

WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Annual Report 2007



BURNING THE MORTGAGE, JUNE 20, 2007

The West Virginia Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization governed by its board of directors.

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The Humanities Council welcomes nominations to its board of directors. Call us at (304) 346-8500 or email marsh@wvhumanities.org.

◀◀ *Cover photo: The board of directors works to ensure the Council's financial health. Here, Vice-President Dee Kapourales, President Bob Bastress, former President Henry Harmon and (right) Treasurer Ken Bailey burn the mortgage as Executive Director Ken Sullivan cheers them on. Gazette photo by Kenny Kemp.*



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The West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

March 28, 2008

Wheeling

Open to the public



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

The West Virginia Humanities Council closes out 2007 looking back on another year of accomplishment.

Undoubtedly, one highlight was the mortgage-burning party on West Virginia Day, as we celebrated the successful drive to retire the mortgage on the MacFarland-Hubbard House, the historic and beautiful home of the Council. We thank everyone for their contributions and their effort in reaching our goal. Special gratitude is extended to Council Vice-President Dee Kapourales, who headed the mortgage-burner committee, and to our former president, Henry Harmon of Triana Energy, who provided a very generous matching gift that ensured its success. The campaign enables the Council to re-direct more than \$50,000 each year from paying off debt to funding humanities projects.

In 2007, those projects continued to educate and entertain West Virginians. The *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, published by the Council in 2006, had another healthy sales year and has met widespread acclaim. A recent review in *West Virginia History* noted the book's comprehensiveness, usability, attractiveness, and its "engaging" and "thoughtful" Introduction (written by the editor and our executive director, Ken Sullivan).

On the programming side, the McCreight Lecture scored another success by bringing the prestigious and prodigiously productive author, Joyce Carol Oates, to Charleston for an enlightening evening. The Council's traveling exhibit on the birth of West Virginia completed its run, after it had been displayed for over two years in 25 different locations around the state. History Alive again provided its troupe of historical characters to school, civic, and other groups. And the Council was a major player, both in providing financial backing and representation (through Program

Director Mark Payne), in delivering another successful West Virginia Book Festival.

Grants from the Council spread hundreds of thousands of dollars around the state to support diverse humanities projects, ranging from minigrants, to teacher workshops on civics and on coal-mining history, to major publications and films on the humanities.

The oncoming year promises more excitement and more challenges. The next major project will be taking the *Encyclopedia* and its enormous database online. When completed, that project will provide the most comprehensive source of information about West Virginia in existence and will prove vital for both casual readers and serious scholars. Meanwhile, the Council has again teamed with the College of Creative Arts at West Virginia University to produce a traveling exhibit. The subject of this one will be John Henry, the legendary "steel driving man." Grants will support (among many things) films on the West Virginia state capitol and on the 1907 Monongah Mine Disaster, and will enable WVU Press to publish a thorough and unique historical atlas of the state, with 127 different maps covering a spectrum of geopolitical subjects and accompanied by detailed keys, charts, and brief essays.

As always, the Council is looking to expand the quality and quantity of its programs and grant projects. To accomplish all of that, of course, the Council will need help. We welcome your financial contributions and encourage you to keep them coming.

Journalist Jim Comstock once quipped that "West Virginia is a great state for the state it's in." The Council is committed to preserve and document that greatness. Please join us in this good work.

With warmest regards,



Bob Bastress



"Journalist Jim Comstock once quipped that 'West Virginia is a great state for the state it's in.' The Council is committed to preserve and document that greatness. Please join us . . ."

We gratefully acknowledge major support from the following for the purchase and restoration of the MacFarland-Hubbard House:

**National Endowment for the Humanities
Vandalia Heritage Foundation**

Triana Energy
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MORTGAGE-BURNING CELEBRATION

In 2007, the Humanities Council burned the mortgage on its historic headquarters during a special West Virginia Day celebration at the MacFarland-Hubbard House. The day marked a major milestone. We have raised over a million dollars to buy and restore the property, and on June 20 it was proclaimed “free and clear!”

