

SOUTH CENTRAL LIBRARY SYSTEM BY-LAWS

Article I—Name and Authority

The South Central Library System (SCLS) was organized January 1, 1975, and authority granted under the provisions of Chapter 43, Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter PI 6 Wisconsin Administrative Code, as a federated multi-county library system.

Article II—Membership

Section 1: Membership in the System is composed of the counties that, by action of their respective County Boards of Supervisors, adopted a resolution to participate, executed the agreement with the System Board of the South Central Library System, and appointed their allocated members to the System Board. These counties are Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, and Wood.

Section 2: Other counties may join the South Central Library System through procedures established by the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries and Technology. Membership shall be effective January 1 of any year, provided a letter of intent is submitted to the System Board by the preceding June 30 and membership has been approved by the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries and Technology and is in compliance with ss. 43.13 (2) and 43.18 Wisconsin Statutes.

Article III—Purpose

The purpose of the South Central Library System is to provide, through cooperative efforts and without substituting for local resources: (1) improved library services to all the people of the area through their public libraries and to individual residents of the area who do not have access to public libraries; (2) inter-library and multi-type library cooperation within the System and inter-system cooperation; (3) improved access to the total library resources of the state; (4) continuing education for librarians in the System; (5) assistance in developing equitable formulas for county and local financial support of library services; (6) advocacy on behalf of member libraries and their services.

Article IV—System Board

Section 1: General Powers and Objectives. The federated public library system board shall have the powers and duties of a library board under s. 43.58, Wisconsin Statutes, with respect to system-wide functions and service. The objectives of the Board shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. The maintenance of a system resource library and such other service centers as will facilitate improvement of present library services in the System, and expansion and extension of such services to those parts of the System area not now receiving such services.
- b. The implementation of the System's Plan of Service approved by the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries and Technology, in accordance with the provisions of s.43.24, Wisconsin Statutes.
- c. The continuing evaluation and revision of said Plan of Service and of actions taken in implementation thereof, and the making of recommendations for such additions to the revisions of said Plan of Services the Board may deem necessary or advisable to better accomplish the purpose of the System.

Section 2: Number and Qualifications. The System Board shall be composed of twenty (20) statutory voting members representing the participating counties in proportion to population. No more than one per county may be a County Board of Supervisors member and at least one must be a representative of the library board of the resource library as provided for in s.43.19 (1) (b), Wisconsin Statutes.

a. Representation will be as follows according to 2020 census figures.

Adams County	1 member
Columbia County	1 member
Dane County	12 members
Green County	1 member
Portage County	2 members
Sauk County	1 member
Wood County	2 members

b. In addition, each county with only one statutory System Board member shall be encouraged to appoint one additional alternate System Board member to increase that county's total representation to two members. Alternate System Board members shall be encouraged to attend meetings and to participate fully in the deliberations of the System Board, save that the alternate Board member may only vote as a member of the System Board when the statutory member for that county is absent. Alternate System Board members are also encouraged to serve as members of the various committees of the Board.

c. The Director of the System Resource Library and one other member elected by and from the Administrative Council shall also be invited to participate in the deliberations of the System Board on an ex-officio non-voting basis.

d. Size of the Board may be changed and By-Laws amended in case of addition or withdrawal of a county from the System, within the limitations of the Wisconsin Statutes. The number of statutory Board members shall at no time exceed the number of statutory members specified in Ch. 43, Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 3: Appointment and Term of Office. Board members shall be chosen as provided for in ss. 43.17 (1) and 43.19 (1) (b), Wisconsin Statutes. Board members are appointed by the County Executive or by the Chair of the County Board in a county without a County Executive and approved by the County Board. The appointments are for a 3-year term beginning January 1st. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as regular appointments are made.

Section 4: Absences. When any statutory voting Board member is absent, without notice or good cause, for three consecutive Board meetings, the President will notify the appointing authority.

Article V—Officers and Elections

Section 1: Officers of the System Board shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, elected for one-year terms by the System Board from its membership. A nominations committee, with each member from a different county insofar as is practicable, shall be appointed by the President of the Board and approved by the full Board no later than November of each year to propose a slate of officers to be considered for election at the January meeting.

Section 2: The President of the System Board shall not serve for more than two consecutive years in the same office unless continuance in such office is recommended by the nominating committee and approved by a majority vote of the System Board. No other member of the System Board shall serve for more than four consecutive years in the same office unless continuance in such office is recommended by the nominating committee and approved by a majority vote of the System Board.

Section 3: Authorization for payment of regular monthly bills shall be co-signed by the Board President and the System Director. In the absence of either the President or the System Director, the Treasurer will co-sign, in the absence of the Treasurer a board designee will sign.

