

June 2008



Dear Library Advocacy Council Member,

The Board of Directors wishes to provide you with the latest library information for you to share throughout your community.

State Funding

After five years state funding has not been fully restored to public libraries throughout Pennsylvania. We could use your help in contacting our Harrisburg delegates again this year. The state's incentive-based funding formula intended to grow local support for libraries has not run since the budget cut crisis of 2003. A limited run of the formula in 2009 would ensure that every library gets an increase and that no library's funding falls further behind in the next budget year.

See sample letter below. Please send before June 30th

Digital Projects

In the fall of 2007 the Library added the contents of a 275 page scrapbook kept during World War II to the Access Pennsylvania Digital Repository website. The scrapbook includes over 1,000 pictures of area servicemen and women who served during World War II.

A grant sponsored by Rep. Richard Grucela made it possible for the library to have the scrapbook digitized and metadata added by the OCLC Preservation Service Center in Bethlehem, PA. The project is available for searching on the Library website at or by searching the Repository website directly at www.accesspadr.org The grant also made it possible to add the first few years of the Nazareth Item a local newspaper published from 1891-1975. The newspaper project is a large project that will take some time and additional grant funding.

Family Place Grant

The Library has received a grant to establish a program expanding the role of the library into a community center for early childhood information, parent education, socialization, emergent literacy, and family support. The program will be available in the spring of 2009.

New Online Database

The Library now subscribes to Reference USA a premier database of 14 million U.S Businesses and 220 million U.S. residents. Perfect for conducting job searches, searching for business opportunities and suppliers, tracking down addresses and phone numbers, locating out of town companies and conducting market and patent research. The database is available via the library website. When searching from home you will need your library card.

SUMMER READING a program for all ages JUNE 9th to August 2nd.

More info at www.nazarethlibrary.org

Upcoming Fall Programs

- August 14th Social Security Online Workshop
- Sept. 24-25th Personal Finance for Women
- October 2nd Family Financial Planning
- October 9-11th Friends Fall Book sale
- October 16th 7 steps to your best hospital health care

Thank you for your continued advocacy.

For more information on these services and future programs please check the webpage at www.nazarethlibrary.org

Regards,

Lynn Snodgrass-Pilla, Library Director



SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Senator/Representative:

I am writing today to ask for your support for two modest but vital increases for public library services in Pennsylvania: an appropriation of \$79,450,000 for the Public Library System. This is an increase of only 4.9% over last year's Public Library Subsidy. The second appropriate is for \$200,000 to support the Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for conversion of present resources into a digital format.

As a library community, we desperately need incentives in the state funding formula that recognize increased local funding and reward greater local investment in public library services. This will encourage our local funding partners (counties, cities, municipalities, and school districts) to provide increased support for their local libraries. In the past, the state's incentive-based funding formula helped to grow this local support for libraries. However, the incentive formula has not run since 2003 removing the additional incentive for increased local funding. With the \$79.4 million appropriation that we seek, we can carry out a "targeted" run of the incentive formula that provides increases in three of the incentive formula categories: Quality Libraries aid, Incentives for Excellence aid, and District Library Center aid. Four other categories will be level funded in this scenario: County Coordination aid, Statewide Resource Center aid, Equal Grants, and Equalization aid.

This plan would ensure that every library gets an increase and that no library's funding falls further behind in the next budget. Likewise, the increase for the Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will enable the services to convert to current technology from 1960s-era equipment. These library users deserve the best equipment and access that we can provide, especially in light of six straight years of not a single penny in additional funding.

The added investment in public libraries will make a tremendous difference in the level of services available to individuals and families all across the Commonwealth. The impact of greater state support will be felt immediately while the return to incentives for greater local support lays the foundation for solving our long-term problem---poor local funding in too many places across Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Send letters to:

Legislators Addresses

Rep. R. Grucela
239 S. Broad St.
Nazareth PA 18064

Rep. C. Dally
354 W. Moorestown Rd.
Nazareth PA 18064

Sen. L. Boscola
559 Main St. Suite 270
Bethlehem PA 18101

Sen. P. Browne
801 Hamilton St.
Allentown PA18018