



OREGON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
SUPPORT STAFF DIVISION
2026 CONFERENCE
FLORENCE, OR

Charting Your Course

DRIFTWOOD SHORES RESORT

88416 1st Ave, Florence, OR 97439

541-997-8263

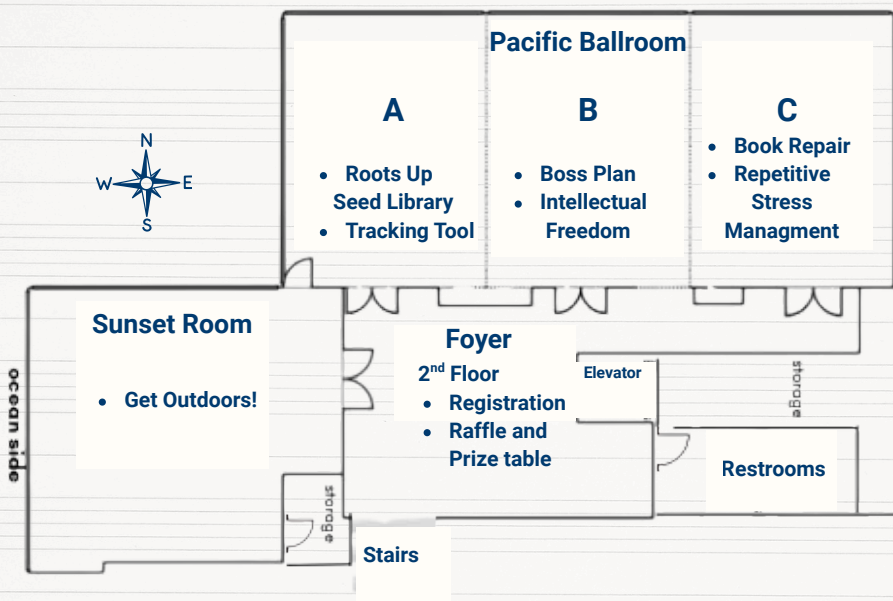
driftwoodshores.com



olaweb.org/ssd-home



LOCATION MAP



WiFi

Network : DWS Conference

Password: cascadia123

Surfside Bistro at Driftwood Shores

Hours

Sun - Thurs: 8:00 AM – 6:30 PM

Fri & Sat: 8:00 AM – 7:30 PM

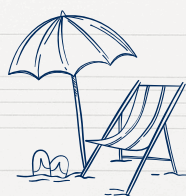
88416 1st Ave #2, Florence, OR 97439

541.902.6447

<https://www.surfsidebistro.com>



Order online



SSD RAFFLE

Raffle tickets can be purchased with cash or card at the raffle table located in the second floor foyer.

In-person ticket sales end at the time of the drawing, about 4:20 pm. We take cash or card.

The raffle funds scholarships to SSD members to access professional development and higher education.

Thank you to some of our raffle sponsors:

- Dragon's Breath Pottery
- McMenamins Pubs & Breweries
- Out of Print
- Farm to Feet Socks
- Abby's Pizza



SCAN ME!



***Be sure to check out additional items
in our online auction.***

Auction ends September 30th

SCHEDULE

7:30 am Registration open

2nd Floor Foyer

Check in at registration, and check out the raffle prize table.

8:00-8:30 am Networking

Pacific Ballroom

Casual breakfast provided by Support Staff members. Location TBD, ask for more info at the registration table.

8:30-8:50 am Welcome and Introductions

Rinny Lakin - Chair of SSD

8:50-9:00 am Bryan Miyagishima - OLA President

9:00-9:10 am Wendy Cornelisen - Oregon State Librarian

9:15-10:15: Keynote

Pacific Ballroom

Lori Lieberman

Libraries and romance books share many qualities. Libraries are a place for human connection. Romance books are a place for human (and sometimes non-human) connection. Love shows up in romance novels too. Libraries have an open door and romance books have open door...scenes. Maybe libraries and romance books are more similar than you ever imagined!



CONTINUED

Session 1: 10:30-11:45 am

Pacific Ballroom A

Lisa Power

Roots Up Community Engagement with Seed Libraries and Library Gardens

Learn how to build a robust seed library on a small budget. A seed library can build food security in your region, increase access to produce, and expand library program offerings. Ours started with a few packets of seeds in a plastic tub. Now our seed library has approximately 500 varieties and a digital inventory.

