The position of President-Elect requires the elected person to serve one year as President-Elect (2017), one year as President (2018), and one year as Past President (2019). Per the MLA bylaws and handbook, the elected person shall attend all Executive Board meetings, serve in lieu of the President when s/he is unavailable, serve on the Conference Site Selection Committee, and attend at least one meeting of each Standing Committee to better understand the association’s infrastructure and business. Additional roles and responsibilities are specified in the MLA bylaws and handbook.

Cathy Condon-Boettcher

Biography:

Kathy Condon-Boettcher is the Director of the Festus Public Library, a position she has held since November 2012. Prior to that she worked as an Assistant Branch Manager with the St. Louis County Library. Her love of libraries can be traced back to her first after-school job at the Brentwood Public Library in St. Louis, which turned into a full-time position following her graduation from Webster University. She earned her Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2004.

Kathy has been a member of MLA for many years. In 2011 she was appointed to the Awards Committee, serving as chair of that committee in 2013. She is currently a member of the Membership Committee. Outside of work, Kathy still can’t help promoting library stuff! In 2008, she travelled to Guatemala with a colleague to help start a library at a rural school. Children frighten her but she really loves reading picture books. She found a way to share her favorite books without being in the same room with a child by reviewing books each week on a community radio station in St. Louis. She’s done this for nearly eight years, discussing almost 400 children’s books.

Statement:

I think my experience with the Missouri Library Association is typical of a lot of members: I initially joined in order to attend conference. I became curious about the Missouri Library Association beyond conference and am lucky to have been nudged into serving on committees by my colleagues. State organizations like ours are vital to the professional community: on the individual level they allow colleagues to stay connected and on a larger platform they serve as a voice in support of libraries and librarians. The value of organizations such as MLA is evident in the commitment of its members, and we are lucky to have such inspiring volunteers in our ranks. I am honored to be asked to run for President-Elect and hope to share my enthusiasm and knowledge with our current members and encourage new people to join.

While my work experience has been in public libraries, I’ve visited and used all kinds of libraries for research and enjoyment. I feel that libraries are such unique institutions in any community: everyone is welcomed and encouraged to visit. There is an enormous amount of goodwill for what we do and I think that library associations across the country need to use that to our advantage. As President-Elect, I hope to spread the word about the importance of libraries in our changing world. As librarians, we should all gather together to raise our voices, even if that goes against our own rules, to ensure that we will continue to receive funding so that we may serve our communities. It would be my honor to be a loud voice in support of Missouri libraries.
Debbie Luchenbill

Biography:
Debbie Luchenbill has been the Missouri Evergreen Coordinator at MOBIUS for the last four years, where she has helped administer and expand the Missouri Evergreen resource-sharing consortium through recruitment, training, implementation, help desk and more. She loves traveling to and working with the staff at libraries all over the state. Prior to working at MOBIUS, Debbie spent five years at The State Historical Society of Missouri, where she was State Coordinator for National History Day in Missouri, a year-long academic program for sixth- to 12th-graders. As State Coordinator, Debbie organized and resourced the Missouri program at all levels, including working with nine regional coordinators, planning and recruiting volunteers for the state contest in Columbia, organizing Missouri’s delegation to the national contest, and serving as liaison with the national office. Through her leadership, the program grew every year, gained financial supporters, and came together as a statewide program. She has also worked in public and academic libraries, and in graduate school admissions and administration before becoming a librarian.

Debbie has been an MLA member since 2005 and has been active in a variety of ways, serving as the Archivist from 2009-2012; as a member of the Membership Committee from 2009-2013; in the leadership of the Genealogy and Local History SIG from 2008-2011; and currently as a member of the MO Author Award Subcommittee. She has been an ALA member since 2005, belongs to ASCLA and RUSA, and has been active in RUSA CODES, serving in the past on the Readers’ Advisory Committee (2010-2012), the Sophie Brody Award Committee (2011-2013), and as co-chair of the Readers Advisory Research and Trends Forum Committee (2012-2014). She served on the YALSA Outreach to Teens with Special Needs Committee from 2007-2009. Debbie is also a member of Beta Phi Mu and is currently president of the newly revitalized Psi Chapter.

Originally from Florissant, Debbie holds a Master of Library Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia, a Master of Theological Studies in Biblical and Historical Studies from Boston University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Arizona. She lives in Columbia with her husband and two cats and enjoys going to the movies, genre fiction, film scores, and visiting Columbia’s many delicious restaurants.

Statement:
I am honored and excited to run for Missouri Library Association President-Elect. Over the last 11 years, I have participated in MLA in many capacities and I am pleased to offer my leadership skills in a new way to give back to the organization that has been so important in my professional development. I am eager to continue working with the great infrastructure that current and past members and leaders of MLA have built: from its founding in 1900 and subsequent growth and evolution, through the more recent time of organizational transition, and into the vibrant, resilient, member-driven association it is today.

