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West Virginia LIBRARIES

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www.wvla.org

May 2006

National Library Week

by Linda Mitchem, Children's Librarian
Raleigh County Public Library



National Library Week is a week of importance to the staff at Raleigh County Public Library. In addition to the week being fine free for patrons, the library gears up for the annual Friends of the Library Book Sale. As part of the spring emphasis, the members work very diligently to insure the success of the sale. The results are shared with the library in much needed ways.

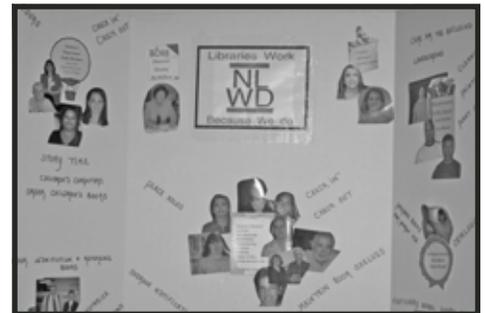
In order to show our appreciation, we honor them each year during National Library week with a themed event. This year, the theme was "You are a Treasure". Decorations of rich colors and treasure chests filled the Adult Learning Center; including one special treasure box for each guest. They were served treasured recipes prepared by staff members and included a printed recipe as part of their gift. Those participating shared their own

treasured moments in the library and I include a couple for you to enjoy (see page 4).

In observance of the National Library Workers Day a special poster was made with a description of duties and identification of staff. Life Saver candy was given to each in observance of the statement made many times by patrons..."You are a Life Saver!!! I really depend on You!"

As part of a yearly based action plan, JoLynn Prince-Lacek built displays of award winning books in the Easy Reader, Juvenile and YA sections. Not just the regular awards were highlighted but many little known to the public were part of their discovery. The information shared as a result of her effort was new to many patrons. A copy of the award-winning book was displayed as well as the information about the award.

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**The Call for Conference Proposals
form is available on the
WVLA website (wvla.org).**

Please submit your programming suggestions and ideas by June 9.

A Message from the President

Hello All,

The American Library Association just announced that West Virginia, along with Texas, won the first competition for "Quotable Facts." The information compiled by dedicated librarians and sent to ALA illustrates the uniqueness and viability of the libraries in this state and how well we actually serve and help our communities.

While ALA announced our win, they also published an article in American Libraries OnLine which provided something different. The online article announced that the Wetzel (WV) County Board of Education had decided to eliminate the Library Media Specialist and Library Aide position for the High Schools in that county. If you read the article on the website, Jeanie Deem is quoted as saying that "she believes board members hadn't known that we [library media specialists] do anything in the library besides check books out."

If you are not familiar with the role of a library media specialist, let me tell you what I know. Library Media Specialists are a special breed of librarian. They are educator/librarians and have pivotal roles in schools. Library Media Specialists should be considered master teachers. They must be familiar with the curriculum taught at each grade level, as they work collaboratively with classroom teachers to support pedagogical needs and classroom activities on a daily basis. Library Media Specialists are also responsible for the creation of school-wide instructional programs which incorporate literacy, library and information skills, and technology-use components throughout each grade level as well. The school library media center provides students with research and study space, books, magazines, audio-visual material and equipment, computers, and access to electronic databases. The library media program coupled with the library media center is an information resource that students utilize as they become information literate individuals.

Jeanie Deem's quote really illustrates for me what J.D. Waggoner articulated at the last WVLA Executive Board meeting. J. D. stated that librarians of all types need to share our stories. We need to tell others what we do and how we do it. Our stories will emphasize our importance and why we are necessary.

If we don't tell the public or agencies within we work, how will they know?

Please share your stories - send articles to our newsletter or the local newspaper, share with national library organizations, share your stories with the WV Library Commission, inform your delegates, congresspersons, school and trustee boards, literacy groups - tell everyone you can. Do it for yourself and your colleagues - and do it for the individuals we serve!

All the Best,
Martha Yancey

Future of Cataloging: Where are we now?

Presented by Sophie Bogdanski, WVU Librarian
Submitted by Pamela Ford, Marshall University

There are major changes on the horizon for catalogers in the not too distant future. West Virginia librarians need to be made aware of what is to come and the impact it may have on the way we do our jobs. That is exactly what Sophie Bogdanski was doing in her presentation on the Future of Cataloging at the 2006 WVLA Spring Fling.

Starting out with a brief history of the cataloging code from the British Cataloging Rules in 1841, through ALA Rules

1908, LC Descriptive Cataloging Rules in 1949, AACR in 1967, and AACR2 in 1978, she then led us into a discussion on RDA (Resource Description and Access) a new standard being written.

Jennifer Bowen in her presentation at the Authority Control Interest Group, Jan. 22, 2006 at the ALA Midwinter meeting give these reasons for a new standard: Simplify rules (encourage use as a content standard for metadata schema and encourage international applicability); Provide more consistency; Address current problems; and Principle-based (build on cataloger's judgment, encourage applica-

tion of FRBR). Sophie said that "RDA: will be an electronic resource designed for the electronic environment that will encourage the use of metadata. [It will be] A resource for the entire metadata community not only for libraries." (Conference handout, 2006).