We've created a library garden that supplies food for our community as well as programming opportunities. We've distributed thousands of seeds, many pounds of produce, and forged strong partnerships in the local food and conservation community. Join us and learn how you can rejuvenate gardening in your rural community!

Session 1: 10:30-11:45

Pacific Ballroom B

Jeremy Skinner and Laura Kimberly and Star Khan
Creating an Improvement Plan for Your Boss

This presentation will actively engage attendees in thinking about the strengths and weaknesses of their supervisors and creating a plan to interact with them in ways to improve their performance and in turn allow them to be a better supervisor for their staff.

Session 1: 10:30-11:45 am

Pacific Ballroom C

Carolee Harrison

Basic Book Repair for Librarians

Does your library's collection need some TLC? Repair rather than replace (or weed)!

This presentation will cover techniques and materials for best practices in setting up a first-aid unit for books and quickly repairing hardcovers and paperbacks in circulating collections.

CONTINUED

Lunch 11:45 - 12:45 am
Boxed Lunch - Grab and Go



Author Talk with Ken Pratt 12:45-1:15 pm
Pacific Ballroom

“A Pipe Dream to #1 Best Seller”

In 4th grade my teacher said, “You should be a writer when you grow up.” Years later when I told my mom that I was thinking about writing a book, she said, “That’s called a pipe dream. You’ll never be able to do it.” My brother said, “You didn’t go to college. You’re not smart enough to write a book.”

Ten years later I started writing my first book. I didn’t tell anyone except my wife. It took seven years to write, but then I was able to tell people “I wrote a book.” Past tense. That book, *Willow Falls*, became a #1 Best Seller on Amazon and started what would become a 22 book series where 19 of the 22 became #1 Best Selling books on Amazon and the top selling series for Wolfpack Publishing. It is now in discussions for a TV series with the producer of the TV series *Blue Ridge* taking the lead on that.

My discussion will be about having a dream and on the lack of encouragement, and faith by my family and friends. It could have deterred my dreams, but determination pushed me on, even through many hard trials and painful experiences that happened along the way that could have easily discouraged me and give up. But I kept remembering what my 4th grade teacher said back in 1978 and her words kept me going. It took years to track that teacher down and ironically, for as important as she was to me, she didn’t remember me. We met up and I told her that her words have lasted all these years within my heart. The truth is, if it wasn’t for her words, I wouldn’t be a writer today. The talk will be about enduring to finish the race, what ever that dream may be.

CONTINUED

Session 2: 1:15 - 2:40 pm

Pacific Ballroom A

Brystan Strong

Tracking Tool for Professional Development

What if there was a way to track *all* of your training and professional development by yourself? Professional development is an ever changing landscape and tracking your own journey is fraught with pitfalls as HR changes their software or you change jobs.

The Staff Training Round Table proposed creating a standardized system (using any spreadsheet platform) that will make it easy to share your strengths, track outside of the box learning, and gain agency over your own professional development journey.

This talk is to share the initial proposal for the tool (back during a lightning talk session at OLA 2025), survey results, and where we currently stand on the creation of this tool.

Session 2: 1:15 - 2:40 pm

Pacific Ballroom B

Alyssa Donoho and Marie Felgentrager

Frontline Intellectual Freedom: How to have hard conversations and stay grounded

As library workers, we often find ourselves having difficult conversations about intellectual freedom with patrons, parents, volunteers, and even fellow library staff. It can be daunting to navigate these conversations while staying grounded in the principles of intellectual freedom.

We will cover key information about intellectual freedom, share questions/concerns that frequently come up, and give examples of how to address them as library staff, as well as some pro tips we've picked up over the years. The conversational aspect of this session will be interactive to provide participants an opportunity to practice.

CONTINUED

Session 2: 1:15 - 2:40 pm

Pacific Ballroom C

Thia Hoff

Managing and Relieving Repetitive Stress

This interactive 3-part workshop hopes to help you relieve the repetitive stress your body endures from working in a library setting.

Part one is a series of gentle stretches to relieve the repetitive and posture stress that results from doing our work. We'll focus on the neck, shoulders, arms, hands, and upper back.

Part two focuses on the ergonomics of a workstation that protects the spine and body. We will also look at how to lift and move objects safely.

Part three focuses on the eyes, perhaps the most neglected muscles in the body. We'll do exercises to relax and increase the flexibility of the eyes.

