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West Virginia LIBRARIES

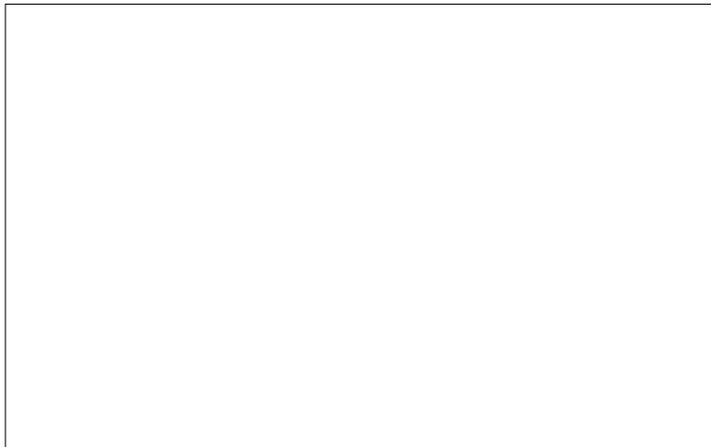
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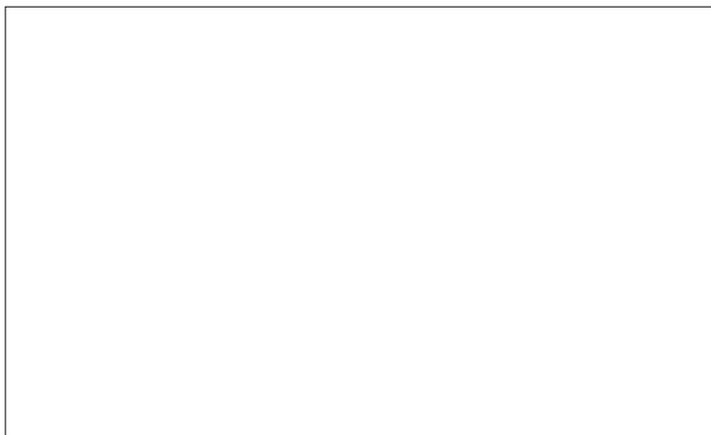
October 2002

Librarians, supporters rally for reading

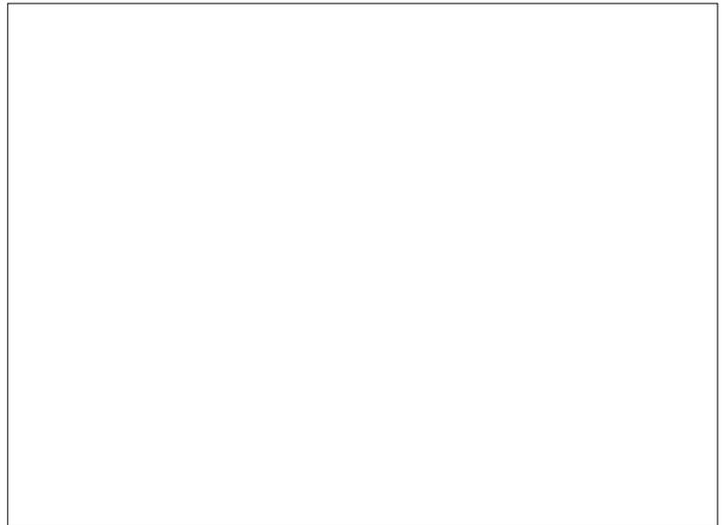
It began at WVLA's Fall Conference. Librarians and library supporters, inspired by a workshop on advocacy by Charles Beard from the University of West Georgia, decided we needed to make some noise about the valuable services that libraries provide to the citizens of West Virginia. Children's Book Week, November 18 – 24, provided an excuse to rally the troops! It was a bit of a scramble organizing a rally in three weeks. Permits, signs, entertainers, speakers and media coverage. Sub Hub librarians sent e-mails to their libraries. Service center directors called libraries around their areas. News of the rally went up on WVLA's list



Ron Sowell (R) and friends get their blood circulating with some foot stomping sing-a-longs on the Capitol steps.



The Cabell Co. PL Chicken and Kanawha Co. PL's Library Lynx dance to Ron Sowell's tunes.



Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito calls reading the key to success for her children and all of West Virginia's young people.

serve. School librarians got the news via Beth Yoke, their Division Chair. Connie Clay from Princeton Library persuaded the vo-tech center there to make signs; Marshall University made signs as well. Monty Maxwell of WVU and Pam May from the Kanawha County Public Library did an outstanding job of alerting the press. Press releases written by Allen Johnson of Pocohontas County and Connie Clay appeared in local newspapers all over West Virginia. Linda Wright, KCPL Director, and Terri McDougal, Children's Librarian at KCPL were instrumental in pulling together a wonderful program of speakers and entertainers. And finally there was good old Mother Nature who provided us with one of the few beautiful (if chilly) autumn days of November.

—More on page 10

Save on dues!

By vote of the membership at this fall's conference, WVLA dues will increase beginning in 2004. (See August 2002 *WV Libraries*, page 9, for details.) Meanwhile, pay one more time at a savings! Renew your membership at the website: <http://www.wvla.org>. You also may download additional membership forms at the site.

A Message from the President

It is amazing how fast this year has flown by. Of course, I have noticed as I grow older that time moves faster with *every* passing year. One of those age things.

From the comments I heard at the conference and afterward at the automation vendor demos at Clarksburg, the conference was a great success. With 220 attendees and 32 vendors, attendance was up and, while Steve Christo is still paying bills, it is expected to make a profit. Plus, if nothing else, Pipestem should put to rest our stodgy images as librarians! Between the line dancing, limbo contest, and great, if occasionally strange, karaoke performances at the luau, we proved ourselves to be quite the party animals. Besides how many other states have a state librarian who does a mean Elvis Presley impersonation and a great Jimmy Buffett karaoke?

One of the problems with being President is that you are in charge of programming, and while you get to have pleasant phone conversations and e-mails with the many speakers, at the conference you are so busy that you don't get a chance

to hear many of them. I did manage to get to Charles Beard's pre-conference on advocacy, and he lived up to his sterling reputation. Carol Bradsher of MORE explained exactly how Ohio is bringing together many different types of libraries into a voluntary resource sharing; her presentation sparked many attendees to think about our own state's needs.

