

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

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Emily Hilliard joined the staff in 2015.

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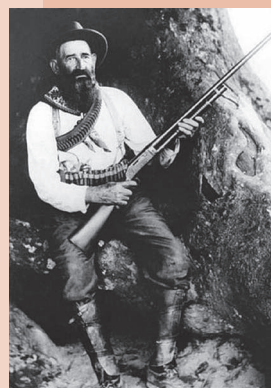
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Next Board Meeting: April 15, 2016, at Tamarack in Beckley.
Humanities Council board meetings are open to the public.

West Virginia Humanities Council
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wvhuman@wvhumanities.org

Visit the West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org

In 2015, the Humanities Council served tens of thousands of West Virginians with grants and programs in schools and colleges, libraries, museums, senior centers, and other locations statewide.



Our *Hatfields & McCoy's* traveling exhibit visited Morgantown, Williamson, Bramwell, Athens, Matewan, Logan, and Huntington – plus Pikeville and Ashland in Kentucky.

The Humanities Council's initiative to spread Little Libraries across the state continued with two new sites in Wayne County and one in Nicholas.

We funded an exhibit at the old Darden Mill in Elkins showcasing Appalachian goods made at home and by hand.

The last of our Civil War Sesquicentennial speakers presented programs in Keyser, Union, New Martinsville, Huntersville, and Charleston.

Grafton produced a brochure and signage highlighting its history as a railroad town and the birthplace of Mother's Day, with help from the Humanities Council.

The West Virginia Book Festival returned to the Charleston Civic Center following a two-year hiatus, with the Humanities Council as a key sponsor.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia continued its collaboration with West Virginia Public Radio to broadcast twice-daily items of West Virginia History.

We supported "Skirmish on the River" at the Larry Joe Harless Community Center in Gilbert, commemorating Civil War history. ▶

With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, we hired West Virginia's first state folklorist.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Eric Foner delivered the 2015 McCreight Lecture in the Humanities.

The Humanities Council awarded 63 grants and seven fellowships in 26 counties.

Our historic headquarters in Charleston hosted its first-ever classical music concert.

128 *History Alive!* presentations were delivered in 39 counties.

The Humanities Council launched its new website in July 2015, at www.wvhumanities.org.

A Humanities Council grant funded history lectures during the Capon Bridge Founders Day Festival in Hampshire County.

The Humanities Council partnered with the Harvard Club of West Virginia to bring Harvard historian Timothy McCarthy to Charleston.

We provided support to West Virginia Wesleyan College for the digitization of news film of the 1960 presidential primary debate between John Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey.

We supported "Japanese in June," a summer cultural immersion camp for Cabell County elementary students.

The Humanities Council supported the 25th season of the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown.

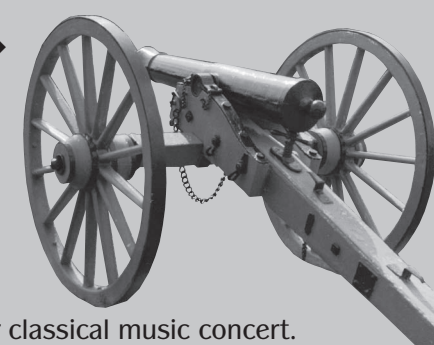
We partnered with WVU Press to release the fifth volume in the West Virginia Classics series, the 1918 *Uncle Abner: Master of Mysteries* by Melville Davisson Post.

With the support of a Humanities Council grant, the Morgantown History Museum built a full-size replica flatboat, circa 1820.

Humanities Council travel grants helped West Virginia scholars to attend conferences in West Africa, Greece, and Oregon.

With Humanities Council support, Fairmont State University students produced an exhibit of the early history of their school, including these hard-working predecessors.

We provided funding for Shepherd University's 2015 writer-in-residence, the poet Nikki Giovanni.



Report Card

and Annual Honor Roll



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report that we have had an excellent year at the Humanities Council.

The Council again succeeded in providing educational programming and grant opportunities throughout all geographic areas of West Virginia. In 2015, we served a combined 44 counties with a total of 153 programs and 70 grants. Mark Twain (aka Doug Riley, below) was among 15 "History Alive!" characters active statewide.

We expanded and renewed for a second year our "This Week in West Virginia History" broadcast partnership with West Virginia Public Radio. Daily segments are aired during morning and afternoon news time, and we hope you enjoy this programming.

Traffic to *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* remained robust. We are pleased with the use of our online encyclopedia by teachers and students – and by ordinary, curious West Virginians from across the state.

e-WV reaches well beyond our own borders, as well. In 2015, site visits originated from every state in the U.S., plus 180 other countries. And we expect visits to increase even further, now that *e-WV* has been upgraded to make it compatible with mobile devices.

