



Annual Report for 2008

Submitted by Karen Figgatt, Celene Seymour, Co-Chairs
December 2008

Activities and Accomplishments:

Executive Board Meetings – Attended as scheduled throughout the year.

February, 2008 – *Library Legislative Day* – The school division hosted an informational display manned by Celene Seymour and Karen Figgatt.

March, 2008 – *Newsletter sent to all School Library Media Specialists urging membership in Division*

April, 2008 – *Spring Fling*: attended by Co-Chairs Karen Figgatt and Celene Seymour. A division meeting was not held due to lack of school media specialists attending.

July 16, 2008 – *Summer Refresher Workshop* – The sixth annual Summer Refresher Workshop for School Library Media Specialists was held at Fairmont State University in Fairmont, WV. Marc Harshman, noted children's author, was the featured speaker. Approximately 35 school library media specialists attended.

October 3 & 4, 2008 – *SELA/KLA/KYSMA Conference*, Louisville, KY— Attended by School Division Co-Chairs. A meeting with Nancy Dickerson, AASL Regional Director, was held on the 4th.

October, 2007 – *Reaffiliation of Division with AASL confirmed*. Paperwork for this was completed during July, August and September then mailed to the ALA office in Chicago, IL. Co-Chair Karen Figgatt also had meetings with WVEA Executive Director Dave Haney early in October then on October 13th with Dr. Steven Paine and Dr. Jack McClanahan regarding state school library media specialists' concerns about recent cuts in county school libraries. Dr. Paine agreed with us about having a state school librarians' procedures manual and statewide job description, possibly modeled after the Kentucky manual *Beyond Proficiency*. Other state school library media specialists also attended these meetings. Karen Figgatt and WVLA member Cathy Davis made a presentation October 13 to the House Education Subcommittee A interim meeting, supported by

several state school librarians. (This meeting was arranged through Marion county school librarians.) A booklet containing research, findings and suggestions about improving WV school libraries was created and given to members of the committee. An email from Dr. McClanahan on October 15th confirmed Dr. Paine's agreement to work with us on the manual and stated Julia Benincosa, state school librarian contact, had been directed to work with us on this endeavor.

We had an email from Julia Benincosa on October 28th, then a conference call on November 4th with Karen Figgatt, Julia, Brenda Williams and Vicki Allen. They weren't assured a librarians' manual and/or job description would work for our state because of too many different situations. They suggested a one page "alert" for administrators once a month or so to tout the librarian's potential use to the school. We stood firm in our desire to have the procedures manual and job description, citing WV's surrounding states as good examples of why we need guidelines in this state.

December 3, 4, 5, 2008 – *Annual WVLA Conference, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV.* The Division will sponsor several sessions during this conference. A division meeting will be held Wednesday afternoon with Beth Yoke, visiting director from ALA, and members plan to have dinner or lunch together both days of conference as a way of strengthening our bond. The division will also be donating a gift basket of interest to school librarians to the silent auction.