

## **KLA Executive Board Report A-12**

### **Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives**

**June 13, 2009**

More budget cuts for KDLA are on the horizon. With state revenues continuing to decline, the Governor has proposed an additional 2.6% reduction for KDLA in the 2010 budget. The Legislature will meet in special session in late June to determine the budget for 2010. An additional 2.6% reduction would result in the loss of an additional \$258,000 in KDLA's budget which means a loss of \$3,000,000 since FY 2008.

The Library Awareness Committee will report about Kentucky's delegation to National Legislative Day. One continuing item of concern is the Federal legislation designed to limit lead in children's toys. Unfortunately the Consumer Product Safety Commission has included children's books published prior to 1985 as items that require testing. Several bills have been proposed to exclude children's books. All Kentucky librarians are encouraged to contact their Congressmen to request support for excluding children's books from this requirement.

We are continuing to prepare for an application for federal stimulus funds for broadband internet access and computing equipment for libraries. The guidelines are expected to be issued around the end of June. We are working with the Governor's Broadband Recovery Act Work Group which is coordinating efforts of interested parties in Kentucky. There is very little funding in the stimulus for construction. We are hoping to use broadband stimulus funds to obtain more bandwidth for libraries along with additional computers and software.

The State Board for the Certification of Librarians has established a scholarship program for library staff members working toward certification requirements. We hope to offer 3 scholarships this fall. Applications and guidelines are being developed.

The Board of Trustees for the new library in Carter County has started work and has chosen the library's first director. The Olive Hill Library will provide the foundation for the service and bookmobile service will be established later this year. The board has 3 years to work with the county and cities of Olive Hill and Grayson to establish permanent funding for the library.

Twelve public libraries in one of our eastern Kentucky regions have created a reciprocal borrowing agreement which allows residents of any of the 12 counties to get a library card in any of the counties. We have several other such arrangements around the state but this is the first in Eastern Kentucky.

Standards for Kentucky's public libraries are being revised by the Standards Committee of KPLA. This work should be finished by this fall.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries is being revived by representatives from Friends groups across the state. An organizational meeting was held in Georgetown in May attended by about 30 people in person and by conference call. A steering committee was appointed to work out the details.

We have 2 Kentucky librarians who will be celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year – Ruth Hill Jones and Dr. Eliza Gleason, both of Louisville. Another librarian, Della Jones, of Grant County, will be celebrating her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

Submitted by Wayne Onkst