



## WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION




### A message from our President: Hannah Adamson

Hello WALA Readers!

Happy Fall! This time of year often feels like a period of renewal and refocus with abundant continuing education and conference networking opportunities. I hope this message finds you well, energized, and ready for a busy season ahead!

Our annual Legislative Luncheon will take place once again at the Advanced Learning Library in downtown Wichita in mid-November. We invite all Wichita area librarians and staff to enjoy lunch and conversation with our local legislators, as well as a guest speaker. We also looking forward to our Holiday Party. That event is still TBA, so look for more information on our Facebook page or website soon.

WALA is always looking to grow its membership. We provide events throughout the year to encourage networking between area libraries, as well as social gatherings and family-friendly outings at local Wichita attractions. Please reach out to myself or any board member for more information.

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

## Board of Directors

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



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# WALA Annual Meeting

We had a fantastic WALA Annual Meeting and Election at the Mulvane Public Library! Attendees enjoyed delicious catering from Empire Tacos and a fascinating presentation by Sam Carter of the Sedgwick County Historical Museum. Sam discussed the museum's work and the latest publication, *A Spell Created: A Sesquicentennial History of Wichita and Sedgwick County 1870-2020* as well as new exhibits at the museum.

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Photos: 1st row, left to right: WALA Past President Melissa Emo shares WALA's events and activities from her 2024-2025 presidency at the Annual Meeting & Luncheon. Sam Carter, lead educator at Sedgwick County Historical Museum, gave a wonderful presentation on the interesting exhibits at the museum, as well as shared collaboration opportunities for libraries. WALA members enthralled with Sam's fascinating presentation. 2nd row, left to right: WALA members mingling and Empire Taco catering. 3<sup>rd</sup> row, left to right: More mingling WALA members and photo of *A Spell Created* book.



## September Meet & Greet

The September Meet Up that took place at Central Standard Brewing Company on Wednesday, September 17th. We had about 18 WALA members and two WALA dogs present was great. Pictured to the left is First Dog of WALA, King Kyle Boofs, resting on the cool floor of Central Standard Brewing during WALA's September Meet Up.



# LIBRARIES

- EVERLASTING -

2025 KLA CONFERENCE  
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF **FREEDOM**



KANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
CONFERENCE 2025

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2025

MANHATTAN CONVENTION CENTER

510 S 3rd St, Manhattan, KS 66502

SEE YOU  
THERE!



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025  
11:30AM-1PM

**ADVANCED LEARNING LIBRARY**  
711 WEST 2<sup>ND</sup> ST. N.  
WICHITA, KS 67203

JOIN US FOR A LUNCH AND LEARN WITH OUR STATE LEGISLATORS AND LIBRARY PERSONEL. GUEST SPEAKER, BEKAH SELBY-LEACH, DIRECTOR OF WICHITA STATE'S CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS RESEARCH. FOOD WILL BE CATERED BY BLUE MOON CATERING.

RSVP TO HANNAH ADAMSON AT [HANNAHA@DERBYLIBRARY.COM](mailto:HANNAHA@DERBYLIBRARY.COM) TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# Library News

## SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM (SCKLS)



**Welcome, Jennifer and Krista, the newest staff to SCKLS!**

**Jennifer Jones** is the Youth and School Services Consultant for the South Central Kansas Library System. With over 15 years of experience as an elementary school librarian, she brings a deep passion for early literacy and a strong commitment to supporting youth and school libraries across the region. Jennifer coordinates the Summer Reading Program and provides guidance in areas like story-time planning, children's and young adult materials evaluation, collection development grants, and school interlibrary loan support. She's dedicated to helping libraries grow strong connections with their young readers and local schools through engaging programs, thoughtful resources, and trainings

**Krista Everhart** is a Technology Consultant with SCKLS, combining a unique background in English Education, Computer Science, and Library Science. With several years of teaching experience, she's passionate about supporting libraries by providing practical, approachable solutions to everyday tech challenges. Krista assists with a wide range of technology needs, including troubleshooting, networking, and video conferencing support. She enjoys working directly with library staff to build confidence with technology and create smoother, more efficient systems. Outside of her consulting work, Krista is an avid learner who enjoys reading, crafting, and traveling to new places.



## DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Derby's Rhythm and Read Park which officially opened on September 4th. The park, funded in large part by a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, features covered seating, an event lawn, interactive musical instruments, and a splash pad. Park visitors can also view the impressive mural designed and painted by local Wichita artists, Mark & Mary Ward.

## MULVANE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Congratulations to Mulvane Public Library on working on updating our archives and microfilm, as well as digitizing the archives. They received a grant from the Mulvane Historical Society in the amount of \$5,640, which will fully cover the cost of this project. They were also voted "Best in Youth Services," awarded by the Mulvane Chamber of Commerce! The Chamber held a "Best of the Best" contest, where residents voted for the "best" organizations within a certain category. Mulvane Public Library was voted the best in youth services, which they were very proud of, as the schools and the local recreation center were also in their category.

