

Member Contributions Committee
with Directors Advisory Council
Dormann Library, Bath
October 13, 2009

Present:	<u>Term</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
Jenny Peer, Savona	2009	0 – 1,900
Barb Radigan, Pulteney Online participant	2009 – 2010	0 – 1,900
Karen Deutsch, Wayland Online participant	2009 – 2011	2,000 – 4,999
Cindy Dutton, Cuba	2009 – 2011	2,000 – 4,999
Lana Meissner, Alfred	2009 – 2011	5,000 – 14,999
Owen Frank, Steele Memorial Library	2009 - 2010	Central Library
Jim Sleeth, Elmira	2009	At-large
Harriet Eisman, Watkins Glen Online participant		

Absent: Brian Hildreth, Wellsville (5,000 – 14,999)
Pauline Emery, Corning (15,000 and over)
Lynn Overgaard, Penn Yan (15,000 and over)
Luke Rondinaro, Montour Falls, (0 – 1,900)

Present: Sherry Collins and Bonnie Webber, STLS Trustees;
Al Oliveras and Ristiina Wigg, STLS staff

1. Distributed discussion points from September 29th meeting

2) Reviewed county funding for libraries in Western New York

- Cindy Dutton suggested that the case for county funding would be stronger if cuts were being made
- Rusty said that member libraries would have to be involved in requesting funds from counties. When member contributions increase, members might ask counties to contribute toward those costs
- Jenny Peer asked about additional NYS funding reductions and the increase in costs for NYS retirement. (At the time of the meeting further reductions in state aid for libraries

had not been proposed; since then Governor Paterson has asked for another 10% reduction in library aid)

- Jim Sleeth pointed out that there was no pattern in county funding for libraries
- As STLS increases the cost share for electronic services, the increases for Steuben libraries will come out of county funding
- Libraries will need to make an attempt to increase funding in order to stay even, or will have to reduce services

- History of STLS member contributions (attached).

Over the year the System has discussed funding contributions with members, offered all members the opportunity to attend, distributed meeting notes, and based on discussion, provided members with advance notice of funding changes. Southern Tier has absorbed ebbs and flows in income and expenses in order to make member costs predictable. For example, the system did not ask members to contribute to delivery costs when the price of gasoline doubled, nor did member contributions increase in the middle of 2008 when the NYS began cutting library aid

- STLS Cost Reductions

2009 reductions – \$91,500 through reductions

- staff training
- Sirsi/Dynix annual maintenance
- contribution to the replacement reserve fund for building maintenance
- purchase of professional materials
- purchase of used delivery truck with a negotiated contribution from Simmons-Rockwell Ford
- replacing a full-time cataloger with ½ time cataloger

- STLS Fundraising

The STLS Board Fundraising Committee's first effort was to find funding for a delivery truck. Having accomplished that, the committee will be discussing next steps in November

- Jim Sleeth said that fundraising cannot be considered a stable source of funding and probably will not significantly affect the operating budget

- Sherry Collins said that STLS held August County meetings to involve members, to discuss planning for the future growth of the System region. "We need your help to get members involved." As a group, member libraries need to say, "This is what we want from our system."

- Cindy Dutton said that the best idea from last meeting is that members could make their own rotating collections. Cuba is planning to make a rotating collection of audio books; three libraries replied that they were interested

3. Purpose of this committee

- Jim Sleeth asked if STLS is making decisions, or are members making the decisions. He urged STLS to hunker down and reduce services
- Rusty said that STLS wants to work with members to provide 21st century services, a time full of energy and change, to be responsive to the needs of members
- What is a fair way to fund services?
- Rotating collections and processing could be charged on an ala cart basis
- Barb Radigan has said that costs should equally affect all libraries, regardless of which services they use
- Jenny Peer asked if the STLS vision is the members' vision. In Monroe County members drove the system, there was weighted voting, everything was voted on, (for example enhanced content such as book jacket art and reviews added to the regional catalog) and everyone abided by the group vote
- Jenny Peer said that if her library reduces hours by 30%, she will not need as many deliveries. Perhaps STLS should reduce deliveries from 6 days a week to 3 days a week
- Jenny Peer said that members will have to reduce services to pay for increases in contributions
- Sherry Collins said that the STLS Board rewrote the by-laws to ensure membership ownership of the System. Five county meetings were held in preparation for this discussion. How do we get cooperation from members when they don't respond?
- Lana Meissner stated that the information was helpful She is concerned that the group is not honing down on a direction. We need to funnel down the topic so that we can focus. Member input would be useful
- Cindy Dutton said that we have tried. To what lengths do you go to collect information

4. Cost analysis of 2008 STLS services – draft attached

- Focus on core services, reexamine things that are not part of core services
- Verify consensus on core services – delivery, catalog maintenance, information technology, interlibrary loan

5. DRAFT cost charts for increasing member contributions (attached)

- Would the electronic services cost-share formula be used to fund all services?
- Cindy Dutton said that she and Karen have received a few responses from members

- Jim Sleeth said that the two drafts do not raise enough money
- Jenny Peer said that the drafts will not cover needed increases if we are looking at the entire budget
- Lana Meissner asked if it would be helpful to include the fixed costs which STLS would have to spend no matter what

Other considerations

- Would there be libraries that say we can't raise the money?
- A sensible alternative would be to merge libraries
- If we don't continue to provide the level of service that customers demand, libraries will become irrelevant

6. Next meeting

This meeting was held at 12 noon to encourage/enable others to attend. Instead attendance is lower. The group suggested changing the next meeting to 10 am.

