

Attending the 12th Annual PLA Conference in Minneapolis was definitely an eye-opening experience for me. I had absolutely no idea what to expect, and was, in fact, imagining that it would be a little dull. However, I was proved wrong from the first moment I stepped into the convention center filled with excited librarians from all over the country.

First of all, I loved visiting the many different types of booths. I enjoyed meeting with the books vendors and seeing first hand the different types of audio and visual materials you can carry in your library. There were also several booths offering technology that I was not familiar with that I am sure would be an asset to my library. Another surprise, and something I completely enjoyed, was all the wonderful things being handed out at the booths. Several of the books I received were by authors I was not familiar with but that I am now considering purchasing for the library's collection.

I also attended several workshops on the different aspects of the public library and walked away from each one of them with thoughts of how to incorporate their ideas into my library. I was especially interested in the future role the public library will play in our communities.

Visiting with different authors was a highlight of the conference. Authors are the rock stars of the literary world and, having read their books, it was wonderful to meet them in person. I loved the Readers Theatre that was put on by Avi, Brian Selznick, Sara Weeks, and Pam Munoz Ryan. I was so inspired by it I am now in the process of presenting one to the public at our annual library fundraiser dinner.

The conference itself was a massive learning experience that was both enjoyable and educational that I would recommend that any public librarian should attend at least once in their lifetime.

Angela Peterson
Greenbush Public Library