Ed Davis brought his years of experience as a writer and a member of writer's organizations to his library audience when he detailed the "care and feeding of authors." There were so many others that I wanted to hear that I am looking forward to this issue of *West Virginia Libraries* to find out more.

Everyone assured me that once the conference was over, the work as President is done. Promises, promises! I understand completely now the quote from the Godfather III movie (paraphrased), "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in." Even as I struggle with the contract for Oglebay in 2004 and letters to government officials concerning the two resolutions passed at the conference, I really don't mind. This has been a great

learning experience. Rarely was I turned down when I asked anyone to help or volunteer, and this denotes a powerful force in support of libraries.

So let me thank the members of the Executive Board for all their hard work and dedication this year, as well as the members of the conference committee who put in tireless amounts of work that paid off in a smooth-running, successful conference. And let me thank my own staff which has had to put up with a distracted director who they are all convinced is permanently attached to a telephone or a computer.

So as I look forward to far fewer e-mails and phone calls, I also have confidence that the Association and its members are moving in the right direction with the planning process, our new website and the many possibilities that it represents, and the soon forthcoming leadership of our tremendously capable President, Julie Spiegler.

Sharon R. Saye
President, WVLA
saye@bridgeportwv.com

Mentors needed

As of July 1, 2002 Southern Connecticut Library Council became the fiscal sponsor of Exchanging Jobs [www.exchangingjobs.org], a free website devoted to job exchanges and job shadowing for librarians. A job exchange lets a participant trade places for a set period of time—typically from one to six months—with someone who has similar responsibilities. Job shadowing, on the other hand, typically lasts between half a day and two days and comes in two varieties: 1) A mentee posts his or her contact information on a list specifying the type of job that would be of interest. A mentor who works in this type of job contacts him or her to arrange a time for the mentee to shadow the mentor; 2) A mentor posts his or her contact information and job responsibilities on a list. A mentee interested in

this type of job contacts the mentor to arrange the shadowing—there is a particular need for this variety of job shadowing. To sign-up, go to [www.exchangingjobs.org/app_shadowme.html]. In both varieties the mentee would accompany the mentor around during the workday.

A route to mentoring that is not connected to Exchanging Jobs is for an individual to enroll in a mentor program offered by their state library association. For example, the Arizona, California, Connecticut and Kentucky Library Associations sponsor formal mentor programs for their members. Another option would be to seek out a formal mentor program from a specialized library organization, such as one sponsored by The American Association of Law Libraries, the Medical Library Group

of Southern California & Arizona, and REFORMA (National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking).

People seek a job exchange or shadowing for a variety of reasons, such as needing a change of scenery, wanting to expand social networks or looking for a broader perspective on the profession. Exchanging Jobs is run by Samuel R. Brown, Ph.D., who pursued his own job exchange in 2001. Why not contact him at sam@exchangingjobs.org to find out more information or just go to the website to look around. Note—Exchanging Jobs is an initiative of its fiscal sponsor, Southern Connecticut Library Council, a fully tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

People in the News

Tom Adamich joined the staff of the West Virginia Library Commission in August as Library Services Cataloging Librarian. He was previously employed as Cataloging Librarian at Stetson University College of Law in Florida. Tom has cataloging experience with school and public libraries in Ohio and Florida and, from 1993-1999 was President of Visiting Librarian Service, a freelance library and information service that provides cataloging and technical service support and training to all types of libraries. He earned a Masters of Library/Information Science from Kent State University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Akron.

Peggy Bias left the Director's position at Putnam County Library after 17 years to become Director at Bedford (VA) Public Library System. She earned her MLS at the University of Kentucky and has been an active member in the West Virginia Library Association. She is a WVLA Dora Ruth Parks Award winner and was a dedicated member, and chair, of the Legislative Committee.

Jackie Chaney, former Buffalo High School librarian, has accepted the position

of Director at Putnam County Public Library.

Suzette Lowe, former Director of Roane County Library, has accepted the position of Director of Jackson County Library in Ripley. She directed the Clay County Library prior to moving to Roane. She received her MLIS from South Carolina in 1995.

Governor Wise has appointed **Kathryn McAteer** of Shepherdstown as a Library Commissioner. McAteer is a longtime resident of Jefferson County. As a teacher, McAteer says she understands the importance of public libraries for the citizens of West Virginia. She and her family are regular users of state libraries.

Ed Rauh, Director of Jackson County Library, has retired after over 20 years of service. Rauh also was Director of Alpha Regional Library for many years and mentored a number of library staff, encouraging them to continue their education, including working toward MLIS degrees. He was also active in the West Virginia Library Association and assisted in organizing many Library Legislative Day dinners.

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Gorgeous mists and mountains provide the backdrop for this year's annual conference at Pipestem.

2003 resolutions passed

The membership passed the following two resolutions unanimously at the First General Session.

Resolution 1:

Funding of Public Libraries Through Special Laws and Legislation

WHEREAS eleven public libraries in the state of West Virginia are funded through special funding laws and legislation enacted and enabled by the West Virginia Legislature; and,

WHEREAS these eleven public libraries contribute significantly to the provision of excellent library services and quality resources throughout the state of West Virginia; and,

WHEREAS special legislation and laws for public library funding are vitally important to ensure sustained high levels of library service and provision of effective library materials for the citizens of West Virginia; and,

WHEREAS the loss or diminution of dedicated funding for these eleven libraries would cause significant and irreparable harm to all citizens of the state of West Virginia; and,

WHEREAS current laws and regulations that calculate funding formulas for public education in West Virginia fiscally penalize the eleven county public school systems who, by law, must partially fund public libraries within their counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of the West Virginia Library Association, meeting in annual conference this

October 16th, 2002, does enthusiastically support the continuation of special funding laws for these eleven public libraries in West Virginia. Further, the Association encourages and supports the identification of an equitable resolution to West Virginia's school aid funding formula that does not penalize or harm, either directly or indirectly, the fiscal health of these eleven public libraries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to: Hon. Robert E. Wise, Jr., Governor of the State of West Virginia; state legislators in the affected counties; Dr. David Stewart, State Superintendent of Schools; Kay Goodwin, Secretary, Education and the Arts; the County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia; the West Virginia School Superintendents Association; the West Virginia School Board Association; the West Virginia Education Association; and the West Virginia Federation of Teachers.

