

## **LEGISLATIVE GOALS LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2008**

- Increase Grants-in Aid by \$1,000,000 to bring the total to \$8,348,884. Our goal is \$6.50 per capita and this goal would move libraries from \$4.06 to \$4.62 per capita.
- Increase Services to Libraries by \$50,000. With several libraries not being able to hire a professional librarian, mainly because of low salaries, more libraries are classified as “affiliates” and this additional \$50,000 will cover the additional cost the WVLC has incurred with the number of affiliates we now have. The total line item will be \$550,000.
- Implement a Construction/Maintenance line item in WVLC’s budget of \$500,000. There has not been a line item for construction for many years and with buildings built in the 1970’s and 80’s needing repair and renovation to bring them up to ADA standards, state funding is critical to making these repairs.
- Increase Digital Resources to \$500,000. This request benefits all libraries—academic, school and public—by providing more access to good information through the Internet.
- Strike language in HB 2048 to remove term limits for library board members. This language was added to this bill last year but many smaller libraries have trouble finding qualified people to serve on their boards and would like the language removed.
- Strike excess levy language from SB 541. The language in SB 541 says that Boards of Education may move mandated library funding to their excess levy but if the levy fails then they are under no further obligation to fund the library. This would negate the local law and leave the libraries with no mandated funding from the Board of Education.
- Update the school aid formula to include as part of the formula a minimum requirement of one school library media specialist per every 250 students (research clearly shows that academic achievement increases based upon a student’s access to a certified, full-time library media specialist).
- In 2005, the House of Delegates passed HCR 51, requesting the Department of Education to create a position in the Department to coordinate, oversee, and advocate for public school libraries. The WVLA requests that the Senate join the House in this resolution and that both the House and Senate appropriate the funding necessary to fully staff this position.

*Approved by WVLA Executive Board, August 3, 2007*