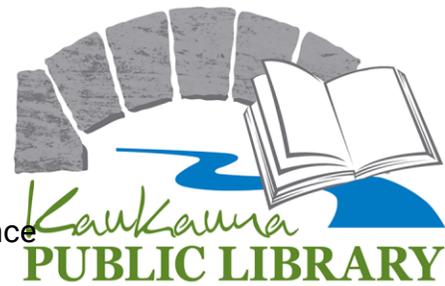


To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustee
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Manning
Date: 3/18/2026
Re: Upcoming Public Library Association (PLA) Conference



The PLA Conference happens every two years. This year the conference will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Youth Services Librarian, Assistant Director, and I will be in attendance. The conference takes place April 1-3.

In my professional opinion, PLA is the best conference for public librarians to attend because it is specifically for public librarians. Other national conferences like ALA, are intended to have tracks for all fields of librarianship including school, public, academic, medical, law, and special libraries.

Due to being solely for public librarians, PLA goes more in depth because all the tracks presented target all areas of the public library including advocacy, fundraising, communications, collection, technical services, community engagement, partnerships, intellectual freedom, leadership, serving adults, serving teens, serving youth, space, places, and security, staff management, recruitment, and retention and technology.

Further, this is a national conference, which means some of the largest libraries in the nation present. This is important because library trends and practices are different geographically, and this gives us direct contact with these institutions. While our state conference is a great way to learn about state-wide practices and trends, it is nothing like attending a national conference.