The preservation of the 1836 house was undertaken in June 1999 when the Humanities Council bought the property for \$362,500. Restoration was completed at a cost of nearly \$900,000 more. Today, the MacFarland-Hubbard House is a busy, productive place. The second floor serves as offices for the Council. We welcome visitors to the formal historic areas of the first floor, and the adjoining carriage house is regularly used for meetings.



Additional donors are recognized on pages 12-14.

DONORS RECOGNIZED

Donors to the MacFarland-Hubbard House were recognized at the West Virginia Day mortgage-burning party. Food, fun and music set the festive tone, and when the party was over we wanted something permanent to mark the day.

Our Stewardship Registry contains all the names — nearly 500 — of those who made possible the purchase, restoration, and renovation of the 1836 MacFarland-Hubbard House, its grounds, and adjoining carriage house. Donors and fundraising volunteers are listed in the hardbound book, which was produced as a special edition of one copy by Pioneer Press of Terra Alta. It is displayed in the sunroom of the Council's historic headquarters alongside a large antique-framed wall plaque of donor names. The handsome plaque is enhanced by an overlaid glass etching of the MacFarland-Hubbard House.

It's our way of saying "thank you" for a job well done, by creating a space where donors are permanently recognized in the landmark property they helped to preserve.



OUR DIRECT PROGRAMS

2007 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our direct programs are those presented directly by the Humanities Council and managed by Council staff. They enlighten and educate audiences about history, literature, folklore, and other disciplines of the humanities, while helping us build a network of partner organizations. Direct programs provide opportunities for young and old alike, regardless of locale or financial means, to interact with respected scholars, authors, and public intellectuals.

In the past year we presented a variety of speakers, toured exhibits, and created classroom tools for teachers. Our direct programs were presented from Charles Town to Huntington, Chester to Bluefield, and many points between.

RESTING THE ROAD SHOW

The traveling exhibit, *Born of Rebellion: West Virginia Statehood*, wrapped up a two-year tour in July. Since 2005, *Born of Rebellion* has exhibited at retirement villages, schools, libraries, colleges, arts centers, courthouses, banks, historic properties, museums, and even a fast-food restaurant. The exhibit, which explores constitutional questions surrounding the formation of West Virginia, visited Morgantown,

Huntington, Parsons, Keyser, Martinsburg, Marlinton, Ripley, and Clarksburg in fiscal year 2007.

And *Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Homefront, 1941-1945*, completed a successful tour

with showings in Wheeling and Elkins. The Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit, sponsored in West Virginia by the Humanities Council, dealt with homefront war production during World War II.

Two new exhibits are now in the works. The Council is developing an exhibit about folk hero John Henry in conjunction with WVU graphic arts students, building on the collaboration which produced *Born of Rebellion*. The exhibit on the Steel-drivin' Man will be available in summer 2008. Our next Smithsonian exhibit, *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, will tour from April 2009 through January 2010.



Courtesy West Virginia Public Broadcasting

REMEMBERING THE WAR

In September, the Humanities Council sponsored the statewide broadcast of the Ken Burns film, *The War*, on West Virginia Public Broadcasting. The 15-hour documentary tells the story of World War II through the personal accounts of men and women from four widespread American communities. The loss, grief, triumphs and tribulations of these communities are meant to convey what happened across America.

On two nights, *West Virginians Remember WWII* aired in conjunction with *The War*. The documentary, part of the ongoing Veterans History Project at WVU, was supported by a major grant from the Humanities Council.



Photo by T. McCrea

American literary great Joyce Carol Oates delivered the 2007 McCreight Lecture in the Humanities. Oates, who is Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University, combined readings from her works with observations from her rural upbringing for an audience of several hundred at the University of Charleston in October.



