state, and national levels; and to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters.

In FKL's role as a library advocate, we organize multiple meet-and-greets statewide with legislators and candidates (and local officials) each October, providing planning assistance from invitations to after-event thank you letters. We support KPLA's Legislative Day in Frankfort by alerting Friends and soliciting their attendance. We also provide legislators with eye-catching little packages of yellow M&M candies with the message "Support Libraries" imprinted on them, along with the international library logo. We use our electronic discussion list to alert our membership to pending legislation, especially at urgent times like when SB-49 moved quickly through committee near the end of this last session.

FKL also provide hands-on assistance to any group wishing to start a local Friends of the Library chapter. Our Mentoring/Chapter Liaison Committee works with the fledgling chapter, assisting them through the steps to organizing as a legal entity and even making site visits. But we don't limit ourselves to just brand new chapters; we assist those that have become stagnant in reviving themselves.

And, of course, there's the money. FKL offers non-competitive grants of \$400 to new chapters seeking their official 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. Each year we give two competitive grants of \$200 each for the Sister Libraries Project, when at least one partner has an active Friends chapter; purchase the M&Ms for the legislators; and donate \$200 to the KPLA Advocacy Committee to help fund its activities on behalf of libraries. FKL also made a one-time donation of \$400 to the license plate initiative.

FKL also gives member chapters an avenue for recognizing local achievement with the Outstanding Friend Award and the Outstanding Friends Chapter Award each year.

And we're constantly looking for more ways to promote Kentucky's public libraries. Visit us at [www.FriendsKyLibraries.org](http://www.FriendsKyLibraries.org) to learn more and join us.

[Return to top of page](#)

## Breaking Down the PLA Experience

My PLA experience began before it even officially started. Upon learning that I was going to attend PLA in Philadelphia, I decided to Tweet from and about the PLA conference in order to communicate in real time with fellow MCPL staff and others. My first Tweet was: "Goal 1 for #pla: meet @Nancy\_Pearl." Soon after, Nancy Pearl herself replied: "Let's do it. I just got to Philly and am on my way to my hotel." I was still in Lexington at that point, but this spiked my PLA fever, and I knew that this was going to be an outstanding experience.

The PLA conference can be broken down into three parts: networking, sessions and exhibits. When I first arrived in Philadelphia, I went straight to the exhibits. This was what I called the "Sea of Librarians," there were librarians as far as the eye could see, looking at and discussing all things library. The exhibits offered information about the array of products and services, but they also provided unique opportunities to meet people from all facets of the library world.

Networking at PLA happens in many different arenas: sharing ideas and relating with others attending a session, talking with vendors, and simply engaging with other librarians. On our first night in Philadelphia, the grant recipients gathered at a local cheese steak place and had dinner. We discussed our libraries, our jobs, and several other topics that come up when a group of librarians get together. I always enjoy learning about how other Kentucky libraries operate, and how different people do similar jobs.

I also enjoy learning about successful practices at other libraries, and the PLA sessions certainly provided a lot of material. My favorite sessions focused on library leadership and management. I attended a session called, "Can't, Won't, Don't, Couldn't, Shouldn't, Wouldn't: Combating the Negative Nellies in the Workplace," and just as the title suggests, it provided ways to spread positivity among library staff. The presenter, Vicky Baker of Mid-Continent Public Library, identified the different types of "Negative Nellies," as well as specific actions to take to change these attitudes. For example, if a staff person consistently rejects and is upset by changes in the workplace, involve him/her in the planning or execution of the change. Information such as this is helpful on a professional and personal scale.

While I never got to meet Nancy Pearl (I missed her on two separate occasions,) I met so many librarians doing exceptional work at their local levels. I also gained some new followers on Twitter: other librarians Tweeting from the conference. The PLA conference confirmed to me that librarians love to share information, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share this new knowledge with my fellow MCPL staff and my region.

[Return to top of page](#)

## Trustee Connection

The KLA/KSMA Joint Conference is coming up September 20-22 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville and I encourage all trustees to attend! There is a wealth of information you

will gain, in addition to networking with trustees from all over the state.

The featured speakers are always entertaining and top notch. You will hear from award winning writers, including Tess Gerritsen, author of the Rizzoli & Isles series; Silas House, author of *Clay's Quilt*; children's book authors Tammie Lyon and Michael Buckley; illustrators James L. Barry and Mark Wayne Adams, among others.

In addition, ALA President Maureen Sullivan, an organizational development consultant, will address the opening session, speaking on current library issues and their potential impact.

The principals of patron engagement, patron confidentiality, and library security will be examined. Do you want more information about new devices and gadgets that may be coming to your library? How about social networking, and what is Pinterest, anyway? You will get the answers here.

Did you know there are ten essential policies it is imperative for your library to adopt? And, if you are still doing performance evaluations, there are better ways of achieving the same results!

