

WVLC Newsletter

West Virginia Library Commission

Vol. 27 No. 1

Campaign for Libraries Appreciation Day Dinner

The Eleventh Annual Library Appreciation Day Dinner sponsored by the West Virginia Library Association and honoring Governor John E. Rockefeller IV and members of the Sixty-Sixth West Virginia Legislature will be held Wednesday evening, February 1st in the Great Hall of the Charleston Civic Center. The event begins with a reception, followed by Dinner at 7:15. Governor Rockefeller, Senate President Warren McGraw and House Speaker Clyde See will have an opportunity for remarks to an expected crowd of over 700.

Guest speaker for the evening is Author/Journalist Bob Greene whose newest book is AMERICAN BEAT. Greene, a writer for the *Chicago Tribune* is currently syndicated in 150 newspapers, is a contributing editor for *Esquire Magazine*, and is seen regularly on ABC's *Nightline*.



Governor Rockefeller and Frederic Glazer Campaign for Libraries!

As election '84 begins, Governor John D. Rockefeller IV opened the "Campaign for Libraries" with a strongly worded statement for \$3 per capita in his State of the State address on January 11th.

Not content to follow the script of his prepared remarks, which just mentioned his inclusion of \$3 per capita in his budget message the Governor elaborated as follows: "...something I have wanted to do for so long, which is so right for education for all West Virginians, and that is to increase state aid for libraries in our State to \$3 per capita (loud, lengthy, applause) which should make West Virginia number 1 (more applause) in the nation in state aid to libraries."

At issue is the continued growth and development of West Virginia's system of public libraries. In just a decade, 115 library facilities have been constructed across the State. Access to libraries is no longer

dependent on the geographic location or economic condition of one's community or county. However, our national pace-setting record for public library construction must be annually backed by state aid to keep the library doors open and books available for library patrons. The quest for \$3 per capita is directly related to maintaining library programs with sufficient hours of service and a minimum of print and non-print materials.

Every member of the finance committee of both the House and Senate have either had a first time library or a new or expanded facility constructed in their district. It should be brought to their attention how these libraries contribute to the better life in their communities.

As an issue, rarely is there opposition to libraries, there just isn't enough support! Establish that support from your area legislators and enlist them in the "Campaign for Libraries"!



Author Bob Greene

This will be Greene's third trip to the Charleston area. On an earlier visit he selected "The Prettiest Girl in Kanawha County", a column which was written for national publication and is included in his AMERICAN BEAT. His other stay was more lengthy as he was "taken" on a deer hunt for several days into wild "Wild Wonderful". His account of this survival game was written for his national column as well.



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Greetings,

As Governor, I am proud to join with West Virginia's friends of libraries to push for our \$3 per capita goal.

We have worked long and hard to steadily increase our funding for libraries over the past several years, and if the Legislature passes my current proposal, West Virginia will be number one in the nation in state aid to libraries.

I look forward to working with you as we strive to attain this goal. I hope we will soon be able to say "we're number one!"

Sincerely,

John D. Rockefeller IV

Jobs Program

State money totaling \$350,000 was made available to match the first infusion of Federal construction money in seven years. West Virginia was able to build or add on to twenty library projects. Under the Emergency Jobs Bill (PL 98-8), Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act, West Virginia received \$642,477, to be matched by \$469,075 state and local monies.

New Outposts are being built at Buffalo, Bradshaw, Helvetia, Mt. Storm and Summit Point. Additions to Outposts are being made at Alderson and Valley Head.

Communities receiving new Instant Libraries include Nutter Fort, Hedgesville and Whitesville. Additions to existing Instant Libraries are being made at Chapmanville, Cowen, Peterstown, Rainelle, War and Webster Springs.

Pennsboro and Hinton are remodeling projects, and Guyandotte and Ceredo-Kenova are major construction projects.

The nine new libraries being built will bring the total count of West Virginia's public libraries to 172.

West Virginia Library Statistics

Each year when your annual reports are digested for the Library Commission's annual statistical report, a number of items asked for are not included in the published report. Here are some interesting facts from the reports turned in for 1982-83:

- 37 libraries circulated 367,184 items to schools
- 8 libraries provide service to parochial schools
- 15 bookmobiles served 606,600 people
- 11 mail-a-book programs circulated 88,109 items to 8,300 registered patrons
- 38 Friends groups, with a total membership of 5,176, raised \$29,788 for their libraries
- 85 libraries regularly use 457 volunteers
- there are 88 MLS degreed librarians in public libraries
- 19 libraries are not accessible to the handicapped
- Martinsburg Public Library reports the most registered borrowers: 46,788
- Ohio County reports the most in house use: 77,067

Humanities Grants

Two libraries in West Virginia recently received grants from the Humanities Foundation of West Virginia.