These international rules, a collaboration between the US, UK, Canada and Australia, are not necessarily something that West Virginia catalogers can impact, but the rules will certainly impact the catalogers. One of the complaints is that this will only be available in electronic form

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Request for Award Nominees

Libraries and individuals in West Virginia work hard to bring informational materials and services to the citizens of the state. At each annual conference, the opportunity presents itself to recognize outstanding leadership in providing service. Several awards are available, along with resolutions to honor individuals who have helped the progress of library service.

As the annual conference approaches, consider individuals or libraries within the West Virginia library community who might qualify for the following awards. To nominate an individual or library for one of the awards, send a letter of nomination detailing the person or library's qualifications to receive the award to Margaret Smith, Chair of WVLA awards committee, Hamlin-Lincoln County Public Library, 7999 Lane Avenue, Hamlin, WV 25523. Telephone: 304-824-5481. Deadline is August 15, 2006.

- Certificate of Merit for service to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia.
- The Dora Ruth Parks Awards for long and outstanding service to libraries and librarianship.
- Literary Merit for an outstanding publication or body of work. It has been the Association's policy to present this award to a West Virginia author. However, exceptions may be made for contributions to Appalachian literature.
- Frederic J. Glazer Library Innovation Award for demonstrated success in planning and execution of an innovative service, project, or program that has significantly impacted the patrons of the library. This award should recognize an innovation from the previous calendar year. *Restriction:* This award should not recognize individual accomplishments; honor routine operations, functions, or programs; or advance a particular agenda (political, religious, philosophical, etc.)

Resolutions recognize significant contributions to libraries, and are especially appropriate for voicing appreciation of an individual's dedication at his or her retirement or upon the individual's death. Typically, resolutions mark the efforts of library staff, board members, volunteers, or Friends. Resolutions are read into the record of the annual meeting and honorees or their families receive a copy of the resolution. To honor someone who has had a significant impact on your library, send information about your honoree to: Margaret Smith, Chair of WVLA awards committee, Hamlin-Lincoln County Public Library, 7999 Lane Avenue, Hamlin, WV 25523. Telephone: 304-824-5481. Deadline is August 15, 2006.

SELA Report

by Judy K. Rule

Steve Christo, Joel Beane, and I attended the joint Southeastern Library Association and Tennessee Library Association Conference in Memphis in early April. This is the first conference we have ever attended where the programs were interrupted and everyone was asked to move to a safer place in the hotel because of tornados. Steve and I passed the church in Nashville that had its roof blown away about three or four hours before we drove by. Although it took us about two and a half hours to drive around Nashville, we didn't complain as we listened to the radio and heard of all the deaths and the destruction the tornados

had caused in that area.

West Virginia has only six members in SELA. In addition to the above-mentioned three, Pam Ford, Deborah Musser and Eddie Chesley are also members. Frances O'Brien has resigned as SELA Representative for West Virginia and the Executive Board appointed me as the interim representative. I will have application forms at the Fall Conference and I hope that more of you will join this association.

Faith Line of the Sumter Public Library will assume the presidency at the end of 2006. Currently Judith Gibbons of the

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WVLA's Web site: www.wvla.org

Library Week —continued from page 1

A copy of the treasured punch recipe served to all...

Graduation Punch

Bring to a boil 6 cups of water and 4 cups of sugar. Stir to dissolve. Add one 12 oz can of orange juice, one 12 oz. can of lemonade (frozen), and a 48 oz. can of pineapple juice. Cool. Add one small can crushed pineapple. Peel 5 bananas and remove the seeds. (Yes, bananas have them). Mash or chop fine and add to punch mixture. Freeze in bowls such as Cool Whip etc. until you need it. Put it in punch bowl and add 7-up or Sprite to fill the bowl.

The pieces of banana and pineapple are a nice surprise...

Treasured Moments to share.....

I have appreciated being able to have part of the library when I drove to Summersville weekly to teach Spanish to elementary students by checking out "books on tape". The book sales and programs have been memorable times...

Jo Midkiff, Friend of the Library

One of my favorite memories is of the time I spent at a Summer Reading Program helping children learn to quilt. I felt like I made several new friends among the eager children who participated...

Gail McCray, Friend of the Library.

My fondest memories of RCPL are the retellings of the books my daughter Kimberly (now 28) and my son Michael (now 36) would do for me from the "Children's Storyhours". My babysitter would bring them to the library to hear the storyhours...

Patricia Waddell, Board of Trustees.

WVLA Wins National Contest

While Wal-Mart may seem to be overtaking the state, public libraries still have a 5 to 1 lead over the retailing giant. There are 174 public libraries in West Virginia compared to 32 Wal-Marts.

That interesting bit of information helped the West Virginia Library Association win the American Library Association's "Quotable Facts" Competition. WVLA tied with the Texas Library Association for the top honor in a contest that drew entries from library groups nationwide.

WVLA President Martha Yancey hopes the recognition will help state residents better understand the importance of libraries to their daily lives.

