



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



A message from our President: Hannah Adamson

Hello WALA Members!

The shift from winter grey to spring green always invigorates me. In my professional life, I always take this time to look for ways to grow as a librarian and foster collaboration and new opportunities in the organizations I am part of, WALA included.

Speaking of growth, I'm grateful to our new members. Thank you for joining the Wichita Area Library Association! It's an exciting time to be part of WALA. We had a wonderful holiday gathering this past December at the Westlink branch of Wichita Public Library. Two prospective Emporia State SLIM students joined us, and many stories of the librarian profession were shared.

Looking ahead, our flagship event, the Tanner Symposium, will take place in April at Derby Public Library with the focus on Library Leadership. Whether you are currently in an administrative role or are an emerging leader looking to make an impact from within the stacks, the speakers and panel discussion at the Tanner Symposium will provide insight and a chance for discussion among library leaders. We will also host our annual membership meeting which will include board officer elections this May at Mulvane Public Library.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Wichita area's literary and informational landscape. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Tanner Symposium and our annual member meeting in May.

Warmly,
Hannah Adamson, President, Wichita Area Library Association

Find us on Facebook!

Don't keep WALA the best-kept secret in Kansas library land! Like us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same.

We are always happy to post events or job openings at WALA libraries - just send a link to Hannah Adamson at hannaha@derbylibrary.com

Upcoming WALA Events

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WALA 2024- 2025 Leadership

Officers

<p>President 2025-2026 Hannah Adamson Derby Public Library (316) 788-0760 hannaha@derbylibrary.com</p>	<p>Vice President/ President Elect 2025-2026 Laura Tharman Mary Miller Library at Hesston College (620) 327-8245 laura.tharman@hesston.edu</p>	<p>Past President 2024-2025 Melissa Emo Emporia State University Library & Archives 620-341-5049 memo@emporia.edu</p>	<p>Webmaster 2015- Samuel Willis WSU Libraries 316-978-5104 samuel.willis@wichita.edu</p>
<p>Treasurer 2024-2026 Julie Mills Park City Public Library (316) 744-6318 jmills@parkcitypubliclibrary.com</p>	<p>Secretary 2024-2026 Tom Taylor Andover Public Library (316) 260-5912 tomtaylor@andoverlibrary.org</p>	<p>Newsletter Editor 2023- Heather Powell Friends University Library librarian.hlpowell@gmail.com</p>	<p>Ex Officio 2016- Nicole Penley SCKLS 1-800-234-0529 ext. 133 nicole@sckls.info</p>

Board of Directors

<p>2024-2026 Jeannie Booth Friends University Library 316-295-5603 jeannie_booth@friends.edu</p>	<p>2024-2026 Parker Daniel Wichita Public Library (316) 688-9580 pdaniel@wichita.gov</p>	<p>2025-2027 Eric Gustafson Derby Public Library (316) 788-0760 eric@derbylibrary.com</p>	<p>2025-2027 Samantha Henning WSU Libraries 316-978-5789 samantha.henning@wichita.edu</p>
<p>2025-2027 Heather Powell Friends University Library (316) 295-5880 librarian.hlpowell@gmail.com</p>	<p>2025-2027 Cina Shirley Douglass Public Library 316-746-2600 douglb@sbcbglobal.net</p>	<p>2024-2026 Samuel Willis WSU Libraries 316-978-5104 samuel.willis@wichita.edu</p>	



WALA Winter Wrap-Up: Advocacy & Celebration

Volume 30, No. 4, Spring 2026

A Resounding Success: Legislative Luncheon Recap

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us on Monday, November 17, at the Advanced Learning Library! We had a fantastic turnout for our annual Legislative Luncheon, proving once again that the Wichita Area Library Association (WALA) is a united, passionate force for our community.

Building Bridges with Decision Makers

The room was buzzing with vital conversations as library professionals engaged directly with our State Representatives and Senators. By sharing unique insights into how our libraries serve the Wichita area, we did more than just advocate for resources—we strengthened the essential lines of communication that keep our institutions thriving.

Expert Insights: Guest speaker Bekah Selby-Leach (WSU Center for Economic Development and Business Research) shared how libraries drive local economic growth.

Strength in Numbers: The high attendance sent a clear message to our elected officials: Wichita area library staff are committed and essential.

Special Thanks

Wichita Public Library - Advanced Learning Library: Thank you for hosting us in your wonderful facility.

South Central Kansas Library System (SCKLS): We are incredibly grateful for your generous sponsorship, which makes these advocacy opportunities possible.