Resolution 2

Whereas, the quest for knowledge by school students in West Virginia is stimulated and developed through the use of educational resources and services provided by school library media programs; and

Whereas, school library media programs provide access to a wide variety of necessary educational materials such as books, magazines, audio and video tapes, laser discs, instructional television, computer software and databases, as well as technology needed to utilize these resources; and

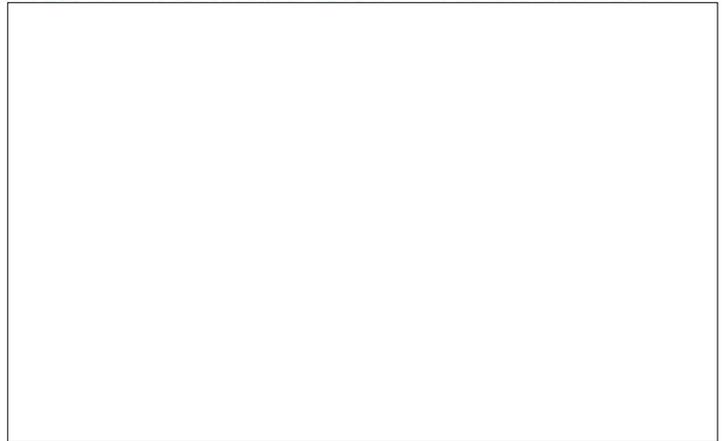
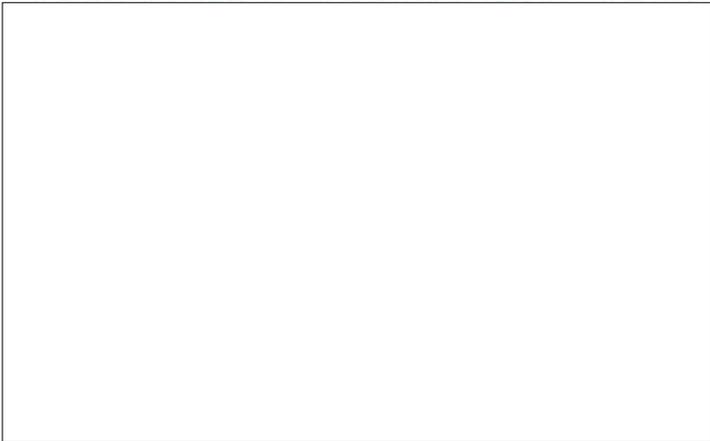
Whereas, school library media programs provide learning activities designed to enhance reading motivation and establish the information literacy skills necessary for lifelong learning; and

Whereas, the full potential of school library media programs is dependent upon trained professional library media specialists whose varied skills assist teachers and students in effectively using this wide range of information resources; and

Whereas, adequate funding of school library media centers and programs and the funding of adequate and equitable salaries for the professional library media specialists who manage these centers and programs is essential in ensuring excellence in school library media centers and school library media specialists;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the membership of the West Virginia Library Association, meeting in annual conference this October 16th, 2002, does enthusiastically support the adequate funding of school library media centers, programs, and library media specialists by the fifty-five county Boards of Education.

Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be provided to: Hon. Robert E. Wise, Jr., Governor of the State of West Virginia; state legislators; Dr. David Stewart, State Superintendent of Schools; Kay Goodwin, Secretary, Education and the Arts; The West Virginia School Superintendents Association; the West Virginia School Board Association; The West Virginia Education Association; and the West Virginia Federation of Teachers.

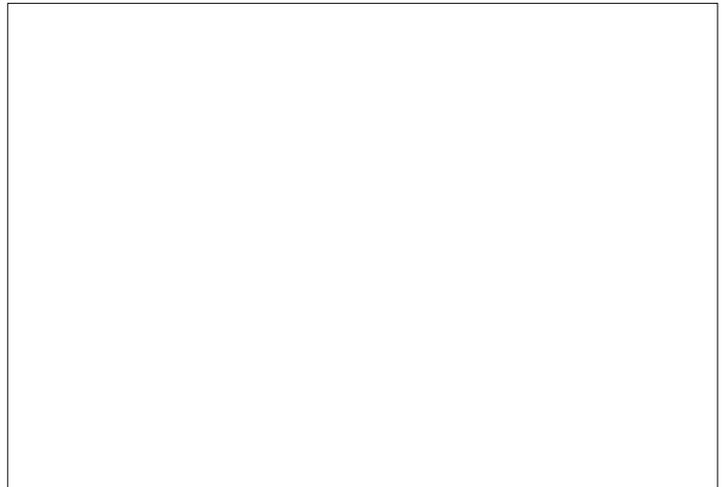


L-R: Suzy McGinley (WVLC), Emilee Seese (Ritchie Co. PL), Barbara Carr (Grant Co. PL), Karen Hiser, Denise Ash, Sarah Johnson (all WVLC) and Rebecca Lafferty (Clarksburg PL) wow the crowd with a tuneful karaoke melody. Kathy Winfield (WVLC) hides in the background.

J.D.Waggoner (WVLC), Susan Reilly (City-County PL, Moundsville) Dottie Thomas (Ohio Co. PL, Wheeling) and Commissioner Chuck Julian belt out a tune during karaoke.

Conference luau brings librarians together for food and fun

Photos by Steve Christo, Cabell Co. Public Library



Librarians line up for the West Virginia Luau on Thursday night.

