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:

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

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:  

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.