MPLA and WLA will hold joint conference in September

The Mountain Plains Library Association and the Wyoming Library Association are planning a joint fall meeting. The conference will be held at Little America Hotel & Resort in Cheyenne, Wyoming from September 23-25, 2015.

The opening reception will be held at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum on the grounds of Frontier Park. Complimentary transportation on the Cheyenne Street Railway trolleys will be provided between Little America and the museum.

There will be three pre-conference sessions on Wednesday and a variety of programs on Thursday and Friday.

Other events include the Legislative Luncheon, Awards Banquet, and Children’s Author Luncheon. Several breaks with exhibitors are planned, along with times for business, committee, and interest group meetings, and an Unconference on Thursday afternoon.

Keynote Speaker Scott Ginsberg

In the beginning, wearing a nametag 24 hours a day was just a gimmick to make friends. But soon, his crazy idea didn’t seem so crazy.

Scott’s social experiment has now evolved into an urban legend, world record, cultural phenomenon, and a profitable enterprise. His work has been benchmarked as a case study on human interaction, revolutionizing the way people look at approachability, identity and commitment.

He is the author of more than 30 books, including *The Power of Approachability, Make a Name for Yourself*, and *Zen and the Art of Wearing Nametags*.

He lives in Brooklyn, where he often talks to strangers.
Children’s Author Luncheon Features Jack Gantos

Jack Gantos writes books for readers of all ages, including *Dead End in Norvelt*, the 2012 Newbery Award Winner and the Scott O’Dell Award Winner for Best Historic Fiction.

As a child, Jack was in the Bluebird reading group, which he later found out was for the slow readers. To this day he’d rather be called a Bluebird.

While in college, he and an illustrator friend, Nicole Rubel, began working on picture books. After a series of well-deserved rejections, they published their first book, *Rotten Ralph*, in 1976. It was a success and the beginning of Jack’s career as a professional writer. This surprised a great many people who thought he was going to specialize in rehabilitating old bookmobiles into housing for retired librarians.

In addition to writing, Jack has taught courses in children’s book writing and children’s literature, and developed master’s degree programs related to children’s books at Emerson College and Vermont College. He now devotes his time to writing books and educational speaking.

Marian Orr Will Speak at Legislative Luncheon

Marian Orr is the lobbyist for the Wyoming Library Association. She has more than 20 years experience in government policy, public policy strategy, and campaign management.

She is the owner of Plan A and has previously worked for the Wyoming Society of CPAs and for Wyoming Congressman Craig Thomas in his Casper and Washington, D.C. offices.

She has a degree in mass communication/media studies from the University of Wyoming.

Program details can be found at the Wyoming Library Association website.
MEAL EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 24
Legislative Luncheon
$17.50, 12:05-1:20 p.m.
Choice of entrée: Chicken Caesar Salad or Turkey Focaccia
Lemon Cake
Includes tea, coffee, assorted dressings and rolls with butter

Awards Banquet
$34.00, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Choice of entrée: London Broil or Salmon Filet
Strawberry Blue Cheese Salad
Rosemary Roasted Red Potatoes
Chocolate Truffle Cake
Includes tea, coffee, tossed salad, vegetables, rolls, and dessert
Cash bar available 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 25
Children’s Author Luncheon
$22.00, 12:15-1:45 p.m.
Choice of entrée: Grilled Vegetable Lasagna or Chicken Parmesan with Pasta
Romaine Salad
Cheesecake with Fruit Topping
Includes tea, coffee, tossed salad, vegetables, rolls, and dessert

Please include any dietary restrictions on your registration form.