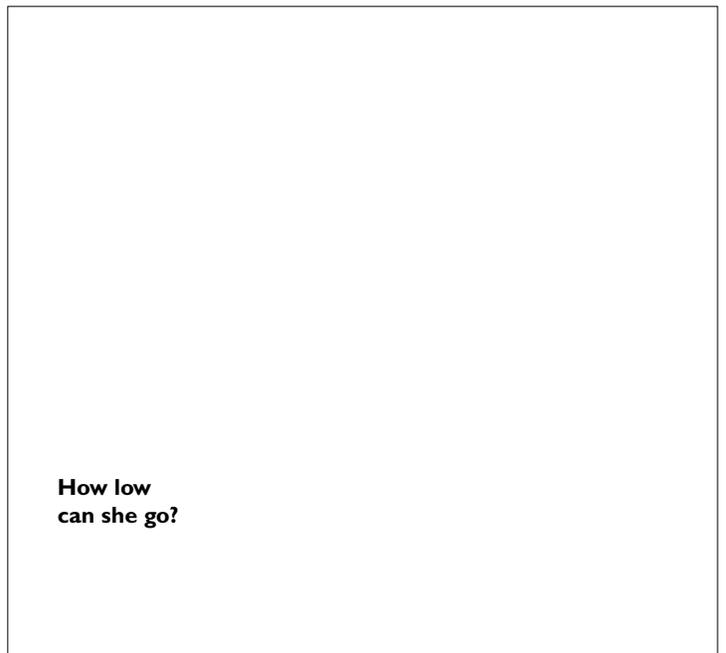
By Dottie Thomas

Those of us who were brave or foolish enough to sing karaoke at the recent WVLA Annual Conference's Luau can testify to believing in the power of music and song to make us feel as '70s songster Mac Davis sings "young, and rich and free." During the luau several groups of West Virginia librarians were magically transformed into rock stars.

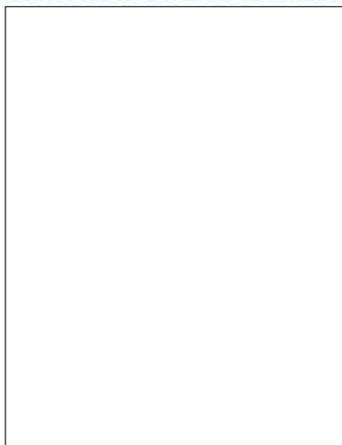
One such group included WVLC employees Denise Ash, Sarah Johnson, Kathy Wingfield, Tammy Richards, Suzy McGinley, and Karen Hiser. The other three songbirds were Rebecca Lafferty from the Clarksburg-Harrison County Public Library, and Tressa Prunty and Emily Seese of the Ritchie County Public Library. These stunningly hip ladies graced us with three musical numbers including their own unique version of "My Girl"—you guessed it, the lyrics were changed to "My Guy."

Two of our state's universities graced us with the Deans of their library systems, Barbara Winters and Francis O'Brien. These two groovy rockers did a swell version of Ike and Tina Turner's "Rolling on the River." I'll let you guess who was Ike and who was Tina! Way to rock, Barbara and Francis!

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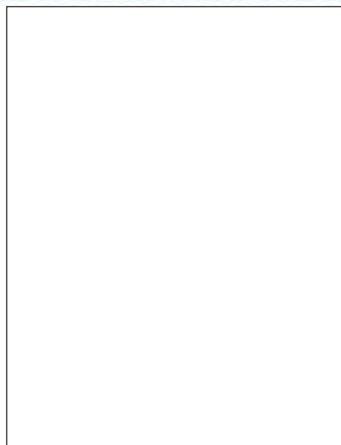
How low
can she go?



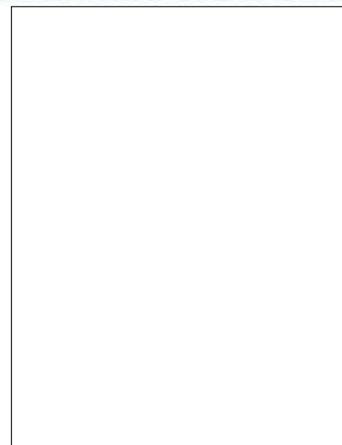
Association President Sharon Saye (Bridgeport PL) welcomes attendees to the Second General Session (banquet).



Storyteller Bil Lepp has 'em rolling in the aisles with tales of "Buck Dog."



Morgan: Donna Morgan (McDowell Co. PL) accepts her Certificate of Merit during the awards ceremony.



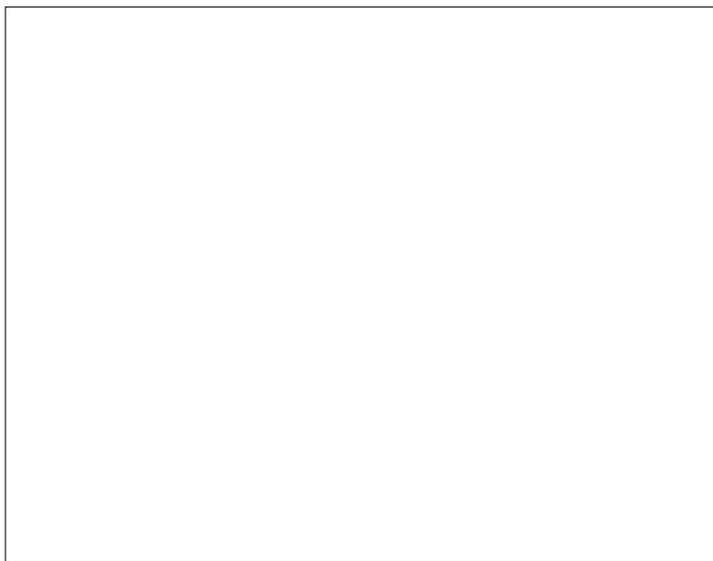
Literary Merit Award winner John Cuthbert (Curator, WV & Regional History Collection and Head, Special Collections, WVU) thanks the Association for his award.

AT CONFERENCE BANQUET

Duncan, Cuthbert win awards; Morgan, Stephan honored with certificates of merit

While West Virginia storyteller Bil Lepp had the crowd at the Conference Banquet rolling in the aisles this year with his talk "Half Truths and Whole Lies," the awards ceremony stole the show once again.

Librarians proved just how sneaky they could be in surprising Judy Duncan, Director of the St. Albans Public Library, with this year's Dora Ruth Parks Award—especially since Judy, as WVLA Secretary, is a member of the selection committee! Using every bit of strategy taught in library school and in the trenches, other



Outgoing President Sharon Saye (R) passes the gavel (and briefcase) to incoming President Julie Speigler (Kanawha Co. PL)

committee members, colleagues, and friends collected her nomination and information about her long career in West Virginia libraries. Judy was honored for her work with the West Virginia Library Commission early in her career, her second career at the Kanawha County Public Library System, and the extensive work she has done for the West Virginia Library Association. She has served and now serves as Secretary, and previously served in other offices, including President.

