

July 10, 2009

To: Directors; Board Presidents and Trustees  
From: Ristiina Wigg, Executive Director

**County Discussions – the Future, System services and Member financial support**

Wednesday, August 5 – Montour Falls 6 pm

Tuesday, August 11 – Friendship 6 pm

Wednesday, August 12 – Bath 6 pm

Tuesday, August 18 – Penn Yan 6 pm

A group of local library trustees met in the 1950’s to plan a library system which would provide centralized services and a way for libraries to provide cooperative services. As a result, in 1958 the Southern Tier Library System was chartered by the Regents and over the next years each local library chose to join as they realized that “together we are better and stronger than we are individually.” Libraries continue to be members on a voluntary basis.

The mission of the System, a regional consortium of public libraries, is to “work in partnership with its members to support and strengthen them through clearly defined, cost-effective services that make possible the coordination and sharing of resources, enabling all individuals in the five-county region to have equal access to excellent library services.”

Now, we need your help to answer this question - How do we work together to take our regional network and excellent library services into the 21<sup>st</sup> century? State funding is shrinking. Albany’s long-time attitude toward library funding is reflected in the fact that aid for services has not increased since 1998, was reduced in 2008 and again reduced this year. However, local residents need, want, and demand ever more from libraries.

**Come to one of these discussion sessions. We need to hear from you.**

Enclosed is background information; additional information will be posted at <http://www.stls.org/about/planofservice.htm>

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So that we may plan for refreshments, please register with to Mike Eckstein, (ecksteinm@stls.org), by Friday, July 31 or register on the STLS website [www.stls.org](http://www.stls.org)

Name(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Library: \_\_\_\_\_