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Join us for Library Day at the Legislature

Join Us in Charleston for Library Day at the Legislature!

On January 23rd, librarians and library supporters will come to Charleston to discussed the funding, the future of libraries, and the importance of improving library services to all citizens by all types of library.

Exhibits run from 9 to 2 in the Rotunda and the reception will be held in the Great Hall reception, beginning at 5.

Contact Ann Farr, chair of the Legislative Committee, for more information. Her email is farrann@mail.mln.lib.wv.us.

Spring Fling

Submitted by Hope Nobel

Spring will be here before we know it. I'm writing, as promised, to share a few items with you all:

- Spring Fling is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 2 and 3. It will be at Flatwoods, as usual. Please mark your calendars - it is going to be a great time.

- There has been discussion regarding whether or not to provide lunch at the venue. Considerations include the high cost/inferior quality of the lunch available at Flatwoods, the importance of networking, local issues with reimbursement, etc. I'd like to get some feedback, so if you have an opinion (or even if you don't!), can I ask you to please go here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KPXLVJZ. I promise the survey is quick and painless.

- My theme for the conference is "c", because of all the great words that go with it - collaborate, communicate, creativity, curiosity, cookies...pick a favorite of your own. In keeping with my favorite - collaborate - I am hoping to work with many of YOU to make this the best conference possible. If you're willing to help, please respond to this email to say so. There are a multitude of tasks involved with a conference like this, and I am positive there are rock stars hiding in the woodwork who would be fantastic at tasks such as registration, brainstorming session topics, scheduling performers, locating vendors, or assisting with clerical tasks. It will be a great way to be involved in WVLA without a massive commitment - I promise I will not overburden you; you will have as much or as little involvement as you wish. Just let me know what you are willing to commit, and if there's an area of particular interest. Can't wait to hear from you!
President’s Column

Myra Ziegler

While my term as president of WVLA ended on December 1, the 96th WVLA Annual Conference which took place October 9, 10 and 11 in Shepherdstown was, for all intents and purposes, the last of my responsibilities as President. I handed the gavel and ceremonial ugly briefcase over to Beth Royall, our incoming president, during the 3rd General Session at the end of Conference.

Being President of the Association is a 2 year gig. You are elected First Vice President/President elect. As First Vice you back up the President (of course) and do a lot of the physical things involved with conference like deciding about the food, arranging technical support for program presenters, printing programs, providing a shoulder for crying on and calming words, etc.

Then you are President. I seemed to be very busy as President but when I look back, I realize I did not actually DO anything, except try to keep up with the doings of everyone else! When I challenged you, the members of WVLA, to participate (remember that e for everyone??) I had no idea how very seriously everyone was going to take that challenge. And what can I say? – except thank you!

And yes, I know that I cannot begin to thank everyone for all they did in the last year! Nevertheless, I am inspired to try by the very clear picture I have in my mind of Kelly Funkhouser sitting in the back of the room at the 3rd General Session on October 11, looking a bit weary after 3 days at the Conference registration table and I thought “how is it possible for me to thank her for all she has done?” And what about all the other members of the Association who sent in session ideas, arranged for speakers to present them or worked hard to prepare and present programs themselves?

Then there were the members of the various committees, like Denise Seabolt of the Auditing Committee, and Monica Brooks, Nominating Committee, and Ann Farr, Legislative Committee and Jessica Tapia, Website – a miracle worker – and, and, and ... the list goes on and on. All those folks that said “yes” when I asked for their help and then worked hard doing all they promised to do.

There was Olivia Bravo who rode herd on the roundtables – those groups that represent the different interest groups within the Association. The roundtables keep us up to speed on what we need to be doing and the roundtable rep (Olivia) keeps the Executive Board informed about what the roundtables want and need. Roundtables often provide the inspiration for programs, trainings, workshops. They discuss issues that arise within their field of interest and propose solutions to problems they have identified. Their involvement helps steer the Association as it moves forward.

There were the Division Chairs – those members of the Executive Board who keep the Board informed about the needs and wants of their members. The Trustees, School, Public, Friends and Academic Division folks set some pretty lofty goals last year and kept my head spinning as I tried to keep up with their progress.

Finally, there are the “core” members of the Executive Board. The secretary, treasurer, second VP – the people who do all the “behind the scenes stuff” like paying the bills and taking minutes at meetings. All those routine tasks are essential to the successful operation of WVLA. There’s the ALA, SELA representatives and Karen Goff of the WV Library Commission whose job it is to keep us connected with the rest of the world.

They were all there when I needed them – more than there, actually. They were on TOP of every situation.

People keep asking me, “Are you relieved that it is over?”

I suppose so – I know the staff (all 5 of them) at the Summers County Public Library will be glad to have me “back” – but I enjoy being connected. I work in a small library in a poor county in the southern part of West Virginia. It is easy to become isolated. I need the rest of you to inspire and invigorate me. It was hard balancing the needs of WVLA and the demands of being director of a small library, but it was definitely worth the effort!
Views of the 2013 WVLA's Annual Conference
Views of the 2013 WVLA's Annual Conference
This year I was asked (last minute) to apply for the Diversity for Equity grant offered by West Virginia's Higher Education Policy Commission and received funds (hooray!). The grant must be used to promote diversity and equity (hence the clever title). The decision was made to split the funding in half and use it during both the Fall ‘13 and Spring ‘14 semesters, and have decided to host two 'weeks' for our students: Cultural Diversity Week from October 28 - 30, 2013 and Literacy Week from April 21 - 24, 2014.