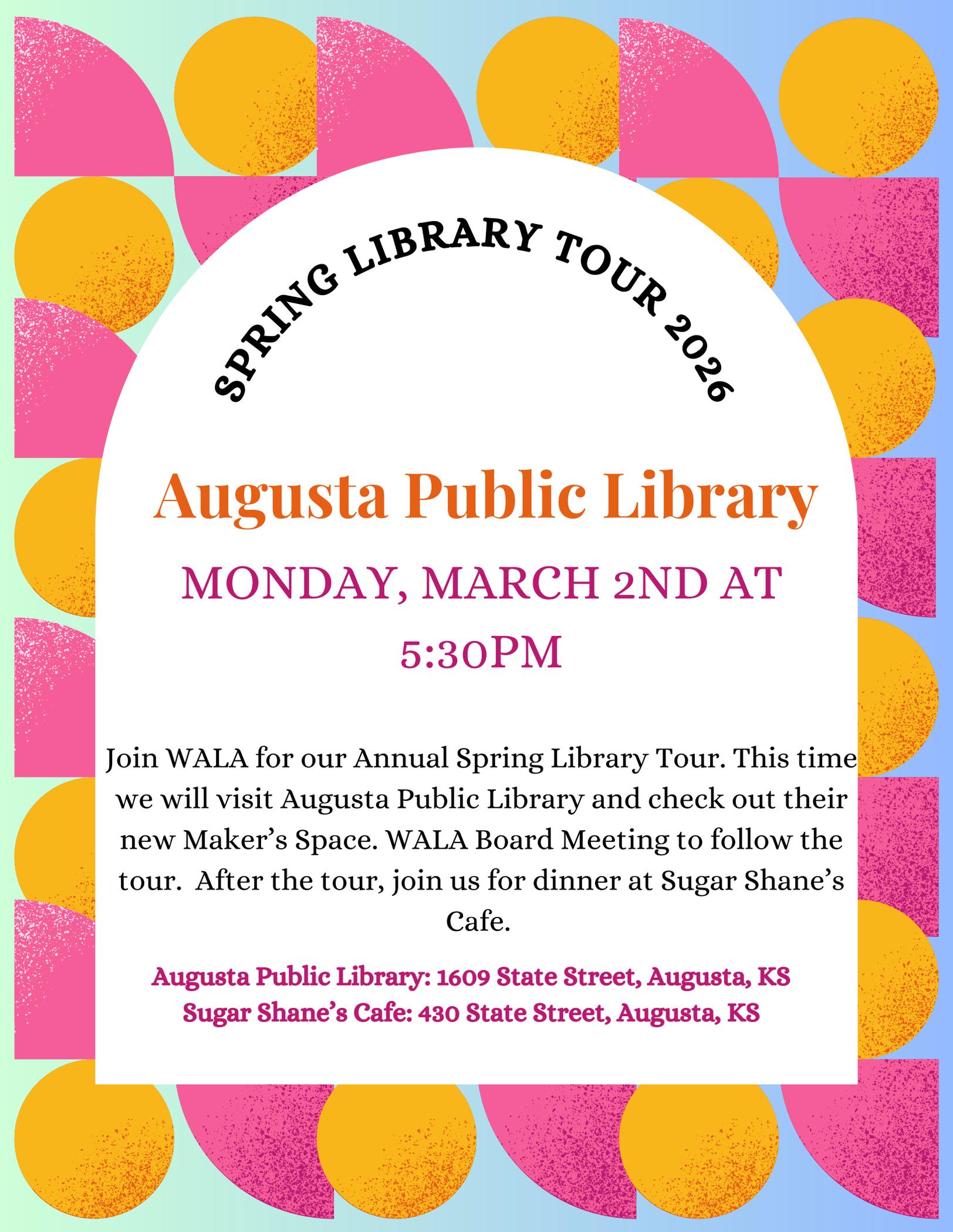


Photo by Hannah Adamson from the Legislative Luncheon in November.

Holiday Cheer at Westlink

We wrapped up 2025 with a festive holiday gathering at the Westlink Public Library. It was a treat to tour their beautifully remodeled space—the modern updates are truly impressive!

A special thank you to Branch Manager Tracie Partridge for being such a gracious host and accommodating our group. We were also thrilled to have several SLIM students from Emporia State University join the festivities. It was a wonderful opportunity to mentor and connect with the next generation of library leaders.



SPRING LIBRARY TOUR 2026

Augusta Public Library

MONDAY, MARCH 2ND AT
5:30PM

Join WALA for our Annual Spring Library Tour. This time we will visit Augusta Public Library and check out their new Maker's Space. WALA Board Meeting to follow the tour. After the tour, join us for dinner at Sugar Shane's Cafe.