The Association honored John Cuthbert, Curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection and Director of the West Virginia Historical Art Collection at the West Virginia University Libraries, with its 2002 Literary Merit Award. Cuthbert is the author of *David Hunter Strother: One of the Best Draughtsmen the Country Possesses*, *The Edden Hammons Collection*, and *Early Art and Artists in West Virginia*. Senator Jay Rockefeller pointed out the importance of the last title in his foreword to the book. "This book is ground-breaking, because it establishes a foundation upon which we can begin to elaborate the rich history of art in West Virginia.....This uplifting part of our heritage deserves to be much better known. *Early Art and Artists in West Virginia* represents an outstanding contribution towards this end."

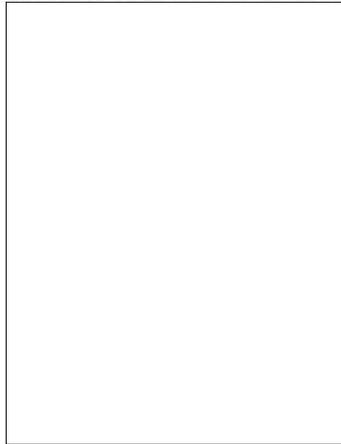
Certificates of Merit for outstanding service to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia were presented to Donna Morgan, director of the McDowell County Library System, and Thomas A.E. Stephan, a former trustee of the Ohio County Public Library.

Morgan was hailed for her outstanding leadership in bringing her library back from flood damage in excess of \$400,000. The May 2, 2002, floor in Welch destroyed a significant portion of the

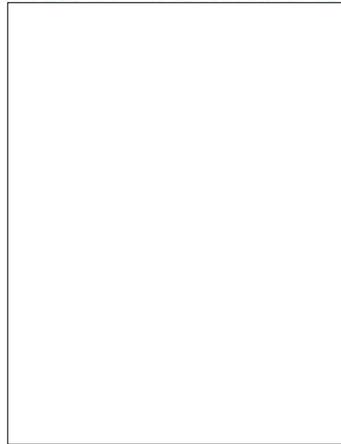
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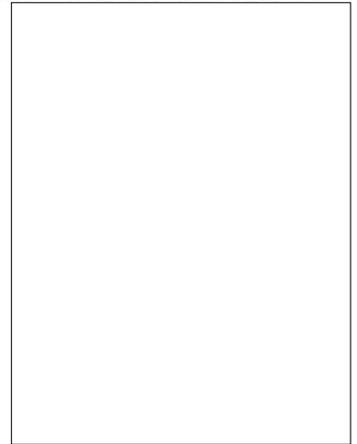
A surprised Judy Duncan (St. Albans PL/KCPL) accepts the 2002 Dora Ruth Parks Award.



Jay Cole, Deputy Secretary of Education and the Arts, inspires librarians in his keynote address describing how libraries have influenced him.



Charles Beard, Director of Libraries at the University of West Georgia, presents ideas on how librarians can promote and defend the services they provide.

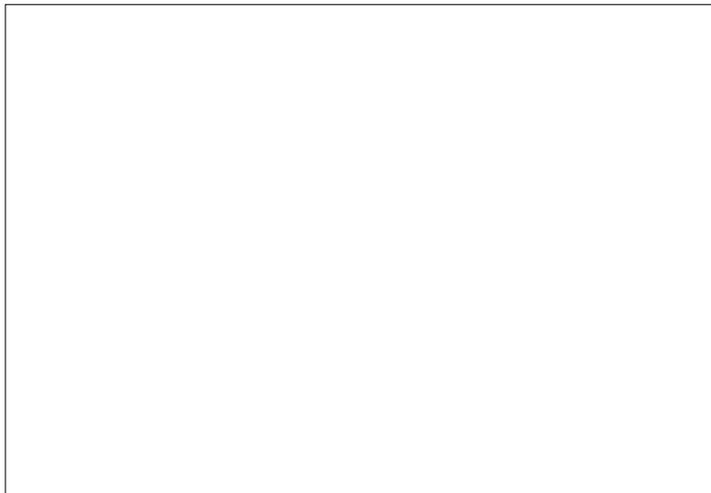


Amy Knapp, Coordinator of Library Instruction, University of Pittsburgh, shares her ideas on ways to teach library users more successfully.

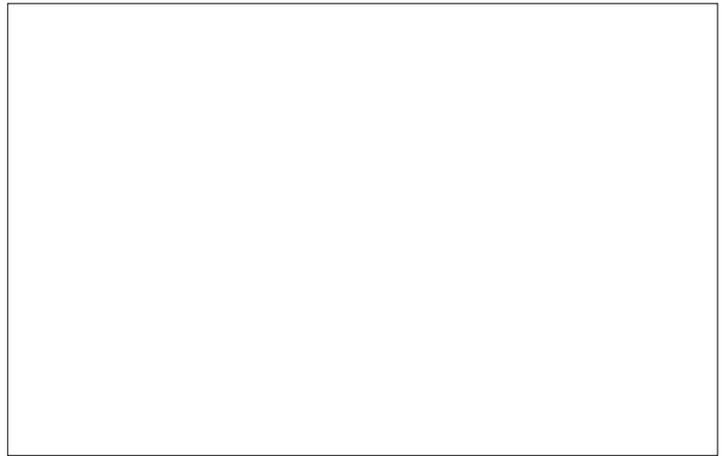
library's materials and closed the library until July 15 of that year. Her ability to maintain staff morale, deal with government agencies and the press in a professional manner, and "her belief that the facility would be returned to normalcy," were recognized, in particular.

Stephan served the Ohio County Public Library beginning in August 1967, and led it through a \$1.5 million dollar building project, the establishment of an Endowment Trust, and the oversight of the Morrow Estate Trust. He worked actively to promote libraries throughout West Virginia and assisted other trustees throughout the State. He worked closely with legislators to promote library funding and he maintained close ties with the West Virginia Library Commission in its efforts to promote library service.