Gazette photo by Chip Ellis

HUMANITIES HERE & THERE

Harvard economist Benjamin Friedman spoke on “The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth” at the University of Charleston on April 23 (right) and again at Concord University on April 24. On August 23, historian James Horn presented “Jamestown: A Land as God Made It” in Marlinton. Horn, vice-president of research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, spoke about the significance of the Jamestown settlement in observance of its 400th anniversary at the Pocahontas County Opera House.



On September 27, John E. Stealey, Distinguished Professor of History at Shepherd University, gave a presentation at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies in Shepherdstown entitled “Porte Crayon’s Mexico: David Hunter Strother’s Diaries.” The lecture was based on Stealey’s recent book of the same name, published by Kent State University Press with the support of a Humanities Council grant.



HISTORY ALIVE!

Notable figures from the past come to life through History Alive! A total of 210 presentations were given in 40 counties during the past year. Schools, libraries, museums, senior organizations, historical societies, festivals, colleges, civic groups, service associations and other community organizations were able to meet with the likes of Harriet Tubman, Robert E. Lee, and Pearl Buck. New installments of the History Alive! television show were filmed for the West Virginia Library Television network.

BOOK FESTIVAL

The seventh annual West Virginia Book Festival was held at the Charleston Civic Center on October 13 and 14. Sixty programs were offered by more than fifty presenters. Forty-three booksellers, presses, publishers, and related organizations set up shop in the Festival Marketplace. Authors Chris Crutcher, Ann B. Ross, and Carole Boston Weatherford were among the featured writers, along with West Virginia authors Jean Edward Smith, Marc Harshman, and Irene McKinney.



LITTLE LECTURES

These Sunday afternoon talks are presented each spring within the friendly confines of our headquarters at the 1836 MacFarland-Hubbard House. The popular series both educates the public and allows us to welcome people into our historic home. In fiscal year 2007, capacity audiences heard presentations about Appalachian author Jesse Stuart, President Franklin Roosevelt, archeological research, and the making of the film *We Are Marshall*. The 2008 Little Lectures begin in February.



OUR GRANTS

2007 GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

The Humanities Council awarded more than \$300,000 to West Virginia grants projects in 2007. Project topics ranged from archeology and history to literature and comparative religion. We funded video documentaries, publications, teacher institutes and research fellowships, and provided a wide range of other grants.

Our grant dollars were put to good use by creative West Virginians in 32 counties. As always, Humanities Council staff were available to discuss ideas for grants projects and assist applicants through the process.



BIG BAND JAZZ AND DANCE MUSIC IN BLACK WEST VIRGINIA, 1930 - 1942

Older Charlestonians recall a time when they enjoyed listening to big bands play jazz music on the radio and on tour in town. Christopher Wilkerson, WVU professor of music history, author of *Jazz on the Road* and editor of *Black Music Research Journal*, lectured with Humanities Council support at West Virginia State University on the impact of big-band jazz on the lives of black West Virginians. *Charleston Blues Society*.



PROJECT ARCHEOLOGY

Green Bank science teacher Anne Smith and her students were archeologists for a day at Warwick's Fort in Pocahontas County. Smith, along with other teachers, was trained to teach archeology in workshops funded by the Humanities Council. These teachers have formed a network of educators and archeologists who will train additional teachers throughout the state. The major grant also funded the development of a handbook with lesson plans and hands-on activities. *Council for West Virginia Archaeology*.

MEDIA GRANTS AWARDED

In October the Humanities Council funded the production of three documentaries.

Temple of Democracy: The West Virginia State Capitol, awarded to the University of Charleston and MotionMasters, will present the history of West Virginia's earlier capitols and the construction of the present capitol in Charleston. The film will air in 2008 and is to be distributed to libraries and schools.

