

WVLA LEGISLATIVE GOALS
TALKING POINTS
2008

- The number one request is for \$1,000,000 increase in the grants-in-aid funding for public libraries. If the GIA were increased by \$1,000,000 it would bring the total to \$8,348,884. Our ultimate goal is \$6.50 per capita; this request would take the grants from \$4.06 to \$4.62 per capita. This line has not been increased with new funding since 1998 when the increase was only \$100,000. Grants to libraries increased in 2003 when \$150,000 was moved from Services to Institutions to the grants-in-aid line item but this was not new money for the Library Commission. This year this additional funding is especially important to libraries because of the increase in minimum wage. Minimum wage will increase from \$6.55 to \$7.25 in July. Also with the new Administrative Regulations approved by the Legislature last year, any increase in grants-in-aid will leverage more funding from the local governments.
- 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. This line item provides funding so that the funding is not withheld from the smallest and least-funded libraries and so that they receive their entire grant-in-aid funding.
- Implement a Construction/Maintenance line item in WVLC’s budget of \$500,000. This would be given to public libraries as supplemental grants for maintenance of library buildings, construction, major repairs, and bringing library buildings into compliance with ADA.
- Increase Digital Resources to \$500,000. This request benefits all libraries – academic, school, and public – by providing more internet access to professional and reliable electronic resources, such as databases, encyclopedias, and other reference materials. The current allocation is \$219,992.
- At present, there is no requirement for school librarians in the school-aid formula and they need to be included with guidelines that some incentive is given to local school boards to hire librarians and let them be in the libraries rather than teaching classes.