Next Meeting October 29, 2009, 10 am, Howard Library

Information needed:

Cost analysis of STLS services

Options for increased member contributions

County Funding for Library Systems in Western New York – October 2009

Library System	Funding from counties?	Who prepares and presents the funding request each year?	Funding to members? System? Purpose?
Chautauqua-Cattaraugus 2 counties 36 members	Cattaraugus Chautauqua		
Clinton-Essex – Franklin 3 counties 30 members	Clinton Essex Franklin		
Finger Lakes 5 counties 31 members	Tompkins funds FLLS (\$15,459); and members (\$28,870 each) Tioga funds FLLS (\$6,417); and members (\$8,936 each) Seneca funds FLLS (\$6,300); and members (\$8,050 or \$10,650 each depending on library size) Cayuga FLLS (\$4,950); and members (\$10,000 each) Cortland FLLS only (\$5,000)	FLLS prepares and presents the system request; members prepare and present their own requests	System funding goes directly to FLLS; member funding goes directly to members FLLS cites services with a regional impact such as ILL and Delivery, Outreach, and Electronic resources (databases and downloadable titles) although the funds are not requested for specific services. Members request funds for operating expenses and for Polaris fees.
Mid-York 3 counties 43 members	Oneida County Member libraries receive \$1,336,000 of which approx 6% is for IT offset and the balance for general support. System receives \$ 97,000.	This funding level is historical. The library system prepares each request, including funding justifications and numbers, with consensus input from the members in each County. They invite	

	<p>Madison County Member libraries receive \$68,000 for general support System receives \$46,000 of which approx 47% is for IT support for members and the balance for general support.</p> <p>Herkimer County Member libraries receive \$ 47,000 for general support System receives \$ 17,000 for general support.</p>	<p>members to join in a joint presentation to each County but essentially, with few exceptions, Mid York is the main presenter. There is good participation from larger members in Oneida County because the dollars are so great.</p> <p>The System typically asks for one percentage increase on behalf of all members in each County.</p>	
<p>Four County 4 counties 42 members</p>	<p>Broome \$730,000</p> <p>\$50,000 for System cybermobile and for extra delivery stops</p> <p>Chenango – \$0</p> <p>Delaware – \$27,000</p> <p>Otsego – \$16,000</p>	<p>Divided among libraries by formula. County has always provided this funding, in addition to funding Broome County Public Library, Binghamton</p> <p>Cybermobile</p> <p>Cybermobile</p>	<p>County funds an extra day of delivery for Broome County libraries</p>
<p>Nioga 3 counties 21 members</p>	<p>Genesee</p> <p>Niagara</p> <p>Orleans</p>		

<p>North Country 4 counties 64 members</p>	<p>Jefferson -\$160,000 \$1.43/per capita</p> <p>Lewis – \$25,000 (down from \$62,000 in 2008) .92/ per capita</p> <p>Oswego - \$55,000 .45/per capita (down from \$105,000 a few years ago)</p> <p>St. Lawrence -\$123,000 1.10/ per capita</p>	<p>Oswego does their own. We organize and facilitate the meetings for the other three counties and badger someone from the libraries into doing the presentations. We usually write the letters, design promo material, etc.</p>	<p>All funds go to the libraries. Oswego sends money directly to the libraries. The other three send the money to NCLS and we distribute it to the libraries as a service to the county.</p> <p>The funding is allocated to general funds.</p>
<p>Pioneer 4 counties 42 members</p>	<p>Livingston – approx \$55,000</p> <p>Ontario - \$62,000</p> <p>Wayne - \$89,000</p> <p>Wyoming - \$26,000</p>	<p>Funding presentations organized and made by libraries. Libraries devised the distribution formula.</p>	<p>Funds are for their general budgets.</p>
<p>Southern Tier 5 counties 39 members</p>	<p>Allegany County – no funding</p> <p>Chemung County – no funding from county budget. Voters approved \$ 2.1 million for county special district library</p> <p>Schuyler County – no funding</p> <p>Steuben County - \$110,000</p>	<p>Chemung County – District library board presents funding proposition to voters</p> <p>Steuben County - Member libraries and STLS together prepare and present request</p>	<p>Funding for the district</p> <p>Funding to members: approx 50% goes to fund library IT cost-share to STLS, remaining 50% divided among 17 libraries to spend for materials and programs</p>