Session 2: 1:15 - 2:40 pm

Sunset Room

Kevin Mittge

Get Outdoors! Hiking Resources for Stressed Staff and Active Patrons

Spending time outdoors lowers stress-for both you and your patrons! Enjoy an overview of resources-both in print and online-to help you and your patrons get outside to walk and hike. Books and websites from around the state, featuring mountains, beaches, and deserts, from short walks to long treks, will be highlighted to make your next outdoor escape as easy and as well-planned as possible.

Snack 2:40 - 3:00 pm

Pacific Ballroom

CONTINUED

Session 3: 3:00 - 4:15pm *Lightning Talks*

Location: Pacific Ballroom

Buzzy Nielson

Protecting Patron Privacy in Recording Attendance

Brystan Strong

Mentor Match Program

Jeremy Skinner

Library PAC and Legislative Day

4:15-4:30 pm Raffle Drawing; Evaluations

5:00 pm Tour of Siuslaw Public Library

1460 9th St, Florence, OR 97439

(541) 997-3132

		
	 ARTÉFACTS 1255 Bay St <i>Good for</i> 10% OFF <i>(discounts can't be combined)</i>	
		
		

SPEAKER AND PRESENTER BIOS



SORI LIEBERMAN

Lori Lieberman is the teacher-librarian at a large public high school in downtown Portland where she runs a high school romance book club that's been featured on NPR and in the Washington Post. She's served on and chaired ORCA - the Oregon Reader's Choice Award Committee for numerous years. She just completed serving three years on NCTE's Walden Award Committee.



She's worked in school libraries for over 25 years and previously worked as a law librarian for large law firms in San Francisco and Los Angeles. She has a J.D. and M.S. in Educational Media/Librarianship. She's presented to librarians on the topic of Romance at national conferences including PLA, ALA, and AASL as well as at annual state library conferences including Oregon, Washington, and Texas. She is a 2026 Library Journal Mover & Shaker.

LISA POWER

Lisa Power is a Library Associate at Banks Public Library where she coordinates their seed library, publicity, volunteers, programs across all age groups, and the library garden.



She is their Young Adult staff member, and a Co-State Summer Reading Representative for Oregon Young Adult Network (OYAN). She has recently taken on the role of Digital Communications Specialists with OLA Support Staff Division. She will happily talk to you about gardening, seeds, and tropical houseplants!

CAROLEE HARRISON

Carolee Harrison is a Library Technician at Portland State University Library. She began her library career in Technical Services as a book mender, book repair trainer, and bindery liaison.



She currently works in Special Collections and University Archives as the primary steward of the rare book collection and as a digital preservation technician.

JEREMY SKINNER

Jeremy Skinner is the Library Director at Curry Public Library, and is actively engaged in many facets of this community; he spent a lot of years in non-supervisory roles.



LAURA KIMBERLY

Laura Kimberly is the Library and City Community Engagement Director for the City of Newport, Oregon, with 20 years of experience in public and school libraries. She is passionate about leadership, community engagement, and building strong, connected organizations and communities.



STAR KHAN

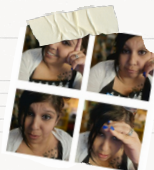
Star Khan is the Outreach Services Librarian at Driftwood Public Library, where she is dedicated to strengthening connections between library and the community it serves. Guided by a commitment to inclusivity, equity, and access to information, she has built her career around advocacy and creating welcoming spaces for all.

A proud member of REFORMA and founding member of of Libros for Oregon, Star champions diverse voices in libraries and works to expand literary access and representation for Spanish-speaking residents. Through these efforts, she helps ensure that library collections and services reflect the cultures and languages of the communities they serve.

As a member of the Governor's Racial Justice Council, Star collaborates with leaders across Oregon to address systemic inequities and advance meaningful change for historically underserved communities.

In addition to her work in libraries, Star is a passionate advocate for housing stability and homelessness prevention. She brings both professional expertise and lived experience to conversations about housing equity, access to services, and the barriers faced by vulnerable communities. She is committed to advancing policies and partnerships that support safe, stable housing and promote dignity and opportunity for all Oregonians.

Through her leadership and service, Star works to strengthen communities by advancing literacy, equitable access, housing justice, and meaningful community engagement.



KEN PRATT

Ken Pratt is the creator of the *Matt Bannister* series, an eighteen-book collection of historical fiction novels that has earned loyal readers who appreciate realistic stories about Matt and his family dealing with real life situations. His books combine fast-paced action, drama and a touch of humor while the characters wrestle with real-life questions of justice, forgiveness and the grace of God.



