

## STLS OVERVIEW

Southern Tier Library System (STLS) advocates for excellent service at the 48 member public libraries, branches and reading centers located in the five counties we serve – Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates. We are one of New York State's 23 public library systems established in 1958 by State Education Law. We help members save funds through economies of scale and by sharing resources and services. Through System services residents use library resources online from home, school, or work. Over 170,000 library cardholders access the combined library collections of more than one million items, including books, audio recordings and CDs, DVDs, magazines, digital audio books, eBooks and more.

The Southern Tier Library System is a 501(c)3 cooperative library system chartered by the Regents. Most of our financial support is state aid, allocated annually by the State legislature and distributed through the New York State Department of Education. Boards of Trustees of local libraries elect the fifteen members of the System Board. STLS completes an annual application for state aid, files an annual financial and services report with the NYS Division of Library Development, and files a 990 form with the Internal Revenue Service.

In 2011 STLS worked with a Steering committee of community residents to create the Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries. The Foundation is chartered by the Regents, has 501(c)3 status, has a eight-member Board of Trustees, and is planning a major 2013-2014 fundraising campaign to benefit STLS and its member libraries.

### MISSION

The Southern Tier Library System, a regional consortium of public libraries, works 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 libraries services.

### STLS CONNECTS LIBRARIES THROUGH:

- Delivery among libraries
- Shared online catalog STARCat
- E-mail and distribution lists
- Telecommunications

### STLS CONNECTS LIBRARIES AND THEIR RESIDENTS TO:

- Interloan of materials from outside the region
- Online requests through STARCat, the regional catalog
- Free online resources such as downloadable audio and eBooks and databases on health, business, and auto repair as well as magazine and newspaper articles
- Rotating collections of large print books, audio books, and books for young people

### LIBRARIES BENEFIT FROM:

- Loan of materials between libraries
- Shared patron database
- Cataloging of library materials

- Physical processing of library materials
- Back-up reference available through Steele Memorial Library
- Continuing education for staff and trustees
- Consultant support for adult, youth, outreach, and information technology services and library administration
- Help with annual reports, New York State construction aid grants, library charters, and New York State library law

*Revised January 2013*