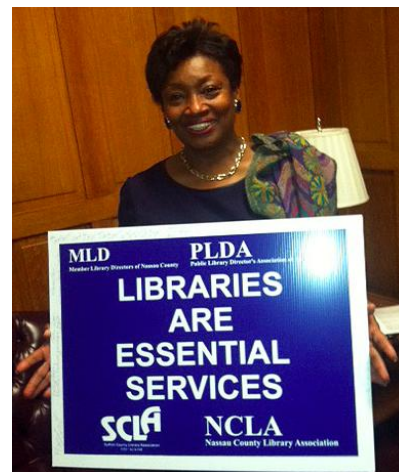


Library Advocacy Day – March 5, 2013

A group of **23** library supporters from Westchester car pooled up to Albany to join the New York Library Association's (NYLA) Library Advocacy Day on Tuesday, March 5th. Representing the libraries listed below, the group was made up of directors, trustees, and staff:

Ardley Public Library	Mount Kisco Public Library
Armonk-North Castle Public Library	Mount Pleasant Public Library
Bedford Free Library	New Rochelle Public Library
Briarcliff Manor Public Library	Pound Ridge Library District
Dobbs Ferry Public Library	Purchase Library
Eastchester Public Library	Scarsdale Public Library
Irvington Public Library	The Warner Library (Tarrytown)
Greenburgh Public Library	Yonkers Public Library
Harrison Public Library	Westchester Library Association
Larchmont Public Library	Westchester Library System
Mamaroneck Public Library	



We visited the offices of the **14** legislators who represent Westchester County:

Assemblyman David Buchwald's Office [93 rd District]	Assemblyman Steven Otis [91 st District]
Assemblyman Stephen Katz, [94 th District]	Assemblywoman Sandy Galef [95 th District]
Senator Jeffrey Klein's Office [34 th District]	Assemblywoman Amy Paulin [88 th District]
Senator Greg Ball [40 th District]	Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins [35 th District]
Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti [92 nd District]	Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer [90 th District]
Assemblyman Gary Pretlow [89 th District]	Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson [36 th District]
Senator George Latimer [37 th District]	Senator David Carlucci [38 th District]

This year's emphasis with all legislators was restoration of Library Aid to \$102 Million vs. the \$89.9 Million included in Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget. WLS President Dave Donelson sums it up best in his blog entry: <http://davedonelsonouttakes.blogspot.com/2013/03/a-message-to-our-legislators-about.html>

Senator Hugh Farley [49th District] is a long-time library supporter and current Chair of the Senate Committee on Libraries.

<http://www.nysenate.gov/photos/2013/mar/06/senator-farley-discusses-library-funding>



Library advocates from across New York State filled up the Legislative Office Building's "Well" at the Rally hosted by NYLA which featured speakers Senator Hugh Farley [pictured right with orange shirt], and guest speaker David Vinjamuri [pictured left with blue tie].



David Vinjamuri writes the "Brand Truth" column online for *Forbes*. David is also Adjunct Instructor of Marketing at New York University and the founder of ThirdWay Brand Trainers, a leading brand marketing training company. Read more about David and his column by [clicking here](#).

A special thank you is due to this year's great group of Library Advocates. All contributed in some way—sharing insightful success stories from their libraries, taking pictures, driving, writing, tweeting, participating!

Thanks to those who've sent messages to their legislators!

Thanks to Enterprise Rental Car, White Plains Office, 15 Tarrytown Road, White Plains, NY [914-948-6868; enterprise.com]. Their extremely helpful and efficient staff enabled us to accommodate a larger group in comfort!



Since our visit, the Senate has included a proposed restoration of \$4 Million in Library Aid for the FY 2013-14 Budget. However, the NYS Assembly has not followed suit, including only the \$89.9 Million the Governor proposed in his Executive Budget.

There is still time to contact your Assemblymember via NYLA's Online Advocacy page:
http://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=58&Time=-1706461431&MenuKey=advocacy
http://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=58&Time=-1706461431&MenuKey=advocacy

Or check out NYLA's Virtual Advocacy Effort page for resources to show your support for libraries via social media. There are same tweets and items to post to your Facebook page:
http://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=738&MenuKey=advocacy

The deadline for an on-time budget is March 31st.

Libraries do provide essential services—let's be sure our legislatures understand the value they bring to New York.

Elise Burke
Executive Assistant
Westchester Library System

SEE MORE PHOTOS BELOW



Pictured L-R: Back Row: Susan Riley, Director, Mamaroneck Public Library; NYS Assemblyman Steven Otis [91st District]; Tom Geoffino, Director, New Rochelle Public Library; Elise Burke, Executive Assistant, Westchester Library System; Front Row: Haina Just-Michael, Trustee, New Rochelle Public Library; Edie Martimucci, Librarian, North Castle Public Library.



Pictured L-R: Front Row: Tom Geoffino, Director, New Rochelle Public Library; Haina Just-Michael, Trustee, New Rochelle Public Library; Dave Donelson, President, Westchester Library System, and Trustee, Harrison Public Library.



Pictured L-R: Terry Kirchner, Executive Director, Westchester Library System; Robert Cartolano, President, Eastchester Public Library.



Pictured L-R: NYS Assemblywoman Sandra Galef [95th District]; Melanie Carnes, Enterprise Application Administrator, Westchester Library System; Melinda Greenblatt, Director, Briarcliff Manor Public Library; Patricia Fontanella, Trustee, Westchester Library System, and Trustee, Library Trustees Association of New York State.