Ken has always believed that stories have the power to encourage, challenge, and inspire. Rather than simply entertaining his readers, he hopes each book leaves them thinking about the deeper truths woven throughout every chapter. Although he has spent years writing and publishing novels, Ken is the first to admit that he is much more comfortable sitting behind a keyboard than standing in front of an audience.

When he isn't writing, Ken enjoys spending time with his wife, Cathy, their children and grandchildren. He enjoys exploring history, researching family genealogy, and dreaming up the next adventure for his characters.

BRYSTAN STRONG

Brystan Strong is the Programs Coordinator for Jackson County Library Services. In this role, she supports library programs for all ages in all 15 branches, guides system-wide initiatives like Summer Reading, Rogue Reads (a winter community reading program), and the Strategic Plan, provides training and guidance as it pertains to programming, connects public services to support services through programming, and branches with community partners, and creates processes, practices, and tools that assist with the program planning process.

She is also Chair of the OLA Staff Training Round Table, and sits on the OLA leadership committee as the Mentor Match facilitator.

Additionally, she is the current President of the Friends of the Hannon Library Board at Southern Oregon University.

She writes for the JCLS Library Connect Blog, and has written for OLA quarterly. In her free time, she likes writing non-library related stuff, playing indie video games, and waxing poetic about just about anything.



ALYSSA DONOHO

Alyssa grew up in her parents' classrooms and her local library which set her on her path to becoming a lifelong advocate for intellectual freedom. For the past decade, she worked and volunteered in schools and public libraries. Her passion is at the intersection of intellectual freedom, libraries, and education.

She has been a member of OLA IFC since 2022, recently completed serving as co-chair of the committee for two years, and is an ALA Law 4 Librarians trainer.



MARIE FELGENTRAGER

Marie Felgentrager is the certified District Librarian/Media Specialist for Roseburg Public Schools and a contracted Library Specialist for the Southern Oregon Educational Service District, supporting the districts of Ashland, Phoenix-Talent, Central Point, Three Rivers, and Rogue River. Marie is a Division Leader and member of the Behavior Team.

Additionally, Marie serves as the secretary of the Douglas County Library Foundation and is the OASL IFC Representative.

Marie enthusiastically supports the right to read for all individuals.



THIA HOFF

For 21 years, Thia Hoff has worked part-time as Electronic Resources Specialist for the Reed College Library in Portland, Oregon.

During that time, she became a licensed acupuncturist and created Singing Crane Acupuncture. Helping people with self-care has always been part of her medicine bag and she has created a variety of workshops, with topics such as eye care and how to manage the stress your body endures from doing repetitive tasks.

For 16 years she has taught these workshops around Portland including at dental offices, libraries, Multnomah County Social Work Community Services conferences, and Standard Insurance Company. She holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of New Hampshire and a Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine from the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine.



KEVIN MITTGE

Kevin Mittge received his ML from the University of Washington's School of Librarianship in 1994. He has been the Adult Services Librarian at the Siuslaw Public Library in Florence since 2000 and is an active walker and hiker. In addition to outdoor activities Kevin enjoys genealogy, gardening, cats, and, of course, reading!



BUZZY NIELSON

Buzzy Nielsen is the Program Manager for Library Support and Tribal Liaison at the State Library of Oregon. In this role, he oversees professional library consultants and support staff who advise and give grants to the over 1,900 academic, public, school, special, and tribal libraries in Oregon.

Prior to arriving at the State Library in 2020, Buzzy spent 25 years working in academic, public, school, and special libraries in Oregon and Michigan. Most of his career was spent working in small and rural public libraries throughout Oregon, including 15 years in public library administration.



CHARTING YOUR COURSE BINGO

How to play: Meet someone with one of these attributes and mark off the square. Get a Bingo or a Black Out!

Bingo: Mark out five squares in a row or diagonally.

Black Out: Mark out ALL squares.

Redeem: Take your Bingo card to the registration table for a prize!

WORKS IN A PUBLIC LIBRARY	CAN NAME FOUR OREGON RIVERS	HAS FOUND A PERFECT SAND DOLLAR	HAS READ A CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE BOOK	WORKS IN OUTREACH
FIRST TIME ATTENDEE	WORKS IN A COASTAL LIBRARY	OWNS A PAPER MAP	WORKS IN ILL	HAS READ A BOOK SET IN A QUAIN TOWN
CAN GIVE A FUN FACT	HAS TRAVELED SOLO	 FREE	HAS BEEN SAILING	IS ON THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
HAS PLAYED THE OREGON TRAIL GAME	WORKS IN TECHNICAL SERVICES	HAS USED MAPQUEST	WORKS IN A RURAL LIBRARY	HAS MET AN AUTHOR
WORKS IN ACCESS SERVICES	HAS VISITED AN OREGON COAST CHEESE FACTORY	KNOWS HOW TO PRONOUNCE CLATSKANIE CORRECTLY	HAS USED A COMPASS	WORKS IN AN ACADEMIC LIBRARY

