

# USLA

# Newsletter

November 2024

## Register and Join Us

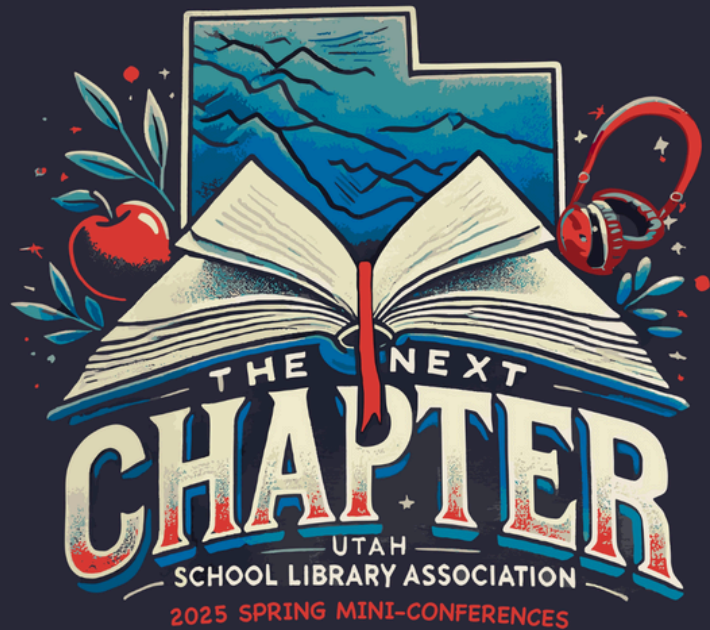
### THE UTAH SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S 2025 SPRING MINI-CONFERENCES

We are excited to invite you to join us for the [2025 USLA Mini-Conferences](#). We will be hosting two mini-conferences on separate days: one in Sandy and one in St. George. Both will have similar programs but with slight variations.

The morning sessions will include author panels and breakout sessions. The afternoon sessions will include lunch and targeted professional learning about AI and its impact on school libraries, tools, uses, and literacies.

### REGISTRATION

"The more we get together, the happier we will be!"



#### Northern Utah

February 28, 2025  
Union Middle School  
615 E. 8000 S., Sandy

Morning Session:  
8 am - 12 pm \$50  
Snack Included

AI for School Librarians  
Afternoon Session:  
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm \$50  
Lunch Included

All or Half Day



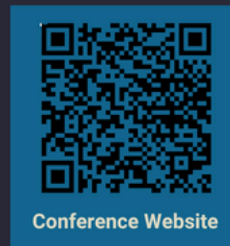
#### Southern Utah

April 4, 2025  
Coral Cliffs Training Center  
2060 N. 2100 W., St. George

Morning Session:  
8 am - 12 pm \$50  
Snack Included

AI for School Librarians  
Afternoon Session:  
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm \$50  
Lunch Included

All or Half Day



Conference Website



## 2025 SPRING MINI-CONFERENCES: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

USLA invites school librarians, educators, and professionals to submit proposals for our 2025 Spring Mini-Conferences under the theme, "The Next Chapter." Each mini-conference will explore the evolving roles of school librarians, librarianship, and technology in shaping the future of education, reading engagement, and information, news, and media literacy instruction.

We encourage presentations that examine innovations, challenges, and emerging opportunities in our profession, with a focus on envisioning *what's next*. [Sample topics can be found on the mini-conferences website](#). We welcome original presentations, poster session submissions, and proposals for old favorites. [Submit here](#).

Submission deadline by November 30, 2024; notification of acceptance by December 31, 2024.



## Nominate a USLA Award Winner!

Nominate a colleague for their dedication, service, innovation, and support of student patrons, school libraries, or school librarianship. You may nominate yourself. [Submit nominations here.](#)

### Categories:

- Teacher Librarian of the Year (Certified)
- Library Paraprofessional of the Year (Non-Certified, Classified):
- Administrator of the Year (Principal or District Level Supervisor)
- Legislative or Community Partner of the Year (Elected Official or Community Leader)

Winners will be announced at both mini-conferences and honored at their respective USLA Mini-Conference in February or April.

## Volunteer at a Mini-Conference

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Setup Support:** Support partners and committee members during pre-conference setup Friday morning @ 7:00 a.m.
- **Registration & Information Table:** Assist with initial sign-in and conference questions.
- **Presenter Facilitator:** Introduce and support presenters. Check-in attendees.
- **Partner Support:** Support our participating partners throughout the event.
- **Direction Support:** Answer questions between sessions and help participants get to sessions.
- **Snack and Lunch Support:** Assist with food and beverage set-up, distribution, and clean-up.

Learn more about the perks of being a volunteer at the spring mini-conferences website. [Sign up here.](#)

## Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Promoting Critical Literacy and  
Critical Thinking in a Convoluted World!

February 8, 2025, 8-3 pm  
Virtual, Boise State University  
[Flyer](#)

## Join the USLA Board!

Read the descriptions of Open Board and New Committee Chair Positions:

- If celebrating is your superpower, [Awards & Recognition Chair](#)
- If social media is your superpower, [Communications Chair](#)
- If creativity is your superpower, [Conference Co-Chairs](#)
- If systems are your superpower, [Elections Chair](#)
- If charter school libraries are your passion, [Charter School Rep](#)
- If you have mad web management skills, [Webmaster](#)

[Volunteer  
Here](#)

## Utah Ambassador of Young People's Literature Visits Western and Southern Utah Schools

On October 9th, Delta High School hosted its first author visit in over a decade, welcoming Jennifer A. Nielsen for an engaging day of activities. Months of preparation by the school librarian, teachers, and students culminated in a dynamic school-wide assembly attended high and middle school students. Nielsen captivated the audience with her advice on success, tying it to her books and research, and connecting with student interests.



On October 11th, Nielsen led two assemblies at Bryce Valley Elementary: one for younger students on the importance of reading and another for older students about using books to achieve personal success. Students were actively engaged, and afterward, they chose a book, in English or Spanish, donated by Operation Literacy's Book Drop to foster family reading and a strong personal reading identity.

## Join a USLA Committee!!

Do you have 2-4 hours a month to volunteer? Come and join the fun! [Learn more here.](#)  
Volunteer to be a USLA Committee Member:

- Awards & Recognition Committee
- Conference Committee
- Communications Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Membership & Elections Committee
- Public Relations Committee

[Volunteer  
Here](#)