Augusta Public Library: 1609 State Street, Augusta, KS
Sugar Shane's Cafe: 430 State Street, Augusta, KS



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Board Favorites

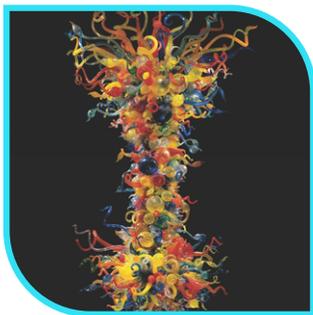
For this issue of the newsletter, we asked the board to share their favorite local attraction or favorite piece of art.

Hannah's favorites:

My favorite place is the Sedgwick County Zoo. I have so many fond memories of going to the zoo with my brother and cousins. My mom would pack lunches and a cooler full of kool-aid, and we'd spend all day there sometimes seeing all the animals twice. As for art, I've always loved the Confetti Chandelier by Dale Chihuly at the WAM.



Elephant and calf at Sedgwick County Zoo. Photo courtesy of Sedgwick County Zoo.



Wichita Art Museum Confetti Chandelier, Dale Chihuly. 2003. Blown Glass. 12 ft. 1 in. x 7 ft. 11 in. Wichita Art Museum, Museum purchase, F. Price Cossman Memorial Trust, Intrust Bank, Trustee



Jeannie's favorite: Okay for my favorite place, I'm going to say Sedgwick County Park. I love to go there for longboarding, walking, letting my son play, and spending time with friends.

For my favorite art piece, right now I am digging The Great Wave off Kanagawa by Katsushika Hokusai (really, along with Hokusai's other works). The Great Wave is an inspiration for what I aim to do with my own art and is a good starting point to make some interesting attempts with that art style. I have looked at other pieces in that style; I just find myself staring at that one, so I think it has earned current favorite.

Under the Wave off Kanagawa (Kanagawa oki nami ura), also known as The Great Wave, from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji (Fugaku sanjūrokkei). Katsushika Hokusai (Japanese, Tokyo (Edo) 1760-1849 Tokyo (Edo)). 1830-32. Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art.





Eric's favorite: It might not be exactly local, but my favorite local attraction is the the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve near Strong City. My family has a goal to hike every mile of trail at some point. Photo by Eric.

Nicole's Favorite: My favorite local attraction is the Wichita Symphony Orchestra because I was an orchestra performer and I'm raising another orchestra kid. Orchestras often get a "stuffy" label, but the WSO has always offered a wide range of concerts so everyone can find concerts that speak to them. Whether you try a WSO concert or check out one of the smaller venues at a jazz bar or musical comedy at Roxy's, I highly recommend checking out the live music options that are not just in Wichita, but all around Kansas.



Photo courtesy of Roxy's: Visit Wichita.



Photo courtesy WSO: Century II. Wichita Symphony.



Photo courtesy: Lake Afton Observatory.

Heather's Favorites: My favorite place is the Lake Afton Observatory because I love astronomy and it's a nice drive to get out of Wichita for a moment. Plus you can take photos with the main telescope and they have great exhibitions as well as a nice observation pad to bring my own telescope and binoculars for stargazing. For art, I'm torn between the Keeper of the Plains by Blackbear Bosin or Hush Before the Storm by Charles E. Burchfield at WAM. There is a lot of great art around Wichita. I highly recommend going out and exploring the local galleries as well as Mid American All Indian Center, Wichita Art Museum and the Ulrich Museum of Art. Never know when you'll find your next favorite artist or work.



Hush Before the Storm. Charles E. Burchfield. 1947. Watercolor on Paper. Wichita Art Museum, Roland P. Murdock Collection.



Keeper of the Plains. Blackbear Bosin. 1974. Steel.

Support Services

Onsite \$105,270
Online \$ 18,440

Grants

Grants-in-aid \$1,634,838
Other grants \$ 187,581

72 School
3 Special
14 Academic
55 Public



Member Libraries

In October 2023, 96% of member libraries surveyed agreed SCKLS fulfills its mission "To provide grants, consulting, continuing education and cost-effective support services."

Training/Continuing Education

35 CE programs
1,008 CE participants

SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM (SCKLS)



Welcome, Emily and David, the newest staff to SCKLS!

Emily Prosser will begin work as a SCKLS Technology Consultant on February 2. The technology consultant position provides general automation and technology support services to member libraries and staff along with assisting 58 member libraires with their WordPress websites. Prosser replaces Sharon Barnes who retired December 2024.

Prosser commented, "Working in libraries has always felt like meaningful work to me. During college, I worked as for the Eastern Oklahoma Library System (EOLS) and that experience has stayed with me ever since, it shaped how I think about community, access to information and the role technology plays in connecting people to the resources they need." Prosser has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK. Her previous work experience includes self-employment as an Independent Marketing, Visual Content and Photographer and as a Marketing Communications and College Relations Specialist for Pratt (KS) Community College.



