

---

## Executive Director's Report March 2017

### Federal Budget Update

President Donald J. Trump's proposed FY 18 budget, [America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again](#), reflects numerous changes in funding priorities that might create new challenges and/or opportunities for WLS and the member libraries.

One of the agencies facing elimination is the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). As an independent agency of the United States federal government that was established in 1996, the IMLS budget of \$231 Million provides financial support to the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Through the IMLS's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) allocations, the New York State Library (NYSL) received \$8,082,104 in 2016. [The New York State Library website](#) noted that the LSTA funding:

- Supported statewide employment information services, early literacy and adult literacy programs and access to high-quality electronic resources, and
- Represented less than one percent of library expenditures in New York State, but its impact is great, as these funds leverage state and local funds and fuel innovation.

Some examples of statewide programs supported by the LSTA funds include: [Summer Reading at New York Libraries](#), [NOVELny](#), and [Ready to Read at New York Libraries](#). The NYSL's Division of Library Development (DLD) is preparing documentation that will clearly define the impact that elimination of the IMLS/LSTA funds will have on library activities in New York State.

Based on my understanding of the proposed FY18 budget, I noted several areas of potential interest that could directly or indirectly impact services provided by WLS and/or the member libraries. The first area of interest concerns how effectiveness, efficiency and accountability are to be measured.

"The Administration will take an evidence-based approach to improving programs and services—using real, hard data to identify poorly performing organizations and programs." (p. 7)  
Quantitative data will dominate discussions concerning the impact of services and the return on investment (ROI).

The second area of interest concerns priorities that received increases in funding. These priorities include support for:

- U.S. Census Bureau to continue preparations for the 2020 Decennial Census. The census data helps WLS and the member libraries to better understand the demographic composition of library service areas and provides insight when identifying community needs.
- Title I, which is dedicated to encouraging districts to adopt a system of student-based budgeting and open enrollment that enables Federal, State, and local funding to follow the student to the public school or his or her choice. As the composition of the local student population shifts, WLS and the member libraries would need to re-evaluate the range of services, programs and collections provided to support K-12 education.

- Enhanced enforcement of immigration laws, especially in terms of expanded detention, transportation and removal of illegal immigrants. WLS and the member libraries could play a stronger information role in helping individuals identify organizations that assist with citizenship and/or assist individuals impacted by immigration enforcement. There will likely be a range of training issues for library staff including mandatory use of the E-Verify Program (an internet-based system that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their new employees to work in the U.S.) during the hiring process as well as understanding procedures for responding to an inquiry from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The third area of interest concerned programs to be reduced or eliminated. These programs include the:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Striving Readers programs, and Community Services Block Grants are programs that work with primarily underserved, urban students who face literacy and job skills challenges. WLS and the member libraries may need to step up early literacy and K-12 homework support and youth employment related activities if other community providers reduce their services.
- Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program both provided support to consumers striving to reduce costs related to energy consumption. Libraries may be natural partners to work with energy providers such as ConEd to promote alternative opportunities for consumers to achieve energy cost savings.

The American Library Association (ALA) is providing Federal budget updates and advocacy alerts on the ALA Advocacy webpage, <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/>. ALA's National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) event will take place in Washington, DC on May 1-2, 2017. Activities related to this event include: briefings on key issues from Congressional staff, legal experts, lobbyists, ALA staff and other experts; an evening reception to informally meet with Members of Congress and their staff; and scheduled meetings with legislators and their staff. Key issues expected to be addressed during this year's NLLD activities include IMLS/LSTA funding, intellectual freedom, privacy, copyright, and net neutrality. WLS Trustees interested in participating should notify Elise Burke no later than Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

### *New York State Budget Update*

Advocacy for New York State Library Aid is still underway. Currently, the NYS Senate and NYS Assembly have released their one house budget bills, with each including an increase in State Library Aid and State Library Construction Aid.

#### Senate

State Library Aid: +\$8M over the Governor's Executive Budget (\$99.6M total)

State Library Construction Aid: +\$15M over the Governor's Executive Budget (\$29M total)

#### Assembly

State Library Aid: +\$4M over the Governor's Executive Budget (\$95.6M total)

State Library Construction Aid: +\$11M over the Governor's Executive Budget (\$25M total)

These additional funding allocations are just proposals at this point and are not guaranteed. The New York Library Association (NYLA) has asked that all library supporters [send a new message](#) to their State legislators to encourage them to support full funding for NYS Library Aid in the FY 2017-2018 Budget.

### *WLS Trustee Training*

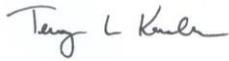
The next WLS Trustee Institute is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m. at the WLS Headquarters. This year, we are trying a slightly new approach that will be more interactive

starting with a brief presentation on a topic of interest. WLS Chief Financial Officer Fran Feuerman will start off with a review of Financial Statements, their importance and how to better understand them. Library Trustees are encouraged to share their experience—and questions—and get involved in this discussion and networking opportunity. The event will start with a light dinner, and the program portion will start around 6:30 pm. Invitations will be sent out soon.

**Future Events**

- April 6 WLS Multi-Language Book Fair – WLS Headquarters, Elmsford, NY
- April 7 WLS Celebrating Westchester Libraries Event – Doral Arrowwood, Rye Brook, NY
- May 5 2017 LARC (Library Association of Rockland County)-WLA (Westchester Library Association) Joint Conference – HNA Palisades Premier Conference Center, Palisades, NY

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner  
*Executive Director*