I have to say, Cultural Diversity Week rocked! We had outstanding student, faculty and staff participation and the news even came.

Our most successful events were:

- **The Diversity Tree**: The Diversity Tree was created out of an old, square shredder box, cardboard tubes from rolls of fabric donated by an upholstery shop, brown craft paper and lots of adhesive spray. The 'leaves' were stock paper cutouts of hands. I walked around campus and asked students, faculty and staff to trace their hands because not two hands are the same and my student worker diligently cut all 250 hands out. We attached quotes about culture and diversity to the base of the tree and had everyone on campus fill out a hand with: their name, their culture or heritage, and their favorite tradition and attach it to the tree with tape. We ordered T-Shirts sporting our logo and the phrase "Celebrate Diversity" which were given out to all who put a hand on the tree. All T-shirts were handed out on the first day and almost all hands were used. The tree is still in our lobby.

- **The Snake and the Pot (Belly dancer and Drummer)**: This group performed Tuesday afternoon for a crown of over 100 students, faculty and staff. Each dance and musical piece was introduced with a brief history and story. The belly dancer not only danced, but also performed a Peruvian love song on her violin. At the end of the performance they invited the participants to come forward and learn a few moves; also very popular!
• West Virginia Cloggers: One of our faculty members is a member of this clogging group and they did a performance in our foyer Monday afternoon. Over 100 people attended this event. Each dance was preceded by its history and evolution of the steps. The ages of the members ranged from 4 - 70 years!

Our other events were:

• Night showing of “The Secret Life of Bees”: Our book club chose this as their first book (by Sue Monk Kidd, excellent read) of the year and helped with the set up for our movie night. We purchased the rights and showed the film Tuesday evening in our foyer from 6:30 -8 and served soda, candy and popcorn. This event was not heavily attended (about 20 people) but did spark discussion both during and after the film, so it was definitely a success.

• Take a Culture, Leave a Culture: Wednesday was a duel event day! Our Student Services held the annual Boo Bash and Blood Drive and we set up a culture swap table. Everyone was encouraged to bring an item representing their culture or heritage, leave it at the table and take something they found interesting. All sorts of items were swapped: key chains, books, pins, stories, trinkets.

Our one unsuccessful event was:

• Cultural Scavenger Hunt: 4 faculty and staff members and I created clues about our culture, heritage or culture we found interesting. All clues were printed on a sheet of paper with the thought that students could search between classes or in their free time without having to find one clue to get to the next, and the clue creators set up stations with stickers (to add to the students’ papers signifying they made it) and tokens (bookmarks, candy, etc.). Unfortunately no students participated! Next year we may ask instructors to make the scavenger hunt extra credit and/or use a more interactive/virtual approach with pictures to be uploaded to a Face Book page. You live and you learn!

What I’ll do differently next time:

• Create a committee. I planned and organized this week mostly by myself with the help of our Director of Student Services, James McDougle and my Student Worker, Kristia Seabolt.

• Leave procrastination to the dogs. Time was my enemy. This is the first big event I have ever organized and definitely underestimated the time I needed to cut checks, order T-shirts, call performance groups, etc.

• Advertise within classes more. We have found at our institution that the more instructors encourage their students to attend events, the more students show up. Also, giving extra credit for movie nights or scavenger hunts has been a positive factor in the past, so if we can get our faculty on board with that, attendance will hopefully improve

Literacy Week may not be until April 2014, but our committee has already been created, ideas have been brainstormed, and several people and performers have been contacted; it’s on a role!

Programs & Workshops

Submitted by Pam Mann

Kudos to Majed Khader for presenting his workshop, Data on Demand: Federal Government Information at Your Finger Tips, despite the government shutdown. With all the original sites he planned to use taken offline, he stepped up to the plate, changed direction, and presented a selection of alternative websites where this information could be gathered. This was a very informative program, and very well done.

Kathleen Phillips, from the Kanawha Valley Community & Technical College, presented a very informative program created by herself and Gretchen Rae Beach from Marshall University, entitled Helping the Adult Learner, which focused on understanding the differences in how adults learn, and how to use this information to provide appropriate services to them. The program referenced studies that show the differences in how older students learn, and gave good ideas on websites to utilize, and ways to adjust programs to make them more relevant to this population of learners.
Librarians and their staff created striking visual images for Banned Books Week.

One library even burned books to commemorate the reading of Fahrenheit 451.
Banned Book Week Displays

FREADOM
Celebrate the Right to Read
Banned Book Week
September 23 - September 28, 2013

Banned Book Week
Discover What You're Missing
September 23 - September 28, 2013
Fine Free All Week
Guess The Title Of The Book In The Jar!
Correct Answers Will Be Entered Into A Prize Drawing
See Library Staff For More Details

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2013-2014

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Continued ➔
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Calendar of Events

Note: The dates for the West Virginia Library Commission are tentative. Please check with the WVLC web site for the exact date, time, agenda, and minutes at www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us

November 2013
Picture Book Month
14-17 AASL National Conference Rising to the Challenge Hartford, CT
16 International Games Day
28 Happy Thanksgiving Day

December 2013
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

January 2014
24-28 ALA Midwinter Philadelphia, PA

February 2014
Library Lover’s Month

March 2014
9-15 Teen Tech Week
11-13 PLA 2014 Conference Indianapolis, IN

April 2014
5-12 Smart Money Week
13-19 National Library Week
27-May 3 Preservation Week