FACT SHEET

Contact: Public Information Office
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Public Library Association

The Public Library Association (PLA), with more than 9,000 members, is a division of the American Library Association (ALA), the oldest and largest library association in the world. Founded in 1944 and based at ALA Headquarters in Chicago, PLA is governed by a Board of Directors and its core purpose is to strengthen public libraries and the contributions they make to the communities they serve. PLA core values are:

- To provide visionary leadership, ever-open to new ideas;
- To remain dedicated to lifelong learning;
- To be focused on and responsive to member needs;
- To be committed to a free and open exchange of information and active collaboration;
- To respect diversity of opinion and community needs; and
- To be committed to excellence and innovation.

**Strategic Direction:** For the next three to five years, PLA is committed to fostering: advocacy and awareness, leadership and transformation, a literate nation, and organizational excellence.

**Organization and Member Benefits**
PLA is a member-focused organization that exists to provide a diverse program of communication, publications, advocacy, continuing education, and programming for its members and others interested in the advancement of public library service.

PLA members receive the bimonthly periodical publication *Public Libraries*, the electronic newsletter E-News @ PLA, and preferred rates on PLA continuing education events.

**Continuing Education**
PLA offers a rich array of both in-person and online professional development opportunities.

- **In-Person Education** ([www.alapl.org/education](http://www.alapl.org/education)):
  - PLA Conference, offered biennially ([www.placonference.org](http://www.placonference.org))
  - Regional Management Workshops ([www.alapl.org/education/cpla](http://www.alapl.org/education/cpla))
  - PLA Programs at ALA Annual Conferences ([www.alapl.org/education/alaannual](http://www.alapl.org/education/alaannual))
  - PLA Institutes at ALA Midwinter Meeting
• Online Education (www.ala.org/pla/onlinelearning)
  o Public Libraries at Work Webinar Series, offered monthly (www.ala.org/pla/onlinelearning/webinars)
  o Turning the Page 2.0, advocacy training (www.ala.org/pla/education/turningthepage)
  o Virtual Spring Symposium (www.ala.org/pla/education/springsymposium)
  o PLA Virtual Conference (www.placonference.org/virtualconference)
  o Online Workbooks (www.ala.org/pla/onlinelearning/workbooks)

PLA Online Resources
• www.pla.org
• www.plablog.org
• www.publiclibrariesonline.org (Online companion to Public Libraries Magazine)
• www.facebook.com/pla.org
• www.twitter.com/ALA_PLA

PLA Print Publications
• Public Libraries Magazine (bimonthly, official journal of PLA)
  Books and Monographs, (www.ala.org/pla/publications) including Public Library Data Service Statistical Report (PLA, published annually 1988-present) and the Every Child Ready to Read @ your library 2nd Edition Kit

Professional Recognition Awards and Grants
• PLA offers annual awards and grants for public library professionals (www.ala.org/pla/awards)

PLA Partner Program
The PLA Partner Program offers vendors and others to support PLA and public libraries through direct or indirect contributions to PLA. (www.ala.org/pla/about/partners)

For more information, contact the PLA office at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5PLA; e-mail: pla@ala.org or visit www.pla.org.

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