The Darkest Month: December 1907, The Monongah Mining Disaster, to be produced by the West Virginia Division of Culture & History and Argentine Productions, will document the worst mining disaster in American history, which killed at least 362 men at Fairmont Coal Company's No. 6 and 8 mines at Monongah. Interviews, historic photographs, and other archival material will aid in the telling of a terrible tragedy.

The West Virginia Filmmakers' Guild will produce *Them That Work – How Matewan Inspired a State*. It's a film about a film and will tell the story of how the 1987 movie *Matewan*, shot at Thurmond in Fayette County, encouraged West Virginia's young filmmakers.



THE ART OF WEST VIRGINIA MUSIC

The West Virginia Music Hall of Fame received a major grant to produce their third, and largest, Council-funded traveling exhibit. The show features West Virginia musicians from classical composer George Crumb, renowned hill singer Hazel Dickens, and country star Brad Paisley, to the Lilly Brothers and Little Jimmy Dickens, highlighting their contributions to the rich music of America. *West Virginia Music Hall of Fame.*

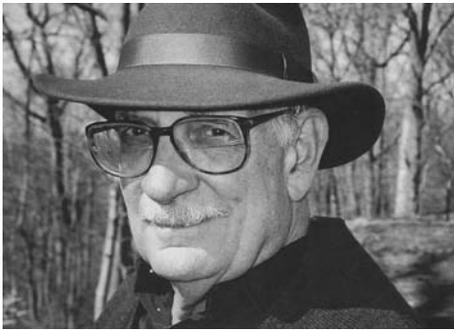


Photo By William Crumb

George Crumb.

WALKING GUIDE TO UPPER TOWN HARPERS FERRY

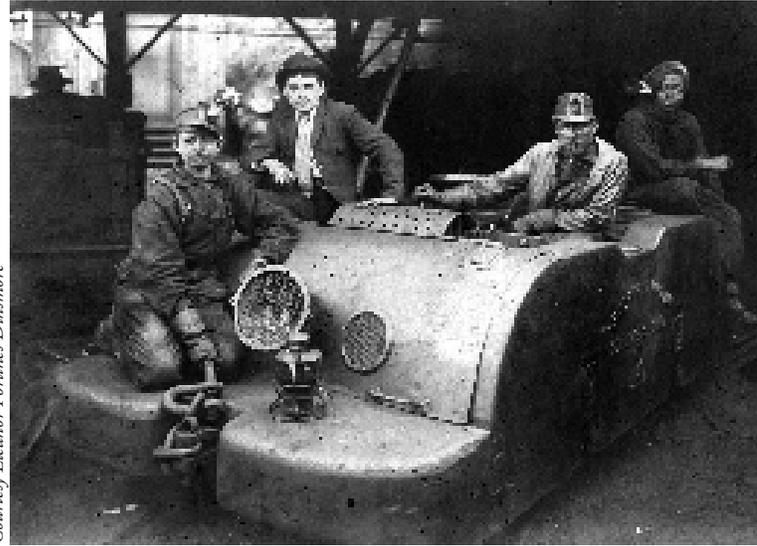
Harpers Ferry National Historic Park visitors spend most of their time in the lower part of the hillside town, touring the park's museums and historic sites. Much has been done to interpret and showcase the lower town, but the upper town lacks published information to establish its place in the rich history of Harpers Ferry. The Humanities Council awarded a heritage tourism grant for the development of a walking tour brochure highlighting the history and architecture of the "other" Harpers Ferry. *Harpers Ferry Historic Town Foundation.*

This 19th-century view of the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry is from the cover of a new book from WVU Press. The Potomac Canal:

George Washington and the Waterway West, by Robert J. Kapsch, was published in 2007 with financial support from the West Virginia Humanities Council. Painting courtesy Maryland Historical Society, artist unknown.