Learn new and interesting ways for your library staff to incorporate math, science and humanities into children's story time and learn how to conduct a story time for babies, school-aged children and tweens.

Poster sessions are held as an informal and interactive session where presenters will be stationed at tables in a large room and attendees visit any presenter for as much or as little time as you want. That way, if you have questions about these subjects you can ask them one-on-one, in case you're the type who gets embarrassed asking questions in a group setting.

Are you a Sister Library? Sister Library partnerships are springing up all over the state, and you can learn the benefits of such a "sisterhood" to your library.

Also, be sure to attend the Library Trustee's Round Table business meeting.

There is so much to gain from attending the fall conference. Register at [www.klaonline.org](http://www.klaonline.org). I'll see you there!

[Return to top of page](#)

## **PLA Conference Infused with Enthusiasm**

Before the 2012 Public Library Association conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I had never been a part of such a large group of library lovers! The entire conference was infused by the enthusiasm of the more than 8,500 people who attended. From the people I sat next to in educational sessions to those I met in the exhibit hall or those I stood in line with to meet an author, I could not have met more friendly people. It was fun to meet librarians from all over the United States. I was also excited to be there representing Grant County and Kentucky libraries.

During the conference I was able to attend a number of great educational sessions that I believe will benefit me in my job duties. I took pages of notes and brought back ideas and suggestions related to readers advisory, library programming, collection development and book discussion groups. All of these are things that I work on every day at my library.

I also attended a session about dealing with negativity in the workplace that has really stuck with me. Negativity is not something that we like to think about, but at some point it affects us all. That session in particular has made me take a closer look at the things I say and do at work. It also made me think about my co-workers and our patrons in a different way.

It was also refreshing to learn that we all deal with similar issues at our libraries. It's not just us! We all have difficult patrons or limited staff and resources that influence the way we do our jobs. We learn to adjust and make the most of the resources we have available. The conference reminded me that we just need to keep moving forward by doing all that we can to provide excellent customer service to our patrons and others in the communities that we serve. A positive attitude goes a long way toward making this happen.

In closing, I always look forward to continuing education opportunities. I like meeting new people and learning about better ways to meet the needs of our patrons. I am so glad to have had the chance to attend the PLA conference. It was a wonderful professional and learning opportunity. Philadelphia was also a great city to visit! I am already hoping that I have the chance to go to PLA again in 2014.

[Return to top of page](#)

## **PLA Conference Filled with Ideas**

My name is Jamie Malley and I work at the Allen County Public Library. My duties include Young Adult book orders & programming, our adult book club, circulation desk, reader's advisory, and whatever else comes up. I won a grant from KDLA to attend the PLA 2012 conference in Philadelphia. Here's what happened...

I arrived in Philadelphia on Wednesday evening, excited about my first national conference. I met up with several other Kentucky library staff members at a cheese steak place where we discussed sessions we wanted to attend and talked about our respective libraries. One of my favorite things about attending conferences is the opportunity to talk to others who work in libraries - exchanging stories, solving problems, and just enjoying the camaraderie. Unfortunately, I had a slight cold and the flight to Philly had given me problems with my ears so I could barely hear what anyone was saying! (In fact, about the time it cleared up completely was the day I went home, when the same thing happened again and I had another 3 days of hearing from inside a barrel.) I did enjoy the visit and the walk back to our hotel through downtown Philly.

Thursday, I started my conference schedule with "Young at Heart: YA Books with Crossover Appeal." Four young adult authors spoke and we got to meet them afterward AND we all got free books from each author and got them signed at the end of the session! This was probably my favorite session of the entire conference. All four authors talked about their current and previous books and their writing methods.

Another session I particularly enjoyed was "Read. Watch. Discuss." This session detailed how to do a book and movie program, stressing that we want to talk about the differences in the book and the movie instead of which we liked better. The presenters were knowledgeable and entertaining. This is a program I would like to do at my library with my teen group. I amassed a long list of possible titles from the session.

At the ConverStation "YA programs that Work," we all shared program ideas that have worked for our libraries. Just a few of the great ideas I took away from this session were to use teens to help seniors understand how to use gadgets like eReaders, book

discussion groups to discuss required summer reading, and a local teen author night like an art show where teens can showcase their work.

Program-Palooza gave me ideas for Program Kits for all ages and Parenting Education programs provided concurrently with programs for young children and using community partners.

On Friday night I attend the all-conference reception where a great band played and the dance floor was full the whole time. Librarians are a fun group!

I had a terrific time at the conference and wish I could attend every single one. Every time I get to attend a great conference, I return to work a little more excited about my job and with my mind full of great ideas.

[Return to top of page](#)

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to [kdla.allexchange@ky.gov](mailto:kdla.allexchange@ky.gov) by [paige.sexton@ky.gov](mailto:paige.sexton@ky.gov) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Kentucky Dept. for Libraries | PO Box 537 | 300 Coffee Tree Road | Frankfort | KY | 40602