

Resolution to Establish Member Library Service Fees

Whereas State Aid to libraries as defined in Education Law has remained unchanged since 1990; and

Whereas Inflation has reduced buying power since 1990 by around 65%; and

Whereas RCLS has reduced staff by nearly 18% since 2000; and

Whereas RCLS has eliminated services and programs, reduced costs and improved efficiency; and

Whereas RCLS only has two primary sources of revenue – State Aid and member library services fees; and

Whereas in 2008 State Aid was reduced by 2.88%; and

Whereas in April 2009 State Aid was reduced by about 9.64% and in November/December further reduced by a further 4.6%, for a total reduction of 14.24%; and

Whereas there are indications from the Governor that State Aid in 2010 and 2011 will be reduced by 16.5%; and

Whereas the RCLS Directors Association recognizing the unprecedented financial crisis facing the System approved a motion (November 9, 2005) to establish a service fee equal to the RCLS deficit for all member libraries; may it

Be resolved that RCLS implement an annual member library service fee to begin in fiscal year 2012 if required by a revenue shortfall; and

Be it further resolved that a minimum service fee be established for all libraries; and

Be it further resolved that the total amount of the service fee be assessed to member libraries using a formula that proportionally distributes the cost based on the chartered population and on the operating budget of each member library; and

Be it further resolved that a majority vote of the Boards of Trustees of the member libraries that cast a ballot be required to approve the RCLS Operating Budget; and

Be it further resolved that in the event the proposed budget is not approved by the member library trustees, RCLS will operate with revenues from the previous year and member library service fees and RCLS will provide only those services that state aid and member library service fees will allow.

The resolution was approved unanimously on March 15, 2010.
Revised unanimously on March 21, 2011.