MINING OUR HISTORY

Twenty West Virginia teachers were selected to participate in the Humanities Council's 2007 teacher institute, exploring the history of mining and hosted by West Virginia Wesleyan College. The teachers worked with scholars and visited historic mining sites, including Sago, Monongah, the Beckley Exhibition Mine, and Bramwell's "Millionaires' Row." *West Virginia Wesleyan College.*



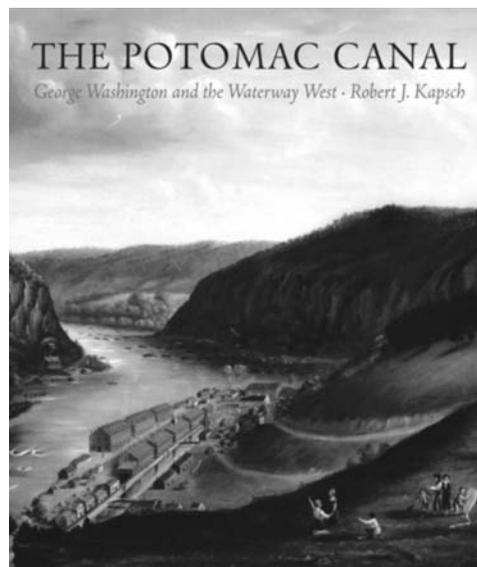
Courtesy Eleanor Fortlines Dinsmore

CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN LITERATURE AND THE CULTURAL DYNAMICS OF GLOBALIZATION

Last March, hundreds of people attended the African Literature Association Conference funded by the Humanities Council at West Virginia University. The seminar was a celebration of African literature with an emphasis on its relationship to globalization. Participants attended presentations on traditional African literature, music, poetry, and films. Internationally acclaimed writers and scholars argued that globalization is a "double-edged sword," threatening local literary traditions even as it blends different cultures for mutual enrichment. *WVU Department of Foreign Languages.*

PRESERVING CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

Two of Charleston's historic churches collaborated in Council-funded workshops for amateur church archivists. In sessions open to all faiths, a certified archivist taught how to plan for and maintain church archives in meetings at First Presbyterian Church and at Kanawha United Presbyterian Church. The archivist later assessed First Presbyterian records as a model for other churches that may wish to preserve their history. *First Presbyterian Church of Charleston.*



The Humanities Council awarded 69 other grants in fiscal year 2007.

COUNCIL FINANCES AT A GLANCE

The Humanities Council had a good year in 2007, ending with a surplus of nearly \$35,000. Nonetheless, income was down from the exceptional levels of the previous year.

WHERE WE ARE . . .

2007 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

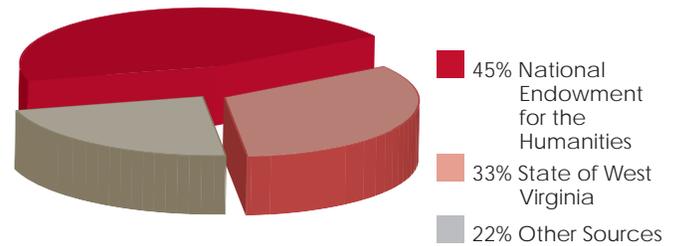
REVENUES

National Endowment for the Humanities	\$ 572,820
State of West Virginia	\$ 414,600
All other sources	\$ 276,069
<i>Total revenues</i>	<i>\$1,263,489</i>

EXPENDITURES

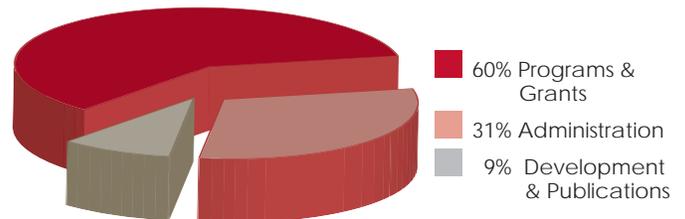
Programs & grants	
Grants	\$ 307,605
Direct programs	\$ 230,641
Related expenses	\$ 209,222
<i>Total programs & grants</i>	<i>\$ 747,468</i>
Administrative	\$ 383,537
Development & publications	\$ 97,572
<i>Total expenditures</i>	<i>\$1,228,577</i>
<i>Surplus (deficit)</i>	<i>\$ 34,912</i>

THE FACTS BEHIND THE FIGURES . . .