"Those who might regard libraries as obsolete in the 'Internet age' should take a look at these quotable facts," Yancey said. "The facts paint a vivid picture of the value of libraries to West Virginians. Our libraries are vital and dynamic institutions, continuing to meet the diverse needs of readers and researchers, from toddlers to students to seniors."

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Response to WVLA Board Letter

by Jeanie Deem

Hi everyone—I thought I would update you all on our situation here in Wetzel County since Pat sent out the letter that went to our Supt. & some of you might be wondering what has happened since all this began in Feb.

Parents, teachers, & students have been bombarding the board members & county office staff with letters to the editor, emails, letters, petitions, phone calls, etc. We've had several board meetings where parents, students, librarians, and library aides have spoken. The meetings have been well attended. The ALA has contacted our Supt. & me for quotes for articles for the national magazine. There have been newspaper articles in the local paper as well as the Wheeling & Parkersburg papers. The board rescinded the transfers of the elementary personnel in March, and the elementaries will continue to operate next year as is. No promises were made for after next year. The first high school RIF went thru in March. A 25-year employee, he was divided between two high schools, so our first two high schools lost the librarian for next year and he is out of a job. His secondary field had a more seasoned person in it. The hearing for our next high school librarian's transfer (which will eliminate any personnel in another high school library) will be April 26th. Pray for us, keep your fingers crossed, etc.

I'm urging you all to join WVLA if you haven't, talk to your legislators, etc. We've got to get united & get something done through the state or this is going to continue to happen to us all. Someone suggested in an earlier email to promote yourselves & that is also a great idea. If you're not doing a newsletter, start now—get every photo in your local paper of

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Letter —continued from page 4

anything you do. You might even want to get on your local board agendas & speak about your programs before you HAVE to in order to save your job! Above all, stay connected. This listserv has really helped with ideas, communication, etc.!

Jeanie Deem, NMS, Wezel County
jdeem@access.k12.wv.us

Contest —continued from page 4

Last fall, ALA invited its chapters to submit a collection of at least 10 “Quotable Facts” about libraries in their respective states. The contest responded to requests by ALA members for more research and statistics to demonstrate the importance of libraries to public schools, colleges and communities.

Judges based their selections on originality, creativity, how local the quotes were, and how well they incorporated the “value” of their libraries.

Other interesting factoids about libraries in the Mountain State include:

- On a typical day in 2004, more than 80,000 students and faculty visited West Virginia’s academic libraries, more visitors than the entire population of Charleston and Morgantown combined.
- West Virginians visited public libraries more than 6 million times in 2005; that is 16.5 thousand visits per day and almost 8 times the combined attendance at WVU and Marshall home football games in 2005.
- West Virginians will find nearly 5 million books in state public libraries, almost three books for every resident. If you laid these books end to end, you would have a line reaching all the way from Chester to Bluefield and back again, a scenic 664 mile roundtrip from north to south through the whole Mountain State.
- In 2005, academic libraries loaned more than 20,000 items to other libraries through interlibrary loan services. Sharing materials leverages dollars spent on their purchase.

Welcome, new members!

from Olivia Bravo, Second Vice-President

On behalf of WVLA, I wish to welcome all new members to the Association! Our hope is that you can learn from us as well as teach us. An association is only as strong as its membership. Your membership will help provide empowerment and authority to the library community.

Wanda Bailey of Glenville

Rachel Beavers of Ikes Fork, *Hanover Public Library*

Karen Bremer of Huntington, *West Middle School*

Lee Ann Cleary of Martins Ferry, OH, *Ohio County Public Library*

Elizabeth Collins of Raleigh, *Raleigh County Public Library*

Harriet Collins of Williamstown, *Parkersburg and Wood County Library*

Jane Corathers of Buckhannon, *Charles Gibson Library*

Floyd Csir of Huntington, *Marshall University Libraries*

Anne Maroney Donelan of Martinsburg, *Martinsburg–Berkeley County Pub. Lib.*

Heather Heck of Ceredo, *Wayne High School*

Doug Hill of Elizabeth, *Wirt County Board of Education*

David Hubbard of Wellsburg

Richard McMillan of West Union, *Doddridge County Public Library*

Linda Milchem of Beckley, *Raleigh County Public Library*

Ralph Oppenheim of Ashland, KY, *Cabell County Public Library*

Lynn Pauley of Ripley, *Jackson County Public Library*

Dottie Pigott of West Union, *Doddridge County Public Library*

Kristine Roberts of Follansbee, *Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce*

Catherine Rogers of Bentonville, VA

Pamela Schimmel of Moundsville, *Cameron High School*

Jennifer Sias of Huntington, *Marshall University Libraries*

Anne Sibernagel of Charleston, *Kanawha County Public Library*

Suzette Sims, Raven, VA, *Craft Memorial Library*

Dottie Slider of Grantsville, *Calhoun County Library*

Ellen Vlach of Elizabeth, *Wirt County Library Board*

Nora Williams of Daniels, *Shady Spring Branch Library*

Jingping Zhang of Proctorville, OH, *Marshall University Libraries*

SELA —continued from page 3

Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives is the president. The conference for 2008 has not been set as yet for SELA but there is discussion about having a joint conference in Kentucky or with another association in the Southeast, such as museums. Since libraries and museums are connected on a federal level, it may make sense to have a joint conference with the Southeastern Museum Conference.

