WV Center for the Book

Celebrating the State’s Unique Literary Heritage since 2001.
About WVCFTB

• Affiliated with Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, recently re-affiliated.

• Receives funding from state’s General Fund, IMLS/LSTA, West Virginia Humanities Council, Division of Culture and History and through grants.

• Working on development of an Advisory Council to help steer initiatives.

• Celebrating our state’s unique literary heritage for 12 years.
A little history...

• Starting in 1984, the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress began to establish affiliate centers in the 50 states. Today, there is a State Center for the Book in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

• These Center for the Book affiliates carry out the national Center's mission in their local areas, sponsor programs that highlight their area's literary heritage and call attention to the importance of books, reading, literacy and libraries. The State Centers gather annually at the Library of Congress for an Idea Exchange Day.

• The West Virginia Center for the Book brings the national Center’s message of the importance of books and reading to audiences statewide. The center actively works within West Virginia to highlight the unique literary heritage that abounds from the earliest story tellers to the recent novelists, the center celebrates all West Virginia writers and place related books. West Virginia Center for the Book sponsors book festivals, author readings and other events that celebrate books and libraries.
One Book, One West Virginia

One Book, One West Virginia is a state-wide book discussion group designed to promote dialogue among community members gathered in various locations throughout the state. To accomplish this goal, participants are urged to join book discussion groups and attend related special events, such as meeting the author, character portrayals, movies, and workshops.
The Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Program is made possible with financial support from the West Virginia Humanities Council, the West Virginia Center for the Book, and the Shepherd University Foundation.

The program provides an opportunity for writers, students, teachers, and others to immerse themselves in the world of Appalachian writing with the selected Writer-in-Residence.

Puts programs on Appalachian Literature into schools and libraries.

2013 WIR: Frank X. Walker, Affrilachian Poet
• Encourages children and young adults to write a letter to the author of a book which has inspired them, helped them, or strengthened them.

• Letters are judged both statewide and nationally

• State winners are awarded in a ceremony at the Culture Center every year.

• In 2012, West Virginia had its first national winner – Darius Atefat Peckham of Huntington.

• In 2013, over 600 West Virginia youth participated from every corner of the state.
WV Children’s Choice Book Awards

• “Enrich the lives of children grades three through six by encouraging reading books of literary quality.”

• Established in 1981 by teachers Joyce Lang and Patty Benedum, this program was administered through the West Virginia Children’s Book Award Committee until 2007. It is now hosted by the West Virginia Center for the Book, located in Charleston.

• Children across WV read books from the list of nominees and vote for their favorites.

• 2013 Top prize: No Ordinary Day by author Deborah Ellis
West Virginia African-American Literature Celebration

- Intermittently through the years, began as an official project in 2012

- Hosts a prominent West Virginia African-American author or an author who has written about the African-American experience in Appalachia at the Fagan State Theater in the Culture Center.

  - 2012 – Crystal Good

  - 2013 – Norman Jordan
Other Activities

- Special events and posters related to various authors or literary themes
- Posters commemorating National Poetry Month
- 2013 Special poster commemorating WV Women Writers
- Past support of the West Virginia Book Festival and the Ohio River Festival of Books.
We can help on...

• Program ideas highlighting West Virginia and Appalachian authors for readers of any age
• Connections with authors, illustrators and others for Library Visits
• Book Discussion Group Collections for Libraries by Appalachian and West Virginia authors/subjects
• Other literary promotion endeavors

PLEASE CALL US!
Join us as we celebrate West Virginia’s Unique Literary Heritage.

THANK YOU!

West Virginia Center for the Book was established in 2001 as an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

It is hosted by the West Virginia Library Commission in partnership with the West Virginia Humanities Council and is located in Charleston, West Virginia.