2007 REVENUES:

The Humanities Council receives income from public and private sources. The National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, remained the single most important revenue source in 2007. Our NEH income was \$572,820 (45 percent of total income), rising slightly from \$571,530 (36 percent) in 2006. The West Virginia Department of Education & the Arts provided \$414,600 (33 percent), up from \$350,000 in 2006. The remaining \$276,069 (22 percent) came from other sources, mostly in the private sector. The changes were due primarily to the increase in state funds and the predicted decrease in *Encyclopedia* sales, which brought in more than a quarter-million dollars in 2006.

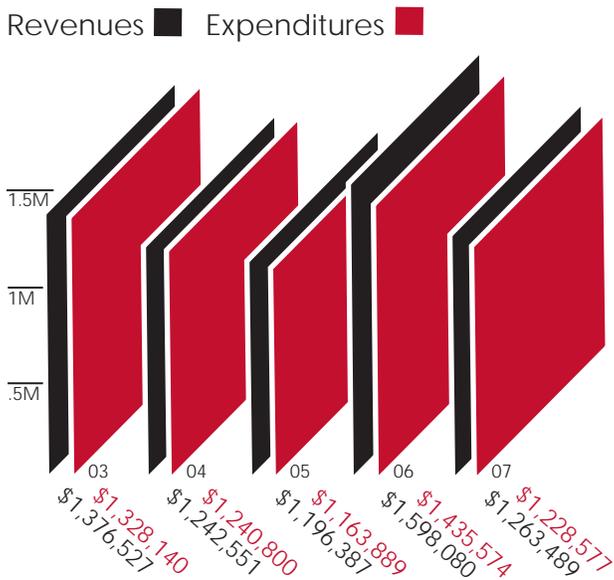


2007 EXPENDITURES:

Humanities Council expenditures are divided into three categories, with the large majority of resources devoted to the Programs & Grants category. In 2007, Programs & Grants claimed 60 percent of expenditures, or \$747,468, compared to \$945,828 in 2006. The decline was due to the successful completion in 2006 of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* and the Southern West Virginia music survey, two large projects which together accounted for more than half of direct program expenses that year. Expenditures on other programs increased in 2007, as did the amount given in grants.

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN . . .

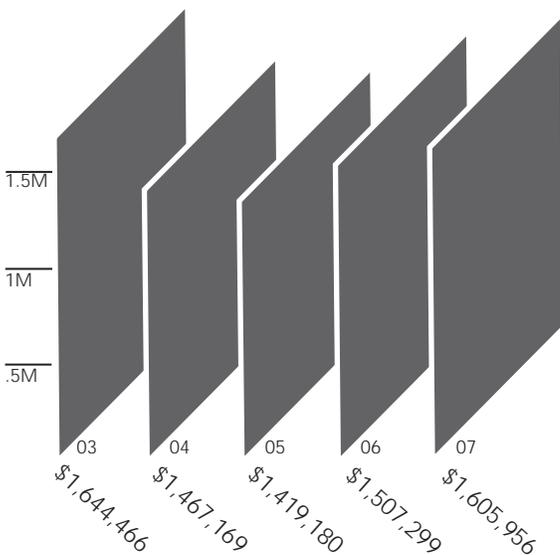
FIVE-YEAR REVENUES & EXPENDITURES



The Humanities Council had its best two years ever (2003 and 2006) within the last five-year period. While lower than either of those years, 2007 revenues continued a long-term upward trend and expenditures fell well within revenues.