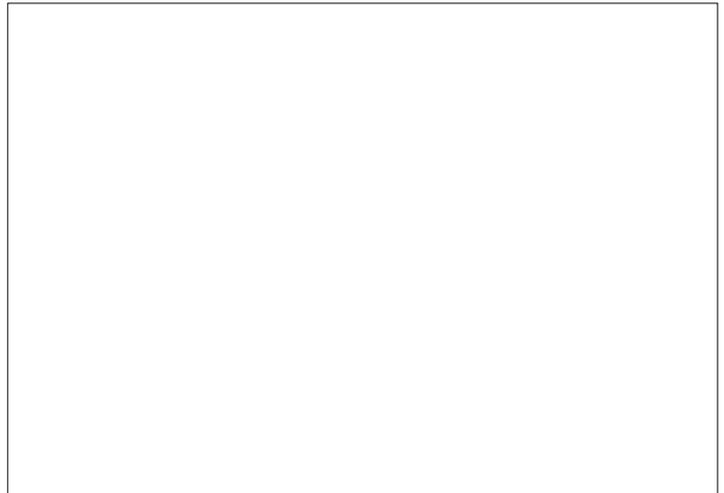
Photos by Steve Christo, Cabell Co. Public Library



Kresta Harris, Tech Services, Cabell Co. Public Library, looks skeptical as comrades plot over a book repair at the pre-conference workshop, Repairing Library Materials.



Exhibits attracted the attention of librarians from all types of libraries and all parts of the state.



Lawrence S. Cote, Associate Provost, WVU Cooperative Extension Service, suggests differences between coaching and mentoring.

Conference-goers dig in in preparation for post-luau limbo contests and karaoke.

Conference luau... —Continued from page 5

If the Mamas and the Papas were one of the Sixties most famous quartets, West Virginia now has a real competitor to that group of guys and gals. Our own new Secretary of the Library Commission was among this group as well as one of our distinguished West Virginia Library Commissioners, Chuck Julian. The men were accompanied by two northern panhandle library directors, Susan Reilly of City-County Public Library in Moundsville and Dottie Thomas of the Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling. The quartet sang several numbers including the Eagles' "Lying Eyes," Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe," and the theme from the Beverly Hillbillies television show. This foursome enjoys singing—and some of them can even stay on key! Their grand finale was "Friends in Low Places," and by then that's all they had left since they managed to drive everyone else from the room. Not to be discouraged, they ended with "Goodnight Sweetheart" as they exited!

Not to be outdone by West Virginia's quintessential rocker, J.D.; two other gentlemen decided to belt out a number for the audience's listening pleasure. These two were not so much rocking as listing a bit to one side. Fortunately, neither fell off the stage before they managed to sing their ditty. The two crooners were the new Director of the Parkersburg-Wood County Public Library, Brian Raitz, and Parkersburg's new Reference Librarian

and new First Vice-President of WVLA, Charley Hively!

Rounding out the evening's musical offerings was the "West Side Gang." Though this trio never did Broadway and have no official connection to the production of "West Side Story," these "west-enders" all have connections to the west side of Charleston. WVLA Treasurer Steve Christo, incoming WVLA President Julie Spiegler, and Barbara Winters (also of the above-mentioned infamous "Ike and Tina" duet) belted out a few hits and also joined the above-mentioned "Mamas and Papas" on "Bridge over Troubled Water."

What would a Hawaiian Luau be without a limbo contest? And WVLA's Annual Conference Luau celebration didn't disappoint. A do or die limbo contest was held at the luau, and the West Virginia Library Association can now boast that it has a real-live Limbo Queen. No males were brave enough to enter the contest so the position of Limbo King remains vacant. Pole-holders for the contest were Cherie Davis of the Rupert Public Library and Ann Farr of the Greenbrier County Public Library. Contestants included Sarah Johnson, Karen Hiser and Kathy Wingfield, all three of whom are WVLC employees, and Virginia Bates of the Pendleton County Public Library. Apparently the first three mentioned contestants saved their energy and talents more for their later vocal performances, because Virginia Bates, with her superior physical dexterity, won hands down and backbone bent!

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

'Setting the Goals: The Future of West Virginia's Libraries in the 21st Century'

October 16-18 • Pipestem Resort

Thanks to reporters Pam Coyle, Margaret Demer, Keith Hammersla, Carolyn Leporini, Jane Levitan, and Teresa Matheny, for their coverage of sessions they attended and their willingness to write the session up. You are appreciated.

FIRST GENERAL SESSION—October 16

The first General Session of the Conference was held on Wednesday, October 16. Minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved as presented. A motion was approved to adjust the WVLA membership dues beginning in 2004. (See proposed dues schedule in August/September *West Virginia Libraries*.) Two resolutions were passed supporting the continuation of the special library laws for 11 public libraries and supporting school library media centers. (See 2003 Resolutions, page **.)

The Conference keynote speaker, Jay Cole, Deputy Secretary of Education and the Arts for the State of West Virginia outlined some of the challenges and rewards of librarianship. Using personal experiences, he reminded the audience of the child-patron he once was. He relived the serendipity and joy of discovering a new author, a new subject to explore. He invited the audience to celebrate with him the opening of the rebuilt Great Library in Alexandria, Egypt, also October 16. From Alexandria to Pipestem, he celebrated libraries worldwide.

Reports from other sessions

Preconference: Repairing Library Materials

If an audio, video, CD, DVD is damaged, should I just delete it from the system and buy a new one? Is the bindery the only solution for damaged books? Kathy Kay from Kanawha County Public Library and Kresta Harris from Cabell County Public Library showed a substantial crowd that there are many ways to repair library materials that are both clever and inexpensive. Kathy showed the group how to repair video doors, replace broken cases, and splice tapes. One key fact in video repair was emphasized: NEVER throw any video case part away—you never know when you will need that spring!

Kresta taught participants to remove marks from pages, repair torn pages, reattach loose pages, repair broken hinges, and more. Plus each member of the audience took away a handy book weight (a brick wrapped in wallpaper) to use for future repairs.

Keeping the Library Relevant in a Digital Age: Redesigning Library Instruction

Library instructors need to conduct an "environmental scan" of the community to determine what people are using, what they want, and what they need. They should promote what libraries have always done (research, selection and evaluation, reader's advisory) but should also expand instruction to include new formats and methods. Libraries need to adjust the instructional focus from a narrow view of bibliographic instruction to a broader view of information literacy (not only how to find but how to use information). Key components of successful information literacy programs include staff, time, assessment or evaluation, facility resources (meeting space, equipment), partnerships, content (relevant to the audience), teaching methods, and marketing.

