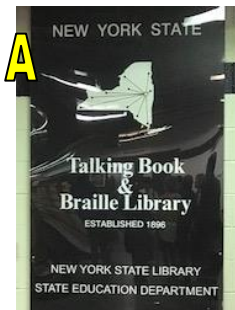


Library Advocacy Day – February 28, 2018

A group of 18 library supporters from Westchester joined the New York Library Association's (NYLA) Library Advocacy Day in Albany on Wednesday, February 28th. It was a bright sunny day – and thankfully, it was not snowing! The group was made up of directors, trustees, staff, and advocates representing the following libraries:

Bedford Free Library	Mount Pleasant Public Library	The Warner Library
Briarcliff Manor Public Library	Mount Vernon Public Library	(Tarrytown)
Harrison Public Library	New Rochelle Public Library	White Plains Public Library
Irvington Public Library	North Castle Public Library	Yonkers Public Library
Larchmont Public Library	Ossining Public Library	Westchester Library System
Mamaroneck Public Library	Town of Pelham Public Library	(WLS)
Mount Kisco Public Library	Pound Ridge Library	

In celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the NYS Library, below are some photos of a special tour held where participants visited behind-the-scenes areas closed to the public—one of which was the NYS Talking Book & Braille Library (TBBL). Part of the nationwide program coordinated by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the TBBL lends audio and braille books and magazines and the necessary playback equipment [A]. A State Library employee showed the stack area of the TBBL where the collection is received and stored [B]. They displayed a variety of equipment used over time to access materials—vinyl record player as well as cassette and CD players [C]. Tom Geoffino, Director of the New Rochelle Public Library, got a close up look at the shelf list of the NYS Library [D]. Although no records were added since the early 70s, a lot of unique records that couldn't be converted to an online record still exist. Also available is the Library of Congress National Union Catalog (NUC) [E]. These volumes helped catalogers find records of items when information was unavailable from the publishers. Another unique idea was the creation of the NYS Library Emergency Preservation Supply bins [F]. These bins sit on each floor and are equipped with special tools to save the collections in case of an emergency (fire/flood). The tour was interesting and served as a unique opportunity to learn more about the State Library.



We visited the **13** offices of the legislators who represent Westchester County as follows:

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti
[92nd District]—PICTURED

Senator David Carlucci [38th District]
Senator Jamaal Bailey [36th District]
Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer [90th District]
Assemblywoman Sandy Galef [95th District]
Assemblyman Steven Otis [91st District]
Assemblyman Gary Pretlow [89th District]
Senator Terrence Murphy [40th District]
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins [35th District]
Senator Jeffrey Klein [34th District]
Assemblywoman Amy Paulin [88th District]
Assemblyman Kevin Byrne [94th District]
Assemblyman David Buchwald [93rd District]



Pictured (l-r front row): Sean Ryan, President, Westchester Library System (WLS); Jonathan Marshall, Trustee, WLS; Erik Carlson, White Plains Public Library; Donna Pesce, Harrison Public Library; NYS Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (92nd District)

This year's proposed Executive Budget for FY2018-2019 included **\$91.6 Million in Library Aid**. This amount represents a **4% decrease** over the final Library Aid amounts included in the FY2017-18 enacted budget and is **11% less** than what is required by Education Law [**\$102.6 Million**]. Our main focus asked for Library Aid to be funded to the full extent of Education Law.

Each office was presented a packet of Advocacy materials, which included materials highlighting this year's theme of Libraries LEAD! as follows:



LINK – WLS's online library system and telecommunication infrastructure **link** the public to over 5 Million resources

EDUCATE – WLS and Westchester's Libraries provide unique programs that **educate**—HSE Connect! (High School Equivalency Diplomas); WSOS (Westchester Seniors Out Speaking re health insurance needs and related services); ongoing programs at libraries—Early Literacy, Digital Literacy, etc.

ACTIVATE – Imaginations & creativity are **activated** through WLS Minigrant Programs that focus on STEAM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Math).

DRIVE – Local economies benefit from libraries and the NYS Public Library Construction Grant Aid **drives** Millions into library projects that are bid out to local vendors.

We thank all of our Advocates who joined us in Albany and expressively shared their stories that showcased the important leadership role that libraries play in their communities. We also thank everyone who contacted their State legislators via email. Your voice strengthens our message that libraries are a great investment!

Elise Burke, *Executive Assistant, Westchester Library System*