A planning committee report was given to the Executive Board that recommended that SELA make alliances with other organizations in the Southeast that would bring value added opportunities to its members. Another suggestion was to add Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to the organization territory to bring the organization into alignment with others in the area. Also recommended was that

SELA work toward forming coalitions with other library and related organizations to allow members of one group to attend workshops and other meetings of the other group for the member rate. Instead of biennial meetings, SELA should have annual meetings so that membership will remain more constant.

SELA offers a good way for West Virginia librarians to meet their counterparts in other states. When we go to PLA or ALA, the meetings are so large we do not have opportunity to actually sit down and talk to librarians from different states. I believe that this is the greatest advantage of SELA, it is small enough that members can be seen and heard. The web site for SELA is <http://sela.jsu.edu>. Please do not use “www” as the address does not work when that is included.

“Quality Customer Service in Your Library” written by Linda Blake

presented by Rebecca Van Der Meer, Continuing Education Consultant, West Virginia Library Commission

Rebecca Van Der Meer started her presentation by reminding us of the Platinum Rule “Do unto others as they do unto you, and do it with a” The audience responded with a resounding, “Smile!” thus setting the tone of the session. Ms. Van Der Meer’s presentation was dynamic, funny, and entertaining.

She aptly discussed at the beginning of her talk the importance of first impressions of the library. First impressions start in the parking lot, progress to the outside of the library, and then inside of the library building. She talked about tidiness and cleanliness not only being important for the building but for the employees. She said that body language was important. A friendly greeting will make patrons feel welcome and encourage them to come back. Some bad behaviors include ignoring patrons, letting personal calls interfere with helping patrons, and chatting with others when patrons need help.

Ms. Van Der Meer cautioned library staff members not to get too friendly with patrons though. She said you should “make acquaintances but not friends.” You should be helpful and understanding but should avoid getting involved in personal problems. Librarians and staff are not professionally trained to council library users.

Nor should library workers bring their personal problems to work. Ms. Van Der Meer asked the audience to think about how doing this would affect their work, coworkers, and the patrons. She advised sitting in the car for a few minutes if you’re having a bad day and leave the problem in

excusing yourself long enough to answer the phone, putting the caller on hold, or asking the caller to call back. She stressed that you should identify yourself when answering the phone, and if you say you are going to return a call, then you should follow through.

Both the audience and Ms. Van Der Meer had some advice about handling upset patrons. These included: not arguing, letting the patron state the case, doing your best to work something out, staying cool, and not getting drawn into the anger. Her last technique was to bend the rules, but one participant reminded us that if you bend the rules once, you should keep records. Let the patron know that you are keeping notes and that you will not continue to bend the rules for them.

In her last slide, Ms. Van Der Meer noted that you should not send the patrons away empty-handed. Try to provide them with what they have requested through a variety of means including your word that you will get back to them.

The session ended with role-playing in which some fine Thespians from the audience showed how to ignore patrons, insult patrons, and generally not respond to their needs. Then, they provided a redux in which the patron was the center of the universe for the staff.



the car: “It will wait for you there.”

She then asked the audience to think about how helpful they are by showing slides of three different dog types: the pointer, the sitter, and the retriever. Of our canine friends, of course, the retriever is the best kind to be. At this point, the attendees engaged in a lively discussion of how far to go for patrons.

In a slide titled “Handling the Ringing Telephone,” Ms. Van Der Meer made several points about the proper business use of the phone. She posited, “Who comes first?” The patrons you are helping or the ringing telephone? Several options were:



Rebecca prepares for her presentation.



Session attendees listen as Rebecca discusses how to handle different kinds of patrons.

A “Highly Qualified” Librarian in every School Library

from the American Library Association

In 2001, with strong bipartisan support, the nation embarked on an ambitious school reform plan entitled the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) (P.L. 107-110). Among other things, the {NCLB} requires states to set high standards for all students and holds schools accountable for the results. Further, it requires that there be a “highly qualified” teacher in every classroom. The American Library Association (ALA) applauds those objectives, but believes the same standards being applied in our classrooms should be extended to our nation’s school libraries - that every school library should be staffed by a highly qualified, state certified library media specialist.

Sec. 119 of the {NCLB} outlines the minimum qualifications needed by teachers and paraprofessionals who work on any facet of classroom instruction. It requires that states develop plans to achieve the goal that all teachers of core academic subjects be highly qualified by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. In an October 2005 letter, the U.S. Department of Education granted states a one-year extension on meeting the highly qualified requirements in the {NCLB}. The U.S. Department of Education will consider four (4) factors to decide whether states have made enough progress to get the reprieve. If states meet

these requirements, the state will have the opportunity to negotiate and implement a revised plan for meeting the highly qualified goal by the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

Yet, despite the vital role school libraries play in helping meet those requirements, {NCLB} is silent when it comes to the qualification of those individuals in charge of our school libraries. School librarians fill multiple roles - teacher, instructional partner, information specialist, and program administrator - ensuring that students and staff are effective users of information and ideas.