Having worked in all kinds of professional settings as a librarian — especially in the more non-traditional situations of a special library and a consortium office — I bring a unique perspective to the position of President-Elect. In my travels and work with library staff, teachers, teen scholars and others all over the state, I have seen and heard about the joys, needs, challenges and commonalities we all encounter. I offer that knowledge and insight to the work of MLA. Bringing people together and encouraging them to use their skills and ideas to work toward a common vision is one of my passions and leadership strengths. Together, we can continue to advocate for our libraries and our communities, making our state, our profession and our association even better.
April Roy

Biography:
April Roy is the Manager of the L.H. Bluford Library, a thriving library in the heart of Kansas City’s Urban Core. Prior to her work at the Bluford Library she was the Youth Services Manager at the Plaza Branch of the Kansas City Public Library system. She got her start in public library service working for the Mid-Continent Public Library system. April is proud to hold her Master of Library Science from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Missouri State University — Go Bears!

April has been actively involved with MLA for over 10 years. She has served as the chair of the Awards Committee and the Public Library Division, has worked with the Building Block Book Award, and has served on the MLA Board as a Member-At-Large. She has also had a role in MLA Conference planning and volunteering. April is also very active with the American Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children. April was sponsored by MLA for the 2007 inaugural class of ALA Emerging Leaders. She currently serves on the jury for the Coretta Scott King Book Award Committee and served on the 2012 Caldecott Committee. She also serves as a member of the Board for the Missouri Center for the Book. She recently was awarded the national I Love My Librarian Award.

When April is not busy being a librarian, she enjoys reading picture books, playing with her daughter and taking road trips.

Statement:
As the president of MLA I would work tirelessly to spread the message that libraries are the center of the community. I would also work to provide training, networking opportunities and access to information that would help all types of libraries learn how to better serve their communities. I believe that by working together we can learn to serve our communities with outside-the-box programs and services. I would also aspire to get all of our membership and leaders to work together to communicate the same message about the value of libraries, librarians and library staff. It would be an honor to serve the Missouri Library Association and to make a difference in our state. Thank you.
Anna Francesca Garcia

Biography:

Even though Anna Francesca Garcia grew up with her nose in a book, she did not think she would be a librarian. She was going to be an actress! Directors must have known something she didn't because her greatest parts were straight out of the pages of literature, with Anne Shirley from Anne of Green Gables being her pinnacle role.

Anna Francesca has worked in public libraries in programming and reader's advisory roles since 2004, earning her Master of Library and Information Science with a Graduate Academic Certificate in Storytelling from the University of North Texas in 2008. At the time, she was living and working in Nevada with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. However, Anna Francesca calls herself a boomerang because she was born in Kansas City, Mo., lived in Las Vegas for eight years, and has now been back for seven. From fall 2009 until 2011, Anna Francesca worked at Mid-Continent Public Library's Liberty and Colbern Road branches. Since then, she has served as Education Librarian at the Kansas City Public Library.

In terms of MLA, Anna Francesca has attended conferences since 2011, presented break-out sessions at two, presented a poster-session at one, and moderated a break-out session at the KLA/MLA joint conference last year. She has also served on the Building Block Picture Book Award Committee three times and was the first hall-of-famer for Battledecks. Nationally, Anna Francesca is a member of ALA, ALSC and YALSA. She is also on the social media task-force for the Ethnic and Multicultural Exchange Roundtable.

Statement:

Why should I represent you as a Member-at-Large on the MLA Board?

I am well equipped to represent our entire membership because, despite my 12 years of experience, I know when to defer to my colleagues. I have worked in urban and suburban public libraries with a variety of needs, but I know that patrons at rural, academic or business libraries will have different needs. My goal is to listen.

People in Missouri are all over the state, but technology has in many ways overcome barriers of geological distance. I have a vibrant e-life. Please feel free to find me on Twitter @AnnaFrancesca18 or at www.facebook.com/anna.f.garcia.5. You can also contact me at anna.francesca.garcia@gmail.com.

Thank you again for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you want any clarification from me before voting.
The 2016 slate of candidates for Members-at-Large include eight public and academic librarians whose past professional histories all demonstrate their ability to forge connections and understand the needs of the entire membership. In each election, MLA members are asked to select three of these candidates to represent the entire Missouri Library Association membership for two years terms as Members-at-Large (2017-2018). Their responsibilities include discovering members’ concerns, representing the entire membership, potentially serving as members of the Conference Site Selection Committee, and possibly serving as Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, or Membership Chair. Additional roles and responsibilities are specified in the MLA bylaws and handbook.