We were pleased to hire Emily Hilliard as West Virginia's first official state folklorist in November. The Council is grateful for the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, which made this new position possible. This is an exciting new program direction for us, and a promising new funding relationship.

As I am sure many of you are aware, the West Virginia Book Festival returned in 2015 after a two-year hiatus, with the Council serving as a principal sponsor. The 2015 Book Fest drew visitors from 95 communities in West Virginia, and from a dozen other states. We are delighted with the return of this event and encouraged by its growing popularity.

The Council is deeply appreciative of donations from hundreds of private citizens, foundations and businesses, and for the continued public dollars coming to our organization. We are particularly grateful for support received from state government through the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts.

In closing, I thank you for your support of the humanities and ask that you join the West Virginia Humanities Council and colleagues nationwide in wishing a happy 50th anniversary to the National Endowment for the Humanities, signed into law by President Johnson in 1965.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Papadopoulos

Paul G. Papadopoulos, President

Our work in 2015 was made possible by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, and many other organizations and individuals. Our donor honor roll follows.

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Our finances

continued stable in 2015, with federal revenue down slightly, state revenue steady, and private-sector fundraising up by a very welcome 16 percent. Council revenues totaled \$1,274,112. Property improvements pushed expenditures to \$1,308,037, for a deficit of \$33,925. While regrettable, a deficit of this size is manageable.

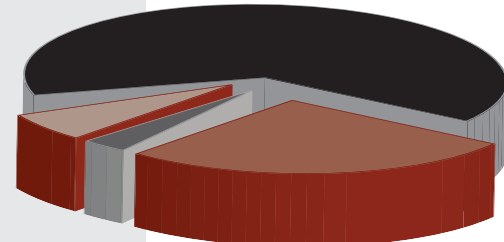
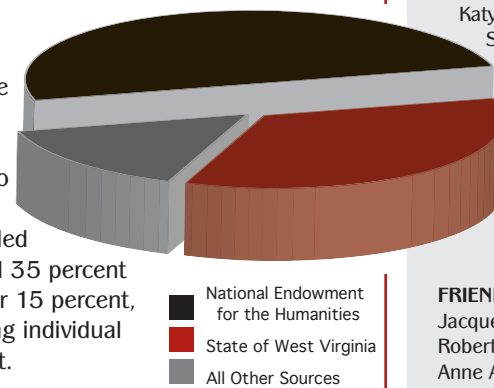
REVENUE	
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$ 634,300
State of West Virginia	\$ 450,000
All other sources	\$ 189,812
Total revenues	\$1,274,112
EXPENSES	
Programs & grants	
grants	\$ 307,882
direct programs	\$ 300,629
related expenses	\$ 231,548
Total programs & grants	\$ 840,059
Administrative	\$ 355,895
Development	\$ 70,371
Net property improvements	\$ 41,712
Total expenses	\$1,308,037
Surplus (deficit)	(\$33,925)



Grants administrator Erin Riebe manages outgoing grants funds.

Where the money came from...

The National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, remained the largest source of Humanities Council income. The NEH provided \$634,300, or 50 percent of our income in 2015, down from \$643,200 (also 50 percent) in 2014. The West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts provided \$450,000 in 2015, the same as before and 35 percent of total income. The remaining \$189,812, or 15 percent, came largely from the private sector, including individual gifts and corporation and foundation support.



...and where the money went.

We were pleased that the share of Humanities Council expenses going to programs and grants rose to 64 percent in 2015, the highest level in several years and comfortably above the 60 percent benchmark that nonprofits often set for themselves.

■ Programs & Grants ■ Development
■ Administration ■ Property improvements

Looking back, it was a good year. We were especially pleased with the growth in programs and grants, which increased almost \$100,000 over 2014. Total assets rose slightly, to a record \$2,012,838 at year end.

Looking forward, we plan for continued moderate growth. The Humanities Council board of directors has approved a budget of \$1,558,200 for fiscal year 2016. Adjusting for a \$170,000 grants reserve, we anticipate revenue and expenses of \$1,388,200.

Unless otherwise indicated, the figures and charts shown here 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. Fiscal year 2015 ended October 31.

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Looking for a few good Friends of Paint: This year we will repaint the landmark MacFarland-Hubbard House, our 179-year-old headquarters, at a cost expected to exceed \$50,000. Contact Victoria Paul at v.paul@whumanities.org to make a tax-deductible contribution to this important stewardship project.