School libraries are critical partners in ensuring that states and school districts alike meet the reading requirements that are part of {NCLB}, as well as President Bush’s unequivocal commitment to ensuring that every child can read by the end of third grade. President Bush and the Congress recognized the important role school libraries play in increasing literacy and reading skills when they created the Improving Literacy Through School Library program as part of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) (Title I, Part B, Subpart 4, Sec.1251).

Multiple studies have affirmed that there is a clear link between school library media programs, staffed by an experi-

enced school library media specialist, and student academic achievement. In states as dissimilar as Alaska, Pennsylvania, and Colorado, three recent statewide studies show that a strong library media program helps students learn more and score higher on standardized achievement tests than their peers in library-impooverished schools.

When it comes to our children’s education, we must ensure that they receive the best instruction possible from competent, qualified instructors. This is true in the classroom and should be true in our school libraries. Education is not exclusive to the classroom; it extends into school libraries and so should the qualification we demand of our school librarians. To be a critical part of a comprehensive and renewed strategy to ensure that students learn to read and to read well, every school library should be staffed by a highly qualified, state certified library media specialist and every school should have a school library.

“Kids Websites Presentation”

Sponsored by the Children’s Roundtable and the Government Documents Roundtable, Ann Henriksson and Peggy Turnbull’s presented *Smokey the Bear, Canine Heroes, and Ben’s Birthday: Collection Development Issues for Web-based Reference Sources for Children*. The session covered the latest research on children’s use of the Internet, criteria for evaluating free sites, a review of recommended of sites, and a discussion of how to make the sites accessible either through the catalog or a webliography. Check out the reviewed children’s sites at: http://www.shepherd.edu/libweb/find/guides/kids_websites.html and ALA’s Great Web Sites for Kids for sites and selection criteria at: <http://www.ala.org/greatsites>.

Cataloging —continued from page 2

and could be too costly for many of the libraries in West Virginia. Sophie brought up the question, “Should we implement regional standards for WV Libraries that we can all share?” The group had no answer to that question during the session but it is one of the things about which West Virginia catalogers will need to be thinking in the future.

The tentative timeline for RDA as of January 2006 was: April 2006, completion of Part I; Sept. 2006, completion of draft of Part II and April 2007, completion of draft part III; Sept. 2007, completion of general introduction, appendices and glossary; 2008, publication and 2011, all US libraries should be using it (full implementation). Since I will retire in 2011, I guess this will be the last big change for me.

RDA drafts available at: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rda.html>

Overview of RDA is: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/docs/5rda-prospectusrev.pdf>

Frequently asked questions (March 2006): <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/jsc/rdafaq.html>

Law for Librarians

by Jane Levitan

How can libraries protect the intellectual freedoms of their patrons, avoid law suits and comply with the new Patriot Act? These were just a few of the topics covered by ALA's conference on Law for Librarians. The conference was held from April 3 to the 6th in Chicago, the home of ALA. The Ford Foundation helped sponsor the conference and granted ALA the funds to bring the chairpersons of the Intellectual Freedom Committees from all 50 states to this important training. Also present were representatives from the state libraries. Jane Levitan and Karen Hiser represented West Virginia.

At the opening reception, the legendary Judith Krug, director of ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedoms, greeted the participants with,

"Welcome to the Intellectual Freedoms Boot Camp. I'll see you all at 7am". And

so began a fascinating conference. The faculty included library lawyers, a professor of Library Science from Catholic University, and working and retired librarians. Each session discussed the ethics, laws and legal precedents using actual case studies. Topics ranged from CIPA and filtering, labeling, adding content to "chill" readership, First and Fourth Amendment rights, meeting room and display policies. Also discussed was the need to create policies and procedures before a crisis situation occurs. Who will speak to the press? Who deals with federal and local law enforcement? Does anyone know what a subpoena actually looks like and who responds to it?

To facilitate building communities among librarians, we ate breakfast and lunch together. The conference administrators separated the participants into

library interest groups for some sessions (all youth services, all state librarians, etc. were seated together). For the session on training, the group was seated with its geographic neighbors. West Virginia, incidentally, was listed in the Mid-Atlantic region and seated with Maryland, Virginia and Delaware.

All attendees of the conference were asked to conduct at least 2 training sessions. Karen and Jane are planning to invite a library lawyer to the Huntington Annual Meeting to present an overview of library law. Also planned is a workshop on meeting room, exhibit and display policies. In the meantime, both Jane and Karen would be glad to share any of the pounds of information they received and/or the CD with actual library challenges and case law.