Jenny Bossaller

Biography:
Jenny Bossaller is an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri’s School of Information Science & Learning Technologies. She earned her Master of Library Science in 2005 from the University of Missouri and worked at MOBIUS from 2005 – 2008. She earned a doctorate in Information Science and Learning Technologies from MU in 2010. She taught at the University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Library and Information Science for two years before returning to Missouri in 2012. She is active in national and international conferences and committees such as the ALA, the Association for Library and Information Science Education, ALISE, and the Association for Information Science & Technology, ASIS&T. She is currently a member-at-large of ALA’s Library History Round Table and chair of the Justin Winsor Library History Essay Award Committee. She has served on the editorial board of RUSQ for the past four years. She chaired the poster session for MLA in 2014, and is co-chairing the ALISE Doctoral Student Poster session in 2017. Her teaching focuses on information access, public libraries, and intellectual freedom.

Statement:
I am honored to run for Member-at-Large of the Missouri Library Association. I believe that libraries are one of the most interesting and vital community resources wherever we live today – cities, suburbs or small towns. As our information landscape changes, we are presented with so many opportunities to grow and expand. I believe that the MLA is an association that can create a base for knowledge and inspiration, a sense of community, and a resource for mentorship for new graduates as well as seasoned professionals in our changing environment. I am a professor in the information science program at MU, and I want to help our library science students and new graduates learn about the importance of being a part of professional associations. Local and state organizations are the basis for this goal. As a Member-at-Large, I hope to work with and learn from some of the best and brightest librarians in the state. I want to do this to bring ideas back to the classroom at MU, and also promote MLA and professional networking among our students. It would be an honor and a privilege to work with MLA.
Emily Jaycox

Biography:

Emily Jaycox is the head librarian at the Missouri Historical Society (also known as the Missouri History Museum), where she joined the staff in 1989. Prior to that she worked at Lake Forest College (Illinois) Library and at the Newberry Library in Chicago. After starting out in special collections and reference service, her time now is spent increasingly on partnerships, donor relations, digitization and outreach. She is one of the founding organizers of the St. Louis Research Libraries Consortium (now known as the EXPLORE cluster of MOBIUS), as well as the Missouri Hub of DPLA. Her board experience outside of the library realm started as treasurer of a 500-member college student dining cooperative; at her church she has served on the finance committee and ministerial search committee, as well as in the roles of board president, board secretary, and canvass chair.

Emily’s Master of Library Science is from the University of Chicago, which means she is eligible to attend the “defunct library schools reunion” at ALA. She and her husband use their quest to find good hiking and good coffee to avoid fixing up their old house.

Statement:

I am chagrined to report that I worked as a librarian in Missouri for many years without joining MLA. When I did join, I was instantly struck by the quality and timeliness of the communications that go out to members, as well as the excellence of the annual conference. MLA is big enough to get things done but small enough to be personal. My work with prior boards, partnerships and resource sharing in Missouri libraries, as well as my interest in Missouri’s local history, all make me eager to work more closely with other Missouri librarians and to serve the Missouri Library Association.

Emily Jaycox
Michelle Mears

**Biography:**

Michelle Mears has been Director of the Rolling Hills Consolidated Library since January 2014. Prior to this, she served as a public library director in both Oklahoma and Kansas for over 10 years. She has a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois and a doctorate in education and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Michelle has worked in both academic and public libraries since 1997. Michelle was raised in the Chicago area, and has lived and worked in southern Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma and now Missouri. She is active in the library profession as a member of the American Library Association and the Missouri Library Association, and served as Kansas Library Association President in 2006-07. She is currently vice president of the Missouri Public Library Directors organization.

**Statement:**

Although I am new to the Missouri library community, I feel very welcome and at home here. My library experience across multiple states and in positions of organizational leadership allows me to have a unique view of association management and growth. It is clear that all libraries benefit from a strong and effective professional organization, especially now when vigilant advocacy is needed statewide to ensure ongoing support and funding. I would like to work with MLA leadership to see how we can expand membership and continuing education opportunities across the state.

Peggy Northcraft

**Biography:**

Peggy Northcraft is the Director of the Marion County Library Sub-district #1 in Palmyra, Mo. She received a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Rosary College (now Dominican University) in 1968. Her career has been eclectic: Children’s Librarian (most recently at the Hannibal Free Public Library); academic librarian; bookmobile service director; plus a 12-year stint as Domestic Goddess!

Peggy has served as chair of YASIG and CSRT. She delights in her role as mom to three daughters; Nana to three grandsons and two granddaughters; and recently became a great-grandmother! She lives in Palmyra, Mo., with more books than shelves to hold them and a collection of family memorabilia.

**Statement:**

I think that libraries are so vital to our society that it is imperative we support those who serve in our libraries. As a Member-at-Large I will be a willing ear and a tireless voice for the membership of MLA.
Tom Peters

Biography:
Since 2012 Tom Peters has served as Dean of Library Services at Missouri State University. Prior to that, Tom was Assistant Dean for Strategic Technology Initiatives at Milner Library at Illinois State University. Back in 2003 Tom founded TAP Information Services, a company that helped organizations innovate. In this capacity Tom worked with a wide variety of library-related organizations: public libraries, state libraries, the Library of Congress, libraries for the blind and physically handicapped, consortia, ALA, vendors, etc.