Clarksburg-Harrison County Public Library, in cooperation with the Harrison County Bicentennial Commission received \$14,786. Activities to commemorate the bicentennial of both Clarksburg and Harrison County will include a local history workshop, a weekend celebration in May, three historical exhibits and recording of oral history.

Sistersville Public Library was awarded a \$510 grant in support of the project "Six Great Ideas - Lecture and Discussion Series." The series of six round-table discussions will be held in March and April focusing on the Six Great Ideas proposed by Mortimer Adler.

Literacy in West Virginia

Thanks mainly to the efforts of two national volunteer organizations, Laubach Literacy Action and Literacy Volunteers of America, hundreds of west Virginians are learning to read.

The impact of this statewide literacy program becomes apparent when one views the state statistics:

- 22,000 West Virginia adults have never been to school
- only 53.3% of all West Virginians 18 or over possess a high school diploma
- 1 in 5 adults is functionally illiterate - that translates to roughly 200,000 in our state
- 25% of all West Virginians who start first grade will not graduate from high school

Libraries have played an important part in the literacy program in Putnam, Wood, Wetzel, Berkeley, Hancock, and Cabell counties. The Berkeley County Literacy Volunteers of West Virginia affiliate, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, received the "Affiliate of the Year" award at the National LVA convention -- quite an honor for a new group!

Libraries interested in participating in a literacy program can get information by calling 1-800-6422670. This number can also be called for referral to get help for a person who would like to learn to read.

Films About Literacy

I once knew a carpenter who couldn't read. He was a small man with twinkling blue eyes and a club foot. Someone told me that his father had taken him out of school in the third grade because of the club foot. When he did work for me I would sometimes hand him a check which came back from the bank with a large "X" on it for a signature. It was then I learned a secret -- he couldn't read.

But he seemed intelligent enough to me; and he could put on a roof, or a porch, hang doors, paint and fix cars. Someone else told me that he knew

road signs, but that if you ever needed to give him directions to an unfamiliar place, you had better go with him the first time because he couldn't read a lot of street markers. I learned that in West Virginia you don't need to take a written driver's test to get a license; but that you can be tested orally. I also learned that my carpenter friend was very sensitive about his reading problem. I was beginning to wonder about how he was going to get it all together for his income tax form, when he was saved from all sorts of problems by finding a girlfriend who was just his type and who could READ! Thank heavens! She took firm control of his life. She banked his money, wrote checks and saved him hours of time running from company to company paying cash for bills. She took phone calls and wrote down numbers for him for his customers in the carpentry business, and helped him find streets he didn't know about and filed his income tax returns (undoubtedly signed with an "X") What dedication! Of course she didn't work, it was a full-time job to take care of him!

Now I realize that there are many people, adults, that somehow fell through the cracks in our educational system and never learned that skill dear to the heart of all librarians -- reading. Film Services has several films that address this problem of illiteracy:

"What If You Couldn't Read" describes how Lyle Litchfield, father of four, made it through forty years without being able to read or write. With the help of an Adult Basic Education tutor, he is now acquiring reading skills. As he liberates himself from his narrow world, his marriage undergoes great changes. This would be a wonderful film to use for a church group, retired citizens group and other socially motivated groups. Literacy volunteers of Kanawha County require 18 hours of training for people willing to be trained as tutors, and say that there are too few people willing to tutor the illiterate. They have a long waiting list of people who would like to learn to read, but cannot find a tutor. A film such as

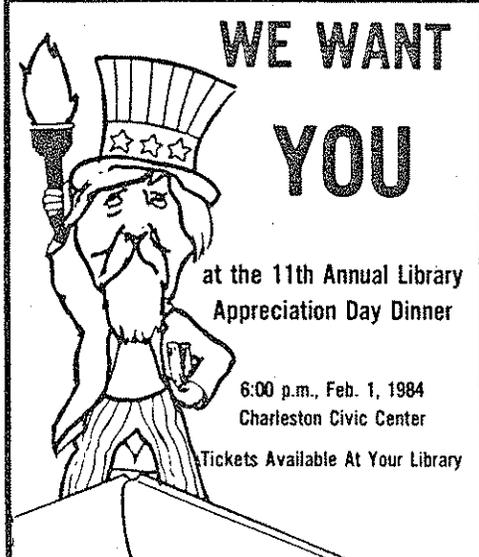
this would be of use to them as a tool to motivate volunteers.

"Why We Need Reading, The Piemaker of Ignoramia" is a film that would basically act as a preventive force for children questioning the value of reading skills. This is an amusing animated story of a land called Ignoramia whose citizens cannot read or write. Problems abound until the little piemaker meets a bookworm who, teaches her to read, and the people discover that reading can open the way to new careers and happier lives for everyone.