The Final Chapter: Closing the Book on a Bad Employee

Jimmie Epling, Director of the Ohio Valley Area Libraries (OVAL) regional system, presented an overview of how to properly terminate an employee's employment with the library. Epling, who became Director of OVAL in January 2001, previously served as the Assistant Director of Library Services at the Briggs Lawrence County Public Library in Ironton, Ohio from 1991 through 2000.

Epling educated his audience from the first step – having a Board-approved personnel manual in place – to the last – escorting the employee from the building, if necessary. Reasons for immediate dismissal were given along with an overview of a progressive disciplinary procedure. He pointed out that a library's having up-to-date job descriptions and performance requirements prior to any new hiring could alleviate the need for eventual dismissal.

He also cited examples of reasons for

terminating an employee, both valid and invalid. He stressed that documentation and consistency were key in protecting the library from any future lawsuits. He also encouraged proper preparation for the final meeting with an employee who will be terminated complete with witnesses, prepared exit documentation and a statement for remaining staff. An animated question and answer session completed the program.

Writing Your Library's History: Stalking the Wild Tales and Sorting Out the Truth

Dr. Charles A. Julian presented this very informative session which detailed the steps in documenting your library's history. However, the session had wider appeal, as the steps suggested in the presentation could be used for any local resource project a library would undertake. Handouts for all the information were available so the participant could concentrate on the presentation...good thing too, as this was an extremely entertaining performance!

YA Programming with Panache

Jennifer Hubert, Middle School Librarian for the Little Red School House in Manhattan and author of *Reading Rants!*, brought so much joy and enthusiasm to her subject, that even when the techniques and programming she used in NYC might not be applicable to WV, she remained a pleasure to listen to. Perhaps the strength of the session resided in her demonstration of various "booktalk" techniques. Her talks made participants want to read all of the five she described immediately. Also of great value was the "If I were a one-member BBYA committee," Top Ten Picks of 2002 book list, and other handouts.

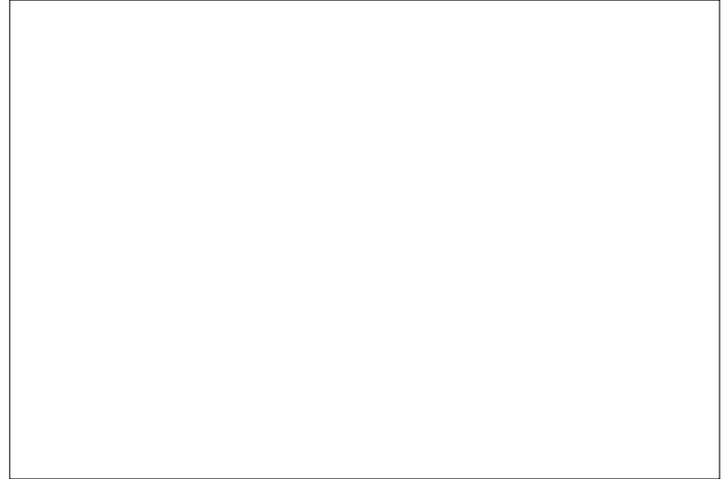
Moving to a New Integrated Library System: Things to Think About, Things to Do

Jane Hughes, Head of Technical Services, and Karen Arnett, Automation Manager, Kanawha County Public Library, suggested paths through the library software system migration. The sad news was that a new software system would not rectify old data problems. Perhaps the success of any

—continued on page 11



Librarians warm up and get inspired in the North Briefing Room before the rally.



Judy Rule (Cabell Co. PL) speaks to a reporter about the value of libraries—especially to children.

We forgot shhhh.....

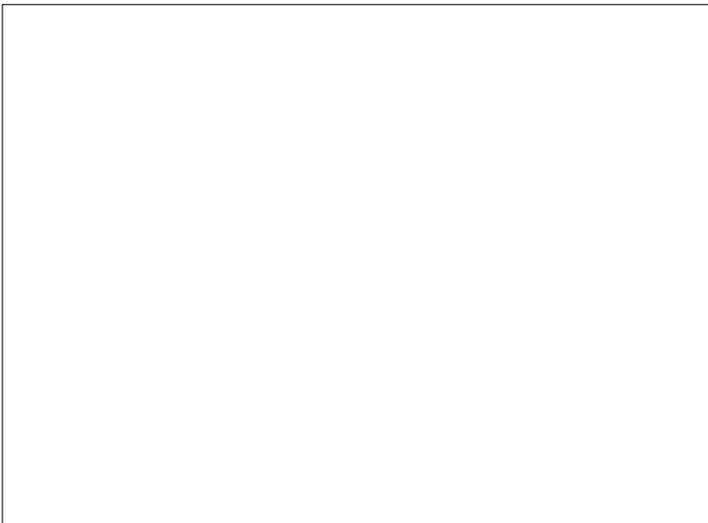
On November 18, despite short notice, more than 200 people from all across the State showed up at the Capitol to sing, dance, wave signs and make some noise on behalf of libraries. The rally focused on children, reading, books and the critical role libraries play in fostering reading skills, providing books and helping to educate the children of West Virginia. Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito pledged her support for the state's libraries and Speaker of the House Bob Kiss declared his opposition to a 10% cut in library funding. Ron Sowell played and sang until his fingers got too cold and Kate Long sang, told stories and interviewed library patrons.

Did we accomplish our goal? We did get some media attention; we did have an opportunity to talk about the positive impact libraries have in their communities; we did have a good time. But it is only a beginning! We need to blow our horns. We need

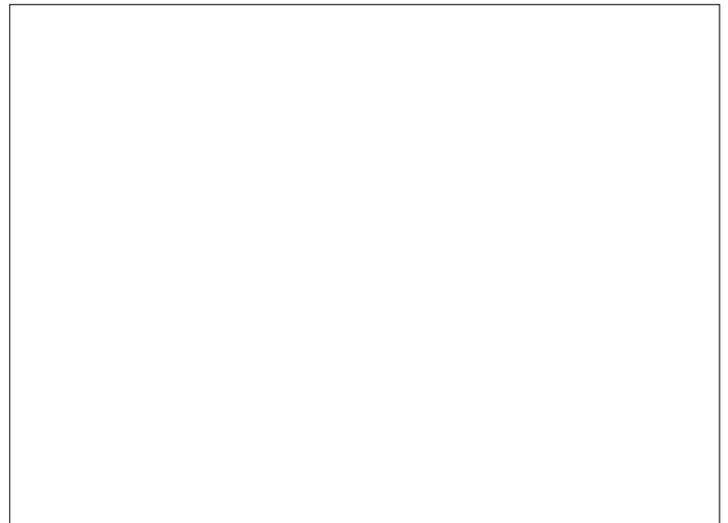
to inform both those who are responsible for our funding and to the population as a whole just how much libraries do!