David McClure Hired as New Associate Director

SCKLS welcomes David McClure as our new Associate Director beginning February 2. Since 2021, he has served as the Director of the Edmund Stanley Library and Associate Professor at Friends University, Wichita. McClure's credentials include a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska at

Kearney; a Juris Doctor (law) degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln; and a Master of Science in Information Studies from the University of Texas, Austin. Previously, McClure worked for twelve and a half years at the Wiener-Rogers Law Library at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he began as a Faculty Services Librarian and later served as the Associate Director and an Associate Professor. "As library director of a SCKLS member library, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of SCKLS. From grant funding to rotating collections to specialized trainings and beyond, SCKLS has stood alongside our library and the patrons we serve. As Associate Director of SCKLS, I will continuously seek to understand current trends in libraries, work with member libraries to help them find solutions to old and new challenges, and identify ways to support them. I will endeavor to create a supportive and collaborative environment for all who work at SCKLS and a welcoming environment for all who contact SCKLS for help and support."

During 2026, McClure will develop a working knowledge of the SCKLS annual audit, plan and budget processes, performance outcome measures and grants-in-aid program administration. Upon his successful completion of the 2026 work year and the Director's planned retirement as of January 31, 2027, the SCKLS Executive Committee plans to appoint him as Director.

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Mark your calendars for an author event with Mychal Threats. A partnership with Maya Angelou Northeast Branch Library Community Services Librarian, Parker Daniel for a night of conversation with Mychal's new book *I'm So Happy You're Here: A Celebration of Library Joy*.

Event will be at the Advanced Learning Library, 711 W. 2nd St. N, Wichita, KS on Tuesday, February 10th at 6pm.

For more information, please visit:

<https://watermarkbooks.com/event/2026-02-10/author-event-mychal-threats>

MULVANE PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Mulvane Public Library had a fantastic holiday season! Our annual Polar Express event brought in record numbers and saw new, exciting activities this year. The Mayor of Mulvane, Brent Allen, read for our storytime, and we had lots of furry friends from Love on a Leash to bring holiday cheer!

We had a blast ringing in the "Noon Year" with our families! Activities included a storytime, games, crafts, a photobooth, and a countdown with a balloon drop. We are so excited to see this event grow every year!



The Mulvane Public Library also received a Lenore Bishop Grant for \$750 to help purchase new Wonderbooks for the collection.

Photos provided by Stephanie Daniels, Assistant Director, Mulvane Public Library.



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Tanner Symposium

AT DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

1600 E. Walnut Grove | Derby, KS

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 | 1-4PM

Join us at Derby Public Library in a lively discussion about leadership and building community. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Guest speakers are: Ray Walling, State Librarian of Kansas, Joseph Shepard, Chief of Staff Lead for America and Teacher at Kansas Leadership Center and Kansas Leadership Center Graduate Panel



RAY WALLING OF
KANSAS STATE
LIBRARY, TOPEKA, KS



JOSEPH SHEPARD,
CHEIF OF STAFF LEAD
FOR AMERICA &
TEACHER AT KANSAS
LEADERSHIP CENTER



KANSAS
LEADERSHIP
CENTER®

WALA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mulvane Public Library

408 N. 2nd Ave. Mulvane, KS 67110

11:30AM-1PM

Connect, Vote & Eat Tacos! It's the WALA Annual Meeting! Mark your calendars!

All WALA members are invited to our Annual Meeting – a gathering dedicated to our community, our future, and delicious tacos!

Interested in getting more involved?

The WALA board will be having an election for the following board positions: Treasurer & 3 board positions.

What's Happening:

Taco 'Bout Fun: Enjoy networking and a fantastic Taco Bar! (\$10 for members; \$15 for non-members).

Help us plan – Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 13th to Hannah Adamson hannah@derbylibrary.com

Don't miss this chance to engage with your association and colleagues! Guest speaker will be announced soon! Stay tuned!



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Do you know a library staff member who would enjoy the social interaction and networking opportunities that WALA offers?

Do you have a coworker who could contribute to our local organization? Do you have an employee who has great ideas and loves to be involved with the community? If so, encourage them to become a member of the Wichita Area Library Association!

For \$15.00 a year, membership for WALA is a steal! All they need to do is fill out a membership application and mail it and a check for \$15.00 (made payable to WALA) to

Julie Mills, WALA Treasurer
Park City Public Library
2107 East 61st St N
Park City, KS 67219

Membership forms can be found on our website:
<https://walaks.org/membership/>



The Wichita Area Library Association (WALA) is an organization of library professionals established in 1982 in Wichita, Kansas.

WALA is dedicated to supporting libraries and library employees in the Wichita area and works to improve library services and access for library users in the Wichita community.

Submit materials for WALA News to: Heather Powell, librarian.hlpowell@gmail.com