BINGO BOOK LIST

- The Last Chance Library by Freya Sampson
- An Academic Affair by Jodie McAlister
- Voyage of a Summer Sun: canoeing the Columbia River by Robin Cody
- Sand Dollar Lane by Sheila Roberts
- Pacific Northwest Cheese: A History by Tami J. Parr
- Pacific Northwest Trivia : Washington, Oregon & Idaho : weird, wacky and wild by Lisa Wojna
- The Dictionary of Difficult Words by Jane Solomon
- It Happened One Summer by Tessa Bailey
- Wilderness Navigation : finding your way using map, compass, altimeter & GPS by Bob Burns
- A Study in Drowning by Ava Reid
- Grandma Gatewood's Walk by Ben Montgomery
- The Race to Chimney Rock by Jesse Wiley
- The Cartographers by Peng Shepherd
- Adrift: A True Story of Love, Loss and Survival at Sea by Tami Oldham-Ashcraft
- The Last Zookeeper by Aaron Becker

Bonus Recommendation: The Magical Yet
by Angela DiTerlizzi

*For those who would like a charming reminder
that overcoming a new challenge is possible
with the help of your very own magical Yet.*



SSD BOARD



RINNY LAKIN: CHAIR

36 years in libraries. I have no problem looking super, duper bad if it means we can call in decision makers to disrupt harmful systems; churn up what's in the current kool-aid; and say outloud what is hidden in plain sight, yet deemed taboo.

Such as library pay, hierarchical structures that foster social dynamics that don't value each person and each role as important, top down decision making and valuing outside consultants while not soliciting insight from within or worse yet, silencing staff raise concerns and then they have to experience the full impact of decisions made without them.



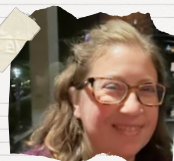
GENE IPARRAGUIRRE: TREASURER

Hi, my name is Gene Iparraguirre I have been working in public libraries for just over 4 years. I currently work at the Salem Public Library as their Bilingual Adult Services Librarian. In my free time I like to collect hobbies, from photography to mixology to playing music and creating art anything that allows me to be a lifelong learner.



KAREN BRENNAN: SECRETARY

I am the Library Supervisor at the Wilsonville Public Library. My position serves as a bridge between all the departments and the management team. I just passed 26 years working at the library! I enjoy reading, crocheting, baking, and being a momma and gramma.



DEANNA KOHN: ARCHIVIST

My name is Deanna Kohn and I am the Support Staff Division Archivist. I have worked for the Hillsdale Branch of Multnomah County Library since 1998 - 28 years, working my way up from Page to Library Assistant. I have an MLIS degree with a concentration in Archives.



LISA POWER: DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
I'M PRESENTING TODAY!

SSD BOARD CONTINUED



ANGELICA HEIDELBERGER: CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

I am currently the Technical Services Coordinator/Cataloger at Wilsonville Public Library, where I have worked for the past eight years. In my free time I enjoy time with my family and cats, reading, cooking, and Formula 1.



ELEANOR COHN-EICHNER: MEMBER AT LARGE

I've been a proud library worker since 2013, in Multnomah and now also Washington (Forest Grove City Library) counties. I'm so very pleased to be a first-time committee member for the Support Staff Division conference.



JORDAN POPOFF: MEMBER AT LARGE

Jordan Popoff is the cataloger at Curry Public Library in Gold Beach. Her work also entails A/R and A/P, all aspects of collections development, and ILL, and is the Treasurer of the Oregon Library Association. Jordan has worked in libraries since the age of 14, and has loved (nearly) every minute of it.



MELISSA MOLEK: MEMBER AT LARGE

I've worked in libraries for over 15 years - in public, school, and academic libraries. I currently work as a Technical Services Specialist at Reed College. I truly enjoy the library community and being part of the "behind-the-scenes" staff that make it all possible.



QUESTIONS?

PLEASE SEE ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE.

SSD NEWS

Grow your network and professional development and join the Support Staff Division Board Committee!

Positions available:

Treasurer - Aug 2026 - Aug 2028

This position averages 4 hours/month and is a core member of the conference committee.