The next event to promote libraries and better library funding will be Legislative Day on January 27th in Charleston. By that time we will know what the Governor's budget proposes for libraries for the coming fiscal year and our focus will no doubt be on money issues. I urge everyone between now and then to make some noise in your communities. Let everyone from the smallest patron to the most powerful community leader know just how valuable a resource a library is. Put articles in your papers about programs and usage, about new books and computer services. Talk to civic groups, the mayor, county commissioners, legislators, etc. Blow your own horn, make some noise and forget about shhhh...

Myra Ziegler, Chair • WVLA Legislative Committee



Speaker of the House Bob Kiss addresses the crowd, telling how his infant twins respond to reading time at home.



Julie Spiegler, WVLA President, welcomes the crowd to the rally.

Setting the Goals

—continued from page 9

new software venture lays in the planning, weeding, and clean up of old problems. This well attended session generated many helpful questions and answers. Handouts provided were useful guides in preplanning for a conversion to a new system. The session also emphasized the planning needed to index the library catalog. As many WV libraries are exploring new software options, this was a timely and useful session.

New West Virginia Films

Steve Fesenmaier and guests showed participants it's not all the "The Dancing Outlaw" any more, though that is still an option. Like many aspects of West Virginia life, our films are often stereotyped. If you didn't attend this session you might not know that WV loggers were contracted to salvaged hundreds of board-feet of lumber after a hurricane in the 1930s devastated New Hampshire. You may have missed that we have a long and honorable tradition of conservation. Some of us are even brilliant, but mad as the animated film about John Nash portrayed. We also have an educational film producer and distributor, "Jaguar Films" of Charleston. Sadly, the films were shown in a room with inadequate shades, and the sun, missing for much of the conference, decided to shine.

Training of Student Workers in Your Library

Judy Altis of Mountain State University Library suggested that library managers need to treat student workers just as they would any other library employees from the hiring process throughout their employment. Sample interview questions, job description, a training checklist, and handbook for student workers in the library were distributed. A panel of student workers discussed their challenges in assisting library patrons, communication skills, interdepartmental cross-training, and customer service issues. Suggested alternative forms of training include tutorial websites such as the orientation program at the Ohio Library Center at <http://www.ohio.org>, tuition-based courses at <http://WebCT.com>, and customer service videos available from the West Virginia Library Commission collection.

Teaching 101: Some Basic Instruction and Training Issues for Librarians

Teaching/training classes in the library should have specified expected outcomes, stated Amy E. Knapp, PhD, Coordinator, Library Instruction, University Library System, University of Pittsburgh. Teaching/training should be user-driven, should apply the communicated knowledge, and have a "hands-on" practical application. Classes should have a set time frame and should cover the advertised material in that time period. Printed help materials, either as a paper handout or delivered electronically through e-mail or on a website or listserv, are also very useful. Some basic elements of teaching/training are motivation, preparation, pace/timing, engaging the group, body language, class objectives, content, conclusions, evaluation, and program assessment.

60 Websites in 60 Minutes: Internet Paths to Searching Success

Dr. Charles A. Julian presented a fantastic collection of Internet sources of information in the following categories: West Virginia sites, business resources, collegiate resources, reference tools, U.S. Congress and other government sites, travel and tourism, geography, library resources, legal and legislation, entertainment, medical sites, and scientific resources. Among the interesting

websites featured were the West Virginia Web Sites page at <http://www.marshall.edu/wvweb>, which can lead to some interesting local websites which you may not have even known existed, and the West Virginia University Bureau of Business and Economic Research at <http://www.bber.wvu.edu/eo/publications.htm>, which offers economic outlook publications online for various regions throughout the state.

Adrift in the Age of Now: the Making and Meaning of Non Campus Mentis

The author, college professor Anders Henriksson (Shepherd College), provided a humorous look at bloopers, revisionist hypotheses, and creative interpretations of history from the papers and exams of his college students in his book *Non Campus Mentis*. In this session, the author suggested that perhaps this phenomenon is not merely a result of the burden of studying and the pressure of exams but, more widely, a symptom of the low value our society attaches to its past. He proposes that, as students have turned to television for the last couple generations and now the Internet for their information, their education has suffered due to lack of exposure to primary and authoritative sources. Due to the lack of seeing this information in print through books and in libraries, they have not grasped key elements of historical fact.

advertisement

Events

December

- National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
- Bingo's Birthday Month—Celebrate the birth (in 1929) of the game of Bingo.
- 1 United Nations World AIDS Day
- 1-7 Cookie Cutter Week—Join the international cookie cutter collectors' club in celebrating...with a cookie.

January

- National Glaucoma Awareness Month
- 1-7 Diet Resolution Week

February

- Library Lovers' Month • American Heart Month
- 1 Women's Heart Day
- 1-7 Women's Heart Week

NOTE: West Virginia Library Commission meetings are set monthly and dates will vary. Please check the WVLC web site for the exact date, time, agenda and minutes each month at <http://www.wvlc.lib.wv.us>

March

- Irish American Heritage Month
- National Craft Month
- Women's History Month
- 4 International Pancake Day
- 26-27 Spring Fling • Days Inn - Flatwoods

April

- Poetry Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- National Lawn and Garden Month
- 6-12 National Library Week

May

- Get Caught Reading Month
- National Book Month
- Older American Month

A note from the editors

West Virginia Libraries welcomes suggestions for articles from librarians, support staff, trustees and friends.

Articles may be submitted in writing, typewritten, by e-mail or on computer disk. If submitting material on computer disk, please use 3-1/2" disk and save your file to disk as an ASCII file and submit a hard copy (printout) of the material on the disk.

Article Submission Schedule:

- January 15 for February issue
- March 15 for April issue
- May 15 for June issue
- July 15 for August issue
- September 15 for October issue
- November 15 for December issue

WVLA Membership Information

To become a member of the West Virginia Library Association, contact:

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