M Photos (top left) MPL Director Shanna Ritterhouse-Smith accepting the "Best of the Best" award from the Chamber of Commerce. Top right, Youth Services Librarian, Victoria Fleming. Bottom left & right: MPL Banned Book Display.

## ANDOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY



### Andover Public Library to Host 1776 Exhibition

Andover Public Library was selected to host "Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy", a special traveling exhibition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

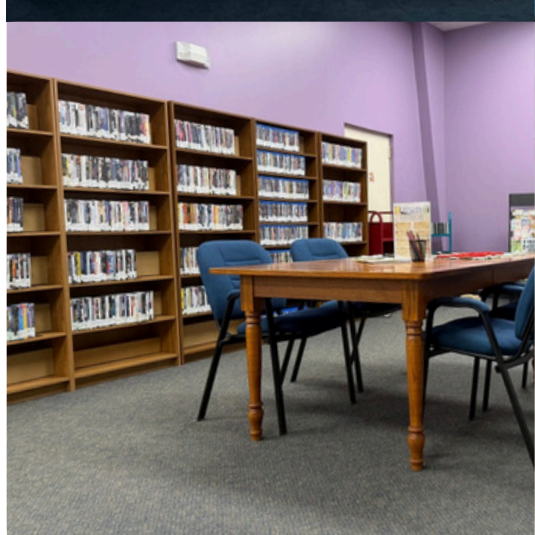
The exhibition will be on display at the Library from April 18 to May 17.

### About the Exhibition

When the Declaration of Independence was issued, the idea that "all men are created equal" was revolutionary. With this seminal document, the Founding Fathers unleashed an open-ended driving force that would shape modern history. Around the world, other countries have declared independence taking the US Declaration of 1776 as a model. This exhibition uses primary sources to illustrate how Americans and people across the world have been inspired by the Declaration in their pursuit of equality and self-determination. A special exhibit panel on "Kansas" in 1776 is also included.



*New Shelving October 2025 at Park City Public Library*



# What's the board READING?



Jeannie is reading *The Wheel of Time Book 3: The Dragon Reborn*, *Papyrus: The Invention of Books in the Ancient World*, and *The Book-Makers: A History of the Book in Eighteen Lives*.



Hannah is reading *Secret of Secrets*, *Nowhere Girl: Life as a Member of ADHD's Lost Generation* and *The Librarians*



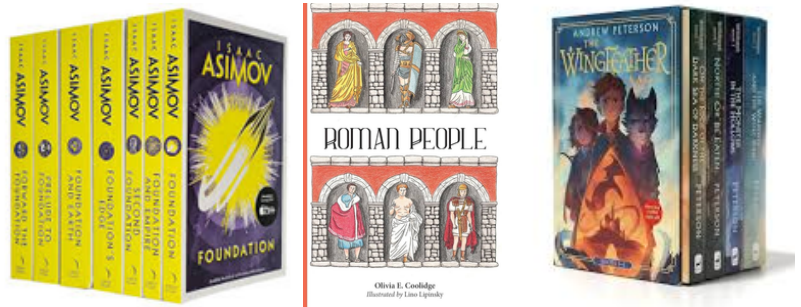
Heather is reading *The Replaceable You*, *Hell House*, and *The Hounding*.



Nicole is reading *The Impossible Fortune: Book 5 of the Thursday Murder Club*, *The Enchanted Greenhouse: Book 2 of the Spellshop series*, *The Roller Coaster at the End of the World: Book 2 of the Ellie's Park series*



Julie is reading *Witchcraft for Wayward Girls* by Grady Hendrix



Samuel is reading Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* series, Olivia Coolidge's *Roman People*, and the last book of the *Wingfeather Saga* by Andrew Peterson



Save the date for



# WALA HOLIDAY PARTY

You're invited!



MONDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> AT  
WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY-  
WESTLINK BRANCH

Stay tuned for details!





Network Services  
Coordinator  
ext. 153  
nichole@sckls.info

Nichole Kostner



Technology  
Consultant  
ext. 128  
krista@sckls.info

Krista Everhart



Director  
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Paul Hawkins



Training Specialist  
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Katherine Hughes



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Consultant  
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Robyn Bravi



Youth & School  
Services Consultant  
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Jennifer Jones



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Julie Rogers



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Lisa Sharbaugh



Library Support  
Specialist  
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Katherine Williams

Providing grants, continuing  
education and support services  
to 145 member libraries.

## South Central Kansas Library System

321 North Main Street, South Hutchinson, KS 67505  
620-663-3211 Toll Free: 800-234-0529 Fax: 620-663-9797  
sckls.info



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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](mailto:librarian.hlpowell@gmail.com)**