

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 2008

Library Day at the Legislature was held on January 17, 2008. Librarians, trustees, and friends met with their local representatives during the day. Attractive displays representing public and college libraries throughout the state were set up in the Rotunda. Approximately 250 people attended the reception honoring the Legislators in the Great Hall of the Cultural Center that evening.

The 2008 Legislative Session should be viewed as a success for WVLA. Grants-in-Aid increased by \$1,000,000. This moved per capita from \$4.06 to \$4.62. Special thanks go to Alan Engelbert and the Kanawha County delegation for helping with the passage of SB 593 which replaced section F of SB 541. Also, in a special summer session Governor Manchin signed HB 215 that would abolish the term limits on library trustees.

The next Library Day at the Legislature will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Please make plans to attend and visit with your local representatives.

2009 Legislative Goals

- Increase Grants-in-Aid by \$1,000,000
- Increase Digital Resources by \$280,008
- Implement a Construction/Maintenance line item of \$1,500,000 in the WV Library Commission's Budget
- Increase WVLC's General Revenue Budget by \$100,000

School Librarians' Concerns

- We need to promote school libraries' proven successful support for student learning and achievement with legislation and funding requiring libraries and full time certified librarians in every school in West Virginia.
- We need a statewide Job Description for School Librarians **without** language that allows principals to assign other teaching responsibilities.
- We need School Library Media Standards and Information Technology Standards to be implemented with the core subjects.

Again this year, Sam Love will be our Legislative Consultant. Crystal Hamrick will be Chair of the Committee for 2009, and Alan Johnson, Vice-Chair.

Submitted by:
Susan Reilly
Chair, Legislative Committee