Tom did his undergraduate work at Grinnell College in Iowa, where he majored in English and philosophy. He earned his library science degree at the University of Iowa. His second master’s degree (in English) was completed at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. His library experience includes reference service, library instruction, collection management, information technology, consortial endeavors, and administration. His current research and publication efforts focus on the history and culture of the Ozarks. His biography of John T. Woodruff will be published in July 2016, and he is working on a book about the Ozark Jubilee.

Statement:
It is an honor to stand for election as a Member-at-Large on the MLA Board. I have been a librarian for 29 years, serving all types of libraries and library-related organizations. While I have worked with and represented many different groups, one of my proudest professional service opportunities was launching and running Unabridged, an innovative multi-state downloadable digital audiobook service for blind and low-vision library users, that met their needs before NLS, the National Library Service, launched its downloadable service. If elected, I will strive to advance MLA as a service organization providing excellent professional development opportunities for all Missouri librarians, as we all work together and collaborate with other organizations to provide quality collections, services and spaces for all library users.
Cindy Thompson

Biography:
Cindy Thompson is the Director of Public Services at the University of Missouri-Kansas City’s Miller Nichols Library. She began at UMKC in 2006 as the Interlibrary Loan Librarian, and took on more responsibilities until she attained her current position in 2011. As Director of Public Services, Cindy oversees the interlibrary loan, circulation, reference, and instruction operations for the main campus of UMKC, and participates in strategic and building planning and visioning for the libraries, embracing change and supporting staff through change management processes. Cindy received her doctorate in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Foundations, and Public Affairs and Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2014, her Master of Arts in Information Science and Learning Technology with an emphasis in Library Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2006, and her Bachelor of Arts in Oxbridge History of William Jewell College in 2004. She has served in a variety of service roles throughout her career, including her current position with the leadership of the Professionalism, Education, Employment, and Recruitment, PEER, Community of Interest, an active role on the Web subcommittee of the Media and Publications Committee, and past leadership experience with the Circulation and ILL Special Interest Group as it evolved into the Access Services Community of Interest. She has also served on and chaired a number of library and campus committees at UMKC including her current role as chair of the University Writing and Reading Board. Cindy lives in Kansas City’s northland with her dashing husband, adorable children and giant dog.

Statement:
I was honored to be asked to run for member-at-large of the MLA board. I have been a member of the Missouri Library Association throughout my career, and am thrilled to see it so active in such a positive direction. Over the last decade, the organization has evolved into one that I believe provides something significant to offer for all members, at all types of libraries and all points in their careers, and believe strongly in continuing to move in our current direction. Rethinking everything – but not necessarily changing everything – has been the organization’s hallmark of late, and I am excited to be a part of that. Only by continuing to evolve along with librarianship can MLA continue on this path of growth, service, and excellence.
Jeff Trinkle

Biography:

Jeff Trinkle, Director of the Riverside Regional Library. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Library Science at Indiana University – Bloomington, and worked at various public libraries in Indiana for more than 17 years before venturing west to Missouri. While working in Indiana, he was a member of the Indiana Library Federation for over 16 years. More locally, he served two consecutive terms on the Wabash Valley Community Foundation Grant Review Committee as well as two terms as the board president of the Wabash Valley 911 Call Center. He became Library Director of the Riverside Regional Library in March 2013.

As a Library Director I find it critical to be an excellent steward of the resources entrusted to the library and a commitment to deliver high value for every dollar invested. I also believe it is up to the Director to maintain a vision that attempts to keep the library relevant to new generations of users and strive to implement change that encourages the library to become a transformative force that has a positive impact on the quality of people’s lives.

Statement:

I am honored to run for the office of MLA Member-at-Large. If given this opportunity, I hope to act as a voice for public libraries and take every opportunity to help MLA improve its communication with both members and the library community as a whole. The profession of librarianship has seen many changes over the years and libraries of all kinds have always walked a thin line when trying to appeal to all their customers’ needs, and feel this to be even more prevalent today. We have some who are clamoring for more mobile apps; while others are still grumbling over the removal of the card catalog. It is hard, if not impossible, to know the solution to all the challenges we face, and this is where I see MLA playing a key role. I know the importance of having a local association such as MLA available to help promote communication and cooperation among all libraries and organizations as they endeavor to embrace change and align themselves to thrive on diversity, to encourage professional growth and opportunity, and to reward flexibility and innovation. I would like to serve the MLA membership as a Member-at-Large, to help support cooperation, strengthening and planning for the future of Missouri libraries.