Intellectual Freedom Concerns

(as raised by Chicago Conference)

- ❖ Library does not operate in loco parentis (library should consider putting message on juvenile cards that states that parents must assume responsibility for information children see on the net AND in print materials).
- ❖ The library must protect the rights of the oldest (not youngest minors)
- ❖ Minors have the right to have internet filters removed
- ❖ We say internet access is a privilege. Does this protect us?
- ❖ Librarians and support staff should know the state and federal laws that govern their activities. (the laws may not say what you think they do. Ignorance is not a defense)
- ❖ Policy enforcement must be consistent.
- ❖ Meeting Rooms, Information and Displays MUST be open to all, even if the views are morally repugnant. Open to one is open to all. The library's only defense is a sign saying the library does not support this point of view. The only exception is sexually obscene information. Have your meeting room, display and information policies reviewed by a lawyer.
- ❖ Religion symbols should be avoided in library labeling. (Christian collection labeled as such with crosses)
- ❖ Seasonal Easter and Christmas decorations are OK as long as they avoid specific symbolism (ie crosses, Nativity seasons, etc.)
- ❖ Internet policy should include that filters will be removed if a patron requests. (This includes computers used by minors)
- ❖ The "heckler's veto" must not apply. For instance, a patron does not have the right to say some else's internet screen is offensive and should be terminated.) Librarians are in jeopardy of a law suit if they tell patrons their viewing is inappropriate.
- ❖ "Heckler's veto" should not apply to literature and re-shelving.
- ❖ Labeling should not be added that will "chill" the reading of any materials. You cannot change shelving due to content. (For instance, a book about two male penguins who raise an egg should not be re-shelved to parenting because of content)
- ❖ Privacy for those using the word processors should be protected. There is an expectation of privacy at sign up.
- ❖ Obscenity is sexual only!!! and determined by courts. Child porn is illegal, but care is needed in "catching" offenders.
- ❖ All library staff should know what to do if federal, state or local law enforcement comes to the library. Know what to do, who to direct the agent to. (The person is not necessarily who they say they are.)
- ❖ Know who to direct press inquires to....avoid misspeaking. Develop a plan! Don't wait until an issue arises.

WVLA Members Participate in ALA Legislative Day

by Betty Gunnoe, WVLA Federal Relations

On Tuesday, May 2, J. D. Waggoner and Karen Goff of the WVLC; Martha Yancey, WVLA president; John Sheridan and Ann Henriksson from Shepherd University and Jane Levitan and Betty Gunnoe from the Martinsburg Public Library participated in the annual ALA Legislative Day on Capitol Hill.

Visits were made to the offices of Senator Rockefeller, Senator Byrd, Congresswoman Capito, Congressman Mollohan and Congressman Rahall and information packets were given to all.

Topics discussed included:

- funding of LSTA at the \$220 million requested in the president's budget (which is a slight increase over previous years);
- continuation of the e-rate; support for the Superintendent of Documents funding;
- increase funding for Improving Literacy Through School Libraries to \$100 million (president's budget freezes funding at the FY 2005 level of \$19.486 million) and change the status from competitive grants to a block grant so that all states have an equal share;
- asked support of S. 2360 and other proposals seeking to maintain equal

access to the Internet for all content providers;

- preserve fair use and educational use of TV news and public affairs programming by voting against "broadcast flag" (copy protection mechanism for digital televisions and personal computers to prevent Internet distribution of broadcast content);
- ask for support for the bi-partisan "Executive Branch Reform Act of 2006," HR 5112, that would limit the use of "pseudo-classification" markings such as "sensitive but unclassified" and "for official use only" unless they are authorized by statute or regulation;
- end secret meetings between lobbyists and most executive branch officials;
- ban covertly sponsored government propaganda;
- enhance protections for national security whistleblowers.

All of West Virginia's senators and congressmen/women have been and continue to be supporters of libraries and library programs and the group made sure to thank them for the past support and to offer any assistance they should need regarding library issues.

✎ Two-thirds of adult Americans (roughly 135 million people) visited their public libraries last year.

✎ Seven out of 10 Americans report being extremely or very satisfied with their public libraries - up 10 points from 2002.

✎ Americans' use of library services has grown in almost every category - from taking out books (up 14 points) to consulting with librarians (up 7 points) to taking out CDs, videos and computer software (up 13 points) to attending cultural programs like speakers or movie showings (up 8 points).

✎ Nearly two-thirds of parents with children under the age of 18 continue to take their kids to the public library.

✎ African American and Hispanic adults are significantly more likely to use their public library for job searches or writing resumes than are Caucasian adults.

✎ The most frequent library users are women, younger adults (ages 25-44), college-educated adults and parents of younger children.

✎ Nearly two-thirds of Americans own library cards and report that taking out books and using computers/Internet are the top services they use in public libraries.

Key facts & findings from a study by KRC Research for the American Library Association

Concerns —continued from page 8

- ❖ Have local press, key citizens and legislator "on your side", so if a problem crops up, they already have a good relationship and are less likely to jump to conclusions.
- ❖ Children's Library may be required to open computers to adult patrons if all adult terminals are occupied.
- ❖ Library materials and space must answer to the time, space & function criteria rather than content.
- ❖ Library material purchase should follow the library mission statement and collection development plan (each should be periodically updated and have attorney review)
- ❖ Children's cards are linked to parent/guardian's card. If a p/g card is blocked, children are denied check out if caught and also denied a new card. This practice is in question.
- ❖ It may be a violation of rights to ban games.
- ❖ We must give patrons the right to complain about a rule or express their dissatisfaction.

