

## LIBRARY DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE 2015



Here's a chance to mingle with your elected representatives and have your concerns heard.

Are you interested in traveling with us to Charleston to see the Capitol and attend a reception with lawmakers to discuss the importance of public libraries?

Important: The library association's legislative goals are posted on our web site and appear below. We are asking participants to wear purple to signify support for libraries.

Date: Tuesday, February 24.

Bus: A chartered bus will leave the Benwood-McMechen Library at 10 AM. Note: The bus will also stop at the Moundsville library. We will make stops at the public libraries along Route 2 on the way and will stop for lunch.

We will arrive in Charleston around 2 PM. We will then visit with our legislators. Appointments have already been made.

The bus will depart Charleston for the return trip at 7 PM.

There will be a reception at the Culture Center (5 PM to 7 PM) are \$25.00. The legislators will also be at the reception.

Tickets: \$25.00 each. Includes food and beverages at the reception. Checks should be made out to the WVLA and given to OCPL staff.

To reserve your ticket, send us an email <http://www.ohiocountylibrary.org/contact/email-ocpl/103> (CONTACT PAGE ON THE WEB SITE). Make sure to note Library Day at the Legislature in the text of your email. Or call us at 304-232-0244.

## 2015 Legislative Goals

### **Dedicated Funding for all Public Libraries**

Libraries must have adequate, predictable, sustainable funding to provide the full range of services needed by West Virginians. The West Virginia Library Association (WVLA) strongly supports legislation resulting in dedicated local funding of public libraries.

### **State Grants-in-Aid and Library Commission Assistance**

Assistance from the Library Commission, including per capita Grants-in-Aid, enables **all** libraries to offer a consistent level of service. The West Virginia Library Association (WVLA) encourages the Legislature to at least maintain the current level of funding.

### **Library Facilities Improvement Fund**

There is currently no State or Federal funding specifically for library capital improvements. This legislation establishes a special fund to provide grants to public libraries for capital improvements, renovation and/or repair of existing facilities, and/or technology for facilities. WVLA is not requesting funding at this time just the establishment of the fund. It will permit the Library Commission to develop necessary rules and regulations to govern the administration of the program.

### **Simple Majority Approval for All Excess Levies**

Excess levies provide short-term predictable funding streams for approximately 1/3 of the 97 public library systems. However, the 60% majority requirement for all but Board of Education levies is an insurmountable hurdle for many more.

### **School Libraries and Certified Librarians in Every School**

School libraries and school librarians are essential to quality education but only 46% of public schools in the state have at least a part-time Library Media Specialist. West Virginia students need school libraries in order to achieve.