FIVE-YEAR ASSETS

Council assets fluctuated over the five-year period as a reduction in mortgage debt was offset by real estate depreciation. Assets saw a nice increase in 2007, with the final elimination of debt. Real estate equity and a securities portfolio comprise the major part of Humanities Council assets.

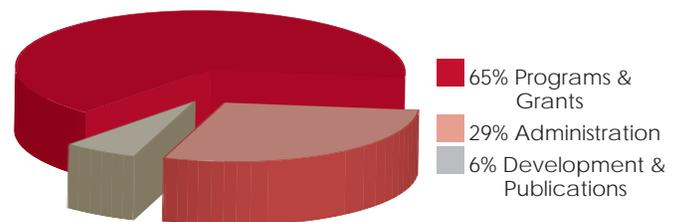


. . . AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

THE 2008 BUDGET

Each fall the board of directors of the West Virginia Humanities Council approves a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year. The 2008 budget projects revenues of \$1,340,000, assuming a continued reduction in sales of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* while anticipating increases in federal and state money. The portion of Council resources devoted to Programs & Grants increases to 65 percent, with 29 percent going to Administration and 6 percent to Development.

The 2008 fiscal year began on November 1, 2007.



Note: Unless otherwise indicated, the figures and charts on these pages are based on actual, unaudited financial information as reported internally to management and the board of directors. The West Virginia Humanities Council is audited annually by an independent auditor, with each year's audit available for public inspection by April of the following year.

2007 MEMBERS & DONORS

This list represents memberships and other donations for 2007. Donors are listed in the category of their total giving for the year.

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 Ms. Betty Sweet Ness
 State of West Virginia - Department of Education and the Arts

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WILLS WEEK

Guests enjoyed a performance by the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, October 12, at the Clay Center as part of West Virginia Wills Week. This was the second year for Wills Week, held October 14-20, which is sponsored by Leave a Legacy West Virginia to provide information on preparing an appropriate will and related end-of-life documents.

As a participant, the West Virginia Humanities Council invited friends in Kanawha and Putnam counties to the Clay Center event. Michelle Walker, director of development for the Humanities Council, works with Leave a Legacy to inform West Virginians on planned-giving options. "If you don't state in a will where your money goes when you die, someone else will decide for you. It's as simple as that. It is imperative to leave instructions in a will for your heirs and your favorite nonprofit organizations. That's the only way to be sure your wishes are carried out," Walker said. "I look forward to talking with any of our readers who want to learn more."

Contact Michelle Walker at (304) 346-8500 or walker@wvhumanities.org.



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA GOES TO SCHOOL . . .

By the end of fiscal year 2007, the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* was present in all or some of the schools in a majority of West Virginia counties. In most cases, the books had been placed through the financial support of donors or purchased by individual schools or school boards. The Humanities Council published the popular one-volume reference on West Virginia Day 2006.

The Council's goal is to place at least two copies of the *Encyclopedia* in every school in the state. Given the cost of producing an oversized hardbound book of nearly a thousand pages, we unfortunately cannot give the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* to educators free of charge, but we are committed to doing everything possible to put the book into the hands of teachers and students. We offer a discount to schools and work to match schools and donors.

To encourage use of the

West Virginia Encyclopedia in classrooms, the Council issued a set of 25 lesson plans in June 2007. Developed by a team of experienced educators, the lesson plans address the content standards and objectives of the state curriculum for the teaching of West Virginia Studies at the elementary and eighth-grade levels. They are available to teachers at no charge in print and CD-Rom versions and online.



Teachers at work on the lesson plans.

GETTING AND GIVING

* To get lesson plans for the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, teachers should visit www.wvhumanities.org. Click on "West Virginia Encyclopedia," then on "Encyclopedia Lesson Plans."

* To get the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* at the special 25% education discount, schools or school boards should contact Cheryl Marsh at (304)346-8500 or marsh@wvhumanities.org.

