

PUBLIC LIBRARY APPRECIATION DAY  
2008

On Thursday, January 31, 2008, we will have our first "Public Library Appreciation Day (PLAD)" at the State House in Columbia. We need at least 100 library supporters to be inside the Capitol in the lobby area between the offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Carol Norfleet, Administrative Coordinator for General Services, told us that Protective Services can close off the area if there are too many people. The area will easily accommodate many more folks than just 100.

We've drafted a resolution. House Minority Leader Harry Ott has agreed to be a chief sponsor. We will ask him to see if he can get all the Democrats to co-sponsor. We will also ask House Majority Leader James Merrill to co-sponsor it and to ask all Republicans to co-sponsor it, too. Our legislative lobbyist, Jim Johnson, says that this would probably work since we are not asking for money in the resolution. At 10 a.m., Representative Ott will present the resolution to the President of the SC Association of Public Library Administrators (APLA). That will be the reason for having a press conference at that time. The press conference should last about 10 minutes. We will get APLA members to encourage their legislators to attend the press conference to show their support.

We will ask publicist Ann Addy to help us to get members of the local press to attend. We will encourage local library directors especially to garner additional local support. APLA members will also give press releases to their hometown media, preferably with photos of their local legislators standing with library supporters in endorsement of this measure.

We have ordered about 170 book bags for the legislators. We will need several generic items in each bag such as a bookmark, an economic impact of libraries brochure, a single-page flyer with APLA's legislative agenda, and a copy of the state law supporting public libraries. Each library group will also place in each book bag one or two "local" things (like T-shirts, cookies, etc.) for their own legislators. If library supporters do not see their legislators at the press conference, these citizens will immediately head upstairs to the desk in front of the House Chamber to send notes into their legislators. If this fails, then citizens will leave items in the legislators' offices.