

# Find Your Way in MLA

Amber Sheerin - Keeley Briggs - Mary Grahame Hunter

# Session Outline

- Basic MLA Information
  - Mission and Priorities
  - Goals and Objectives
- Intellectual Freedom Task Force Work
  - MI Right to Read
- Current Opportunities
  - Mentor Program
  - Scholarships
  - Call for Proposals
  - Board of Directors Election
  - Call for Ambassadors



# Who We Are



**Amber Sheerin**  
MLA Program &  
Event Director



**Keeley Briggs**  
MLA Database  
Coordinator



**Mary Grahame Hunter**  
Ferndale Area  
District Library  
MLA IF Taskforce

# MLA Basics

- Mission: The Michigan Library Association leads the advancement of all Michigan libraries through advocacy, education and engagement.
- Strategic Priorities:
  - Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Belonging
  - Collaboration and Partnerships
  - Health and Well-being of Members
  - Mentorship and New Ideas



# Recent Highlights and Achievements

- 150 members currently serve on MLA committees and workgroups
- MI Right to Read has 1,500 coalition members on the mailing list
- First in-person Advocacy Day at the Capitol happening April 25
- Largest Spring Institute Ever!

# Intellectual Freedom Task Force

- MI Right to Read coalition ([mirighttoread.com](http://mirighttoread.com))
  - Informational toolkits
  - MLA Advocacy Resource Fund
  - Newsfeed
  - Support request form
  - Really cool t-shirts
- Intellectual freedom education for the public
- Trainings
- Youth librarians - we want you!

# Get Involved

- Multiple ways to get involved with YOUR state association
  - Volunteer for a workgroup or committee
  - Speak at a conference
  - Attend a webinar
  - Attend Advocacy Hours or Advocacy Day
  - Submit Intellectual Freedom challenges to MI Right to Read
  - Vote for the Board of Directors
  - Run for the Board of Directors

# Mentor Program

- Pairs new and established library workers in Michigan
  - o Mentor applications open all year
  - o Mentee applications accepted in February and September
  - o Partnerships last six months
  - o Schedule, communication methods, goals all set by participants
- Open to all members
- Learn more and apply: <https://www.mibraries.org/mentor-program>

# Scholarships and Call for Proposals

SPEAK! SPEAK!

- Call for Proposals for 2023 Annual Conference is currently open
- Closes May 12, 2023
- [www.mibraries.org/call-for-proposals](http://www.mibraries.org/call-for-proposals)

WE WANT TO GIVE OUR MEMBERS MONEY!

- Scholarships
- Equity Fund
- Intellectual Freedom Resources

# Board of Directors Election

The election for new Board members is currently underway.

<https://www.milibraries.org/board-of-directors-election>

- Eligible voters will receive voting instructions via email on April 4th.



## Current Board Members\*

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | <b>Scott Dukstra   President</b><br>Director, Capital Area District Libraries                           | 6   | <b>Tasha Miller</b><br>Outreach and Engagement Librarian,<br>University of Michigan   |
| 2 | <b>Angela Radke</b><br>Instruction and Scholarly Communications<br>Specialist, Michigan Tech University | 7   | <b>Christine Peake</b><br>Branch Librarian, Detroit Public Library  |
| 3 | <b>Dillon Gehrel</b><br>Director, Superiorland Library Cooperative                                      | 8   | <b>Cathy Ross</b><br>Director, West Bloomfield Township Library   |
| 4 | <b>Anne Holdmann</b><br>Tribal Librarian, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries                             | 9   | <b>Sophia Ward Brewer</b><br>Serials and Collection Librarian, Grand Rapids<br>Community College Library and Learning Commons |
| 5 | <b>Jenny Marr</b><br>Director, Ferndale Area District Library   | *This list does not include ex-officio board members. It also does not include those board members whose terms have been completed and are not seeking re-election. |   |

## 2023 Candidates

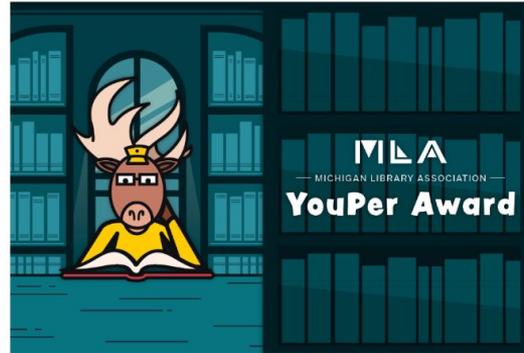
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE
- |    |   |                        |   |
|----|---|------------------------|---|
| 10 | <b>Bryanna Barton</b><br>Director, Eaton Rapids Area District Library                                   | 15                     | <b>Shaunta Martz</b><br>Regional Manager, Kalamazoo District Library          |
| 11 | <b>John Cleaton</b><br>Director, Gladwin County District Library  | 16                     | <b>Kristin Shelley (Incumbent)</b><br>Director, East Lansing Public Library   |
| 12 | <b>Mary Higginbottom Johnson</b><br>Assistant Director of Operations,<br>Muskegon Area District Library | 17                     | <b>Kate Van Aaken (Incumbent)</b><br>Director, White Pine Library Cooperative |
| 13 | <b>Michelle Howard</b><br>Director, Traverse Area District Library                                      | 18                     | <b>Lisa Waskin (Incumbent)</b><br>Director, Superior District Library         |
| 14 | <b>Janissa Kayser (Incumbent)</b><br>Director, Grosse Pointe Public Library                             | <b>PRESIDENT ELECT</b> |   |
|    |   | 3                      | <b>Dillon Gehrel</b><br>Director, Superiorland Library Cooperative            |

# Call for Ambassadors - Literary Awards



## Mitten Award

The Mitten Award recognizes and promotes quality literature for youth in picture book format.



## YouPer Award

The YouPer (Young Person) Award recognizes and promotes quality literature for youth in chapter book format.



## Thumbs Up! Award

The Thumbs Up! Award recognizes an outstanding contribution to teen literature that has both literary quality and teen appeal for those 13 to 18 years of age.

# Call for Ambassadors - Event Workgroups

- Plan next year's Spring Institute!
  - Select theme, design, speakers, special events
  - Meet other youth service library workers from across the state
  - March 7-8, 2024 in Muskegon
  
- Or help with Annual Conference 2024
  - October 16-18, 2024 in Traverse City

# Call for Ambassadors - Legislative/Advocacy

- Advocacy and Legislative Committee
  - Readers Group
  - IF Taskforce

Call for Ambassadors ends April 28th!

# Questions

[www.mibraries.org](http://www.mibraries.org)

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