MountainWhispers.com to release Audio Film of “When Miners March”

by Steve Fesenmaier

Audio books are probably the fastest growing format in West Virginia and American public libraries. During the last fiscal year, West Virginia's 97 main libraries reported that they possessed 176,460 audio books, only slightly fewer than the 186,543 videos and DVDs. No one knows what part of the 7,726,052 items circulated last year were audio books, but every library director in the state has told me they are very popular, including here at the West Virginia Library Commission. These 97 libraries report spending \$594,470 on audios, videos, DVDs, and other non-print items.

Ross Ballard II, president of WV's only in-state audio book production company, MountainWhispers.Com, has been very busy this winter and spring, working on his dramatic version of William C. Blizzard's "When Miners March." It will be 7 audio disks plus a soundtrack CD of sixteen songs honoring miners. Songs on the special CD include ones by T. Paige Dalport, Elaine Purkey, Hazel Dickens, Mike Morningstar, and an Irish duo of Enda Cullen and Ian Smith.

The recent mine disasters have focused world attention again on West Virginia miners and their families. This new "audio movie" should be a perfect way to remember their tragic past – and help educate your descendants so they know what has happened before. I hope every library and school in the state will buy a copy.

Unlike regular audio books, this "audio film" consists of reenactments of the events in the book. The limited edition of this "audio movie" will sell for \$24.95 and will be available at www.mountainwhispers.com or local books stores.

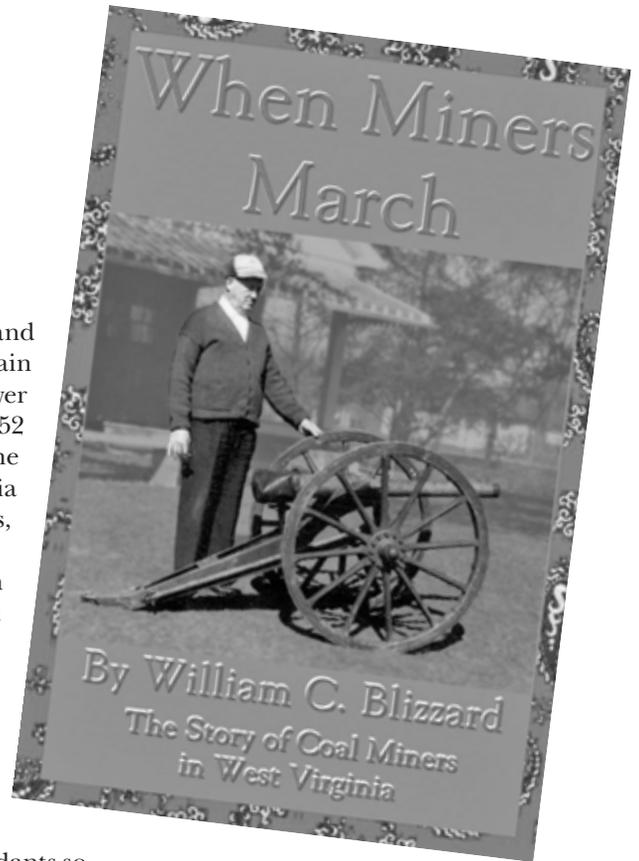
MountainWhispers.Com released its "audio movie" version of WV author Richard Curry's book, "Lost Highway," last fall. Virtually everyone who has listened to it has raved about its incredible depth, art, and faithfulness to the original.

MountainWhispers.com is also going to be releasing the audio books of Lee Maynard's classic books, "Crum" and "Screaming With the Cannibals." This spring they signed a contract to make an audio book of Ken Hechler's best-selling WWII book, "The Bridge at Remagen." Ross Ballard II and MountainWhispers.com are finally doing what no one anywhere has – create "audio films" of WV books that are as entertaining and multi-layered as the classic radio shows. West Virginia librarians should support the only in-state audio book production company - one that specializes in doing the highest quality audio books of some of its most famous authors.

When Miners March – The Battle of Blair Mountain Winners of the International Song Search competition

Please note that the personal pronouns in the following list refers to Ross Ballard.