* To give the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* to schools or for any other purpose, contact Michelle Walker at (304)346-8500 or walker@wvhumanities.org.

. . . AND BEYOND PRINT

“With more than 16,000 copies now in circulation, we are pleased to know that the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* has made its way into homes, schools and libraries across the state,” said Ken Sullivan, the book’s editor and the executive director of the Humanities Council. “We are committed to keeping our big book in inventory and foresee an extended sales life.”

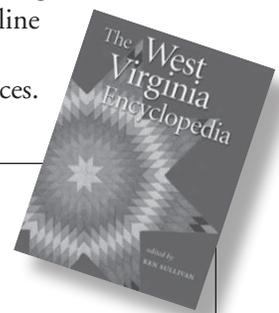
At the same time, the Council is eager to move the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* beyond print and onto the Internet, Sullivan said.

“We are not interested in just putting the book online,” he added. “There is not much point to that. We have already done a good book, and it’s widely available in libraries and bookstores. Rather, we expect to create a thoroughly interactive reference website, building on the information content of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* while incorporating

audio, video and other media. We believe the online encyclopedia will provide a revolutionary resource for West Virginia students and teachers, and the general public.”

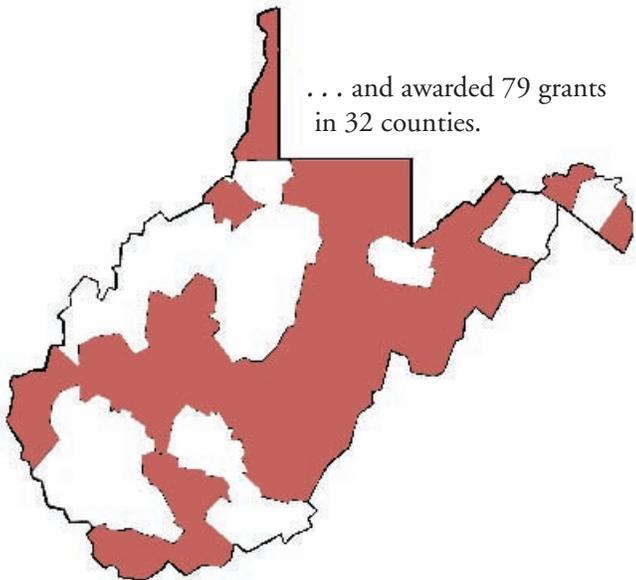
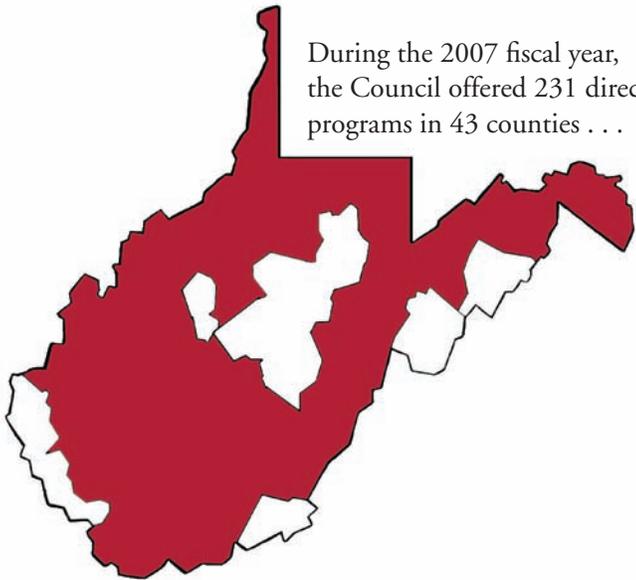
Plans continued throughout 2007 for publication of the online encyclopedia, and to identify funding sources.

The *West Virginia Encyclopedia* continues to be a thriving success, with most of the second printing now sold out. Its sales remain a significant source of income for the Humanities Council, bringing in more than \$110,000 in fiscal year 2007.



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