Other literacy-related films described in our catalog include: "Alphabet; How to Read a Book," and "Speed Reading in One Lesson." "My Brilliant Career" describes the chafing of a young girl's spirit in the educational wasteland of the Australian outback as she yearns to become and, does become, a writer. This is a feature length film which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Costuming in 1980.

Many other of our films are based on famous books and are listed in the index under "literature". These can be used in libraries and classrooms around the State and hopefully will inspire the viewer to want to know more about the source of the film through that most wonderful gift - THE ABILITY TO READ!

- Frani Fesenmaier, Assistant Head
Film Services

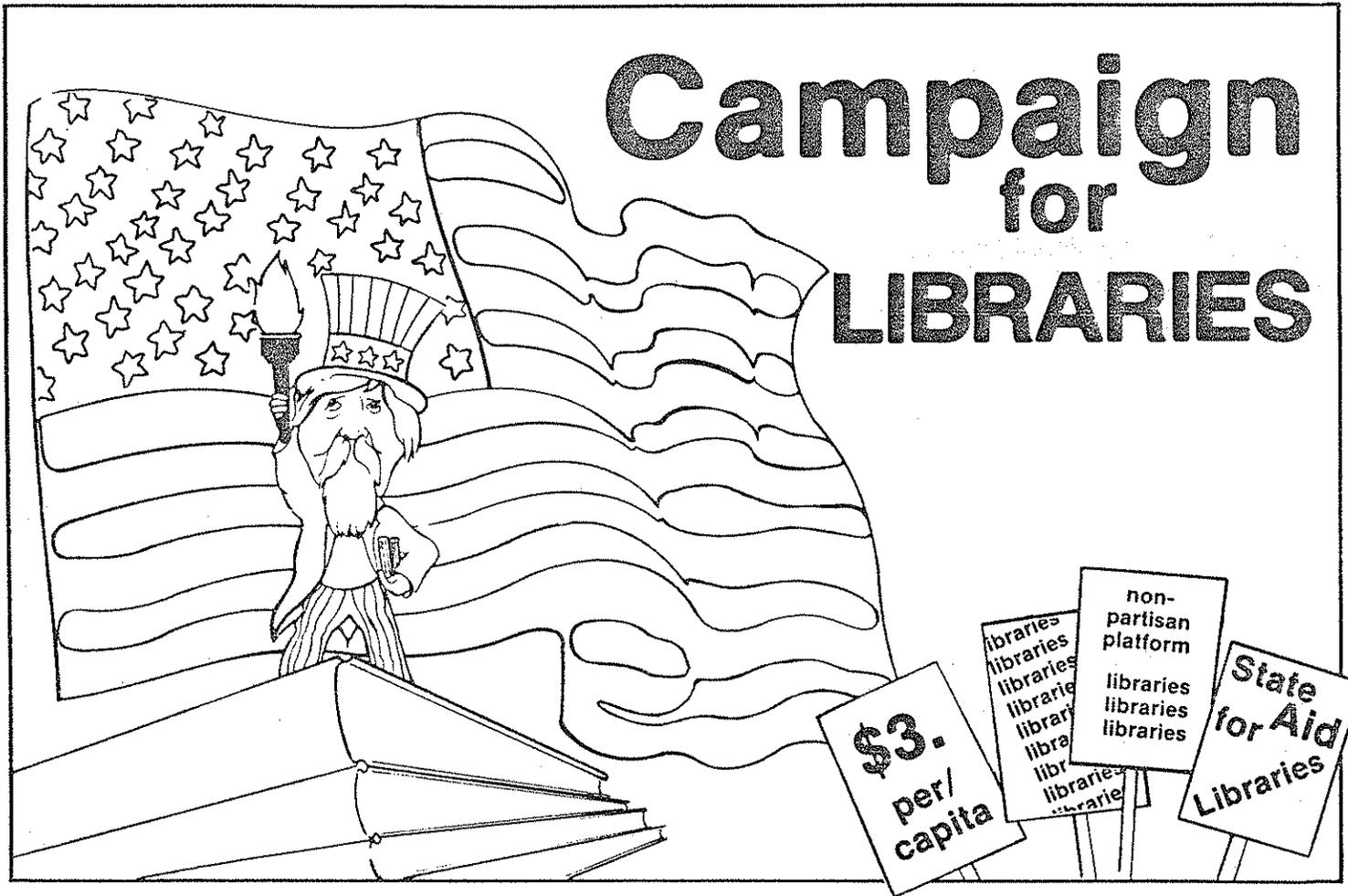


WE WANT YOU

at the 11th Annual Library Appreciation Day Dinner

6:00 p.m., Feb. 1, 1984
Charleston Civic Center

Tickets Available At Your Library



West Virginia Library Commission
Cultural Center
Charleston, WV 25305