

Steering Committee Minutes
FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHERN TIER LIBRARIES
June 1, 2011

Present were Mary Bacalles, Sherry Collins, Maija De Roche, Peter Gamba, Denise King, Judy Phillips, Dorothy and Mickey Martelle, Paul Webster, Bonnie Weber, Dale Wexell, and Ristiina Wigg, STLS

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm .

Bonnie Weber presented minutes of the May meeting. The minutes were approved.

Mrs. Weber then asked Dale Wexell to discuss the first and second years of the Foundation and the relationship to the Steering Committee and the STLS Revenue Enhancement Committee.

Dr. Wexell reviewed the purpose and need for the Foundation to raise funds for services provided by Southern Tier which will benefit all, and for use by members. Southern Tier Library System trustees have contributed an initial \$3,000 to be used to start up the Foundation. Six persons have agreed to be beginning members of the Foundation Board. As the Foundation becomes active, more people will want to participate. The Foundation Board will work on a strategic plan for the next three years. The Library System's Revenue Enhancement Committee will work at a fund development committee for the Foundation for the next 9 – 12 months.

Next steps – develop processes and procedures for the Foundation.

The first and organizational meeting of the Foundation will be held today, after the Steering Committee meeting adjourns. This Foundation Board will authorize the application for incorporation. The incorporation papers will be filed with the Division of Library Development for approval by the Regents. Dr. Wexell estimates that it will take 4 – 6 months in go through the incorporation process. As soon as possible the Foundation will apply to the IRS for 501(c)3 status.

Mickey Martelle spoke of his experience as chair of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board and with funds awarded through the Appalachian Regional Commission. He suggested that STLS and the Foundation met with the Southern Tier Central Development Board.

Steering Committee members will continue to meet through the end of 2011, attending Foundation meetings. The Agendas will be driven by the Foundation.

Dr. Wexell described plans for the most reasonable course over the next year

- looking for a maximum return/impact
- have the most profound impact
 - retirement of capital debt by developing a campaign to raise \$500,000 - \$750,000 to pay off the mortgage and maintain the building
 - Free up approximately \$50 ,000 - \$60,000/year to provide services to members

Dorothy Martelle asked for a list of System services in order to better understand what is needed. Judy Phillips asked about STLS income. Ristiina Wigg, described rough income categories – State Aid approximately 15%, member cost-share 11 – 14%, e-Rate telecommunications reimbursements, grants and miscellaneous. Steady reductions in state aid have made it important to look for other sources of funding. Dr. Wexell suggested that libraries are available to everyone, and they are among the top three organizations important to communities. Judy suggested the Foundation funds will help maintain services and build for the future, protect the future. She also said that it is important that Foundation funding is understood to be supplementary, not supplanting existing funding.

In particular it should result in reduced municipal funding.

The Steering Committee adjourned and the organizational meeting of the Foundation began.

Respectfully submitted,
Ristiina Wigg