- 1) "Death of a Mountain" – sung by Ian Smith / written by Enda Cullen
The artists are from Ireland. Email - endacullen@utvinternet.com -- iansmith1@eircom.net
- 2) "Coal Mining Woman" – Hazel Dickens
Hazel has been wonderful in helping us with song choices and encouragement. She's given us the strength to try a project this large. (Web site- Rounder Records – www.Rounder.com)
- 3) "When Miners March" – Mike Morningstar and Rick Roberts
One of my favorite singer/songwriters is West Virginia's very own mountain culture ambassador. (Email - mstar@citynet.net)
- 4) "Underneath a Blackened Moon" – Keith and Joan Pitzer
Here is one of my favorite tracks on the soundtrack album. A very visual song, it relates a familiar story. (www.fallingmountain.com)
- 5) "Black Lung" – Jared Clifton and the Radio Nationals
Jared grew up near Lost Creek, and like so many of us, he too left the state. Winding up in Seattle, WA he lends his Appalachian twang and guitar skills to a great band in the Northwest called The Radio Nationals. If you like his rock ballad song of



a miner's life, then go to www.CDBaby.com. (www.radio-nationals.com)

6) "Bloody Coal" – Donnie Purnell

Donnie adds his special skills and ability to write, sing, play banjo, whack a piece of steel and produce a new song that you would swear it was written during the time of the coal mine wars. I add my own effort singing backup. My part is 'hut!' and 'get that mule some hay'. I believe it's some of my best musical work. (FYI – River Recording Studio – riverrcording@msn.com)

7) "Who Will Watch the Home Place" – sung by Elaine Purkey / written by Kate Long

Here is a beautiful song written to reflect the sorrow of change and moving on. Elaine Purkey does this award winning tune justice with her passion for all things West Virginia. (FYI – kate_long@hotmail.com)

8) "Company Town" – Andrew McKnight

Like Keith Pitzer's, "Underneath a Blackened Moon" here's a song that tells a heck of a story in just over 3 minutes. The guitar work is superb, Andrew's voice rock solid, and his mastery of the storytelling genre is quite evident in this song. The power as a cross-generational piece is evident here as I've recently been told by my 18-year old daughter, Annie, that Andrew is her new favorite singer/songwriter. (www.fallingmountain.com)

9) "The Pearl" – T. Paige Dalporto

A piece that is at once both a song of defiance and tribute, Paige has found his voice. (Tpaigeme@aol.com)

10) "Oh Freedom" – sung by David LaFleur / written by John L. Handcox (1937)

What David has done is to bring the true spirituality of the song's meaning to a new audience. He allows us to hear an emboldened message; be comforted in the knowledge that doing something, anything, to help plight of a tortured people can free the soul of life's regrets. (www.davidlafleur-music.com)

11) "Redneck War" – sung by Ron Short / written by Ron Short and Sandy Shortridge

Wow, what can I say? I do so love this song. I can be feeling lower than a snake's belly in a wagon rut, but put this song on and in a few minutes, I catch a second wind and then I'm feeling very proud of my coal mining heritage. (jrshort@bellatlantic.net)

12) "The Church Bells at Sago" – T. Paige Dalporto

Here is the song that captures so much emotion, so much pain, and so much of the tragic story of what happened on that terrible day. (Tpaigeme@aol.com)

13) "A Coal Miner's Grave" – sung by John Lilly / written by Hazel Dickens

From his "Last Chance to Dance" CD, John Lilly lends us his unique vocal and guitar abilities with a fine rendition of a Hazel Dickens classic. The song is a reminder that we should honor those upon whose shoulders we stand. When Labor Day rolls around again this year, we should take a minute to say a little prayer for the hero coal miner of yesterday. (www.JohnLillyMusic.com)

14) "The West Virginia Hills" – sung by Melvin Leon Harris / written by Mrs. Ellen King

Melvin was nearing his 100th birthday when during one of our many interviews at the McDowell Continuous Care Center, I ask him if he knew the song. He straightened up in his chair, cleared his voice and let it fly. Months later in the studio, I would have one of WV's best fiddle players, Leonard Carpenter, back up the effort with his talent. Melvin was both a coal miner and a teacher. I would be Melvin's last student. I hope he's looking down and smiling on this project. "I miss our talks, Melvin". (1902 – 2004) (www.newrivergorge.com/If They Loved You.htm)

15) "Ma Blizzard" – T. Paige Dalporto

In a book heralding Bill Blizzard as a UMW leader, this song reminds us where he got his bravery, his mother. She and other women took up crow bars, the only weapons they had to stop an armored train sent to kill the striking miners of Paint Creek. (flatridge@wirefire.com)

16) "Keepers of the Mountains" – Elaine Purkey

Elaine finished writing this poignant song on the way to record it. It's that fresh. You are hearing her sing it for the first time.

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Events

JUNE

- 9 Executive Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
Radisson Hotel, Huntington
- 9 WV Library Commission, 10:30 a.m.
Charleston
- 15 WV Libraries deadline for July publication
- 22-28 American Library Association
Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA

JULY

- 15-20 American Association of Law Libraries
St. Louis

AUGUST

- 11 WV Library Commission, 10:30 a.m.
Charleston
- 15 WV Libraries deadline for Aug. publication

SEPTEMBER

International Literacy Month

- 8 Executive Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
TBA
- 8 International Literacy Day
- 14-16 ALSC National Institute
Pittsburgh, PA
- 23-30 Banned Books Week

OCTOBER

National Book Month

- 2-4 WVLA Annual Conference
Radisson Hotel, Huntington
- 15 WV Libraries deadline for Oct. publication
- 15-21 Teen Read Week
- 21-22 WV Book Festival
Charleston

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.

A note from the editor

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:

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

WVLA Membership Information

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

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