Chair - Aug 2026 - Aug 2028

Leading the Division! Averages 10 hours/month. Past Chair backs you up along with a great web of support!

Member at Large - Aug 2026 - Aug 2027

A great learning position with SSD!

Meetings

Virtual SSD meetings are the 1st Tuesday

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Email ssd@olaweb.org for an invitation



LEARN MORE ABOUT SSD

WEBSITE

<https://www.olaweb.org/ssd-home>



FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/olasupportstaffdivision>



INSTAGRAM

[@ola_ssdl](https://www.instagram.com/ola_ssdl)



THANK YOU!

The SSD Committee would like to thank those who helped make this conference possible.

The presenters, SSD board and conference committee and their employers for supporting them!

Driftwood Shores Resort and Conference Center:

They worked generously with us to bring this conference to the coast!

All Oregon Libraries:

For their generous sponsorship of attendees and administrative support!

Program printing by: OSU Valley Library

Conference Logo Design by: Brian Brennan

@tw_comics @tw_drawing

Jo Beaudreau: Guest appearance with "Flo" the exploding whale at our beach bonfire.

Periwinkle Cottage: 10% discount for conference attendee's

BeauxArts Fine Art Materials and Gallery: A DIY bookmark station at their gallery classroom

Artêfacts Gift Shop: 10% off of purchase

Dragon's Breath Pottery: 10% off any paint your own pottery

Conference Committee members:

Tri Bui - Tech Support

Eon Lajoie - Tech Support

Ryan Chandler - Tech Support

Eleanor Cohn-Eichner - SSD Raffle and Sponsorship Coordinator

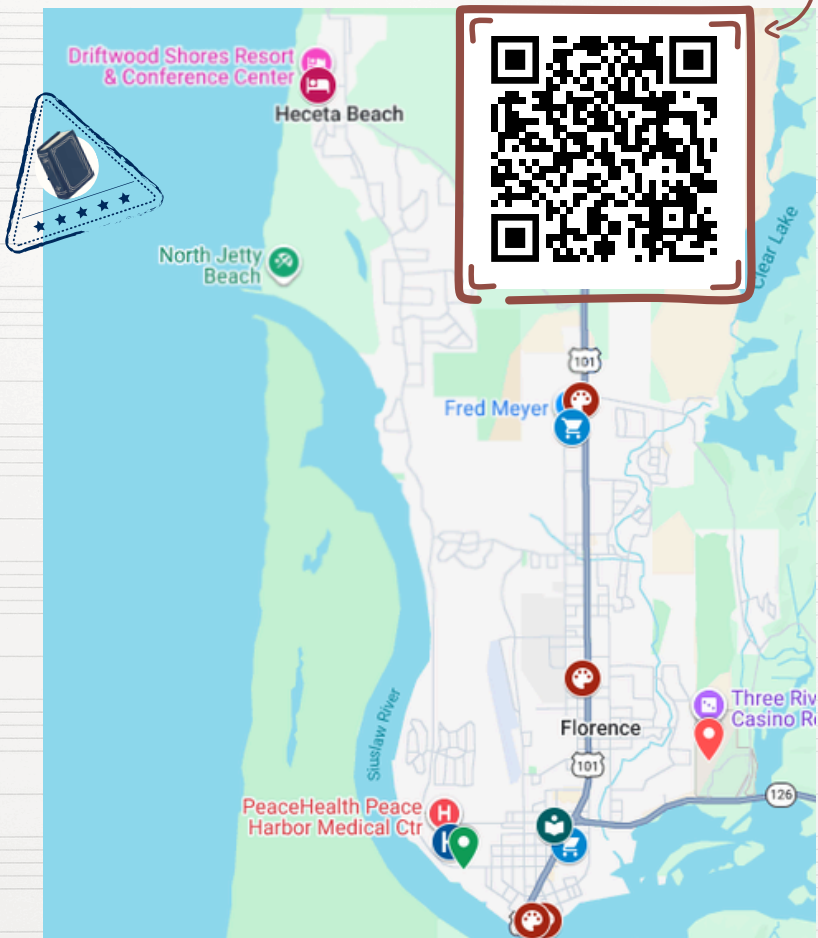
Lisa Power - Program design

CONFERENCE AREA MAP

Scan the QR code below and find:

- Local Services
- Restaurants
- Local Attractions
- *Show Your Badge Map*

SCAN ME!



NOTES

NOTES

NOW IS THE TIME



EMPORIA STATE
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