Section 4: In the event that an officer of the System Board shall resign or be otherwise unable to serve, the President shall appoint a replacement from among the Board members to complete the unexpired term.

Article VI—Duties of Officers

Section 1: President

- a. The President shall preside at meetings of the System Board and the Executive Committee, conduct the same according to the rules adopted, enforce due observation of the By-Laws, decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to those present at the meeting, sign all official documents, and perform all customary duties pertaining to the office of the President
- b. The President shall serve on the Executive Committee.
- c. The President shall be an ex-officio voting member of all other committees.

Section 2: Vice-President.

- a. The Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of duties and conduct meetings in the President's absence. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the office until the annual organization meeting of the Board.
- b. The Vice-President shall serve on the Executive Committee, and as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 3: Secretary.

- a. The Secretary shall co-sign official documents as is required, take the minutes of the Board when it sits in closed session pursuant to s.19.85 Wisconsin Statutes, and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office on direction of the President.
- b. The Secretary shall serve on the Executive Committee.

Section 4: Treasurer.

- a. The Treasurer shall co-sign official documents as required and serve as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.
- b. The Treasurer shall serve on the Executive Committee.

Section 5: Other Duties of Officers

In addition to the foregoing duties, officers shall have such power and perform such duties as may be conferred upon them by the System Board.

Article VII—Committees

Section 1: Board Committees.

- a. The Executive Committee will consist of 5 board members, including the officers of the System Board. The fifth member shall be the immediate past president, provided that the past president shall have concluded their term not more than four years previously and is currently a member of the Board. In the absence of a qualified immediate past president, the System Board President shall appoint a member of the System Board to the Executive Committee.
- b. The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary to conduct emergency business of the Board between meetings of the System Board. Date, place and time of Executive Committee meetings shall be set by the Executive Committee, and this information will be conveyed, insofar as possible, to the full System Board prior to the Executive Committee meeting. All decisions of the Executive Committee must be presented to the full Board at its next meeting for ratification.
- c. Meetings of the Executive Committee can be called by the President of the System Board.
- d. Other Committees shall be appointed by the President as the need arises or at the request of a majority of the System Board.
- e. As a courtesy, non-committee members should notify the committee chairs within a reasonable amount of time in advance of the meeting that they plan to attend.

Article VIII—Personnel

Section 1: There shall be appointed a System Director of the South Central Library System who shall have the responsibility and authority for the administration of the System in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes, as well as the By-Laws, policies and regulations of the System. This Director shall be appointed by and be directly responsible to the System Board. The System Director shall be evaluated annually by the Personnel Committee and this evaluation referred to the full Board.

Section 2: The System Director shall submit to the Board a monthly report and an annual plan as required by ss. 43.17 (5) and 43.24 (3) Wisconsin Statutes as to the progress and condition of the System during the past month or year, accompanying the same with such recommendations or suggestions as may seem to be expedient.

Section 3: The Director shall prepare an annual budget for presentation to the Finance Committee to be considered for recommendation to the Board at the September or October meeting. Minutes of each Executive Committee meeting, Treasurer's report and bills, and Director's report shall be distributed to every System Board member.

Section 4: Employees of the System shall be hired by the Director once a position is approved by the Board. Employees of the System shall be hired and dismissed by the Director in accordance with the personnel and budgetary limitations and policies established by the System Board.

Section 5: All employees of the System shall be responsible to the Director for proper performance of their duties.

Section 6: An organizational chart and a salary schedule shall be reviewed and adopted within the budget process by the System Board.

Section 7: The System Board President, the Treasurer, the System Director, all other administrative personnel handling System funds, delivery service staff who enter member libraries, and other System

Board members and employees as required shall be bonded in such amount as may be required by the System Board, at the advice of our insurance carrier.

Section 8: Board members may not in their private capacity negotiate, bid for, or enter into a contract, in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest, with the South Central Library System.

Section 9: A SCLS board member shall withdraw from board discussion, deliberation, and voting on any matter in which the trustee, an immediate family member, or an organization with which the board member is associated has a substantial financial interest.

Section 10: A SCLS board member may not receive anything of value that could reasonably be expected to influence their vote or other official action.

Article IX – System Board Meetings

Section 1: System Board.

- a. The System Board shall meet on the fourth Thursday of each month unless an alternative date is selected and approved by a majority vote of the System Board at least one month prior to the change. Agendas for regular meetings shall be distributed by the Director to members of the Board at least 3 days prior to the meeting.
- b. The annual meeting, which shall be held for the purpose of the election of officers, shall be held at the time of the regular meeting in January of each year.
- c. Special meetings of the System Board may be called by the President, by the Executive Committee, or by any seven (7) members of the Board. Notice of such meeting shall be distributed by the Director at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting date (or as soon as is practicable in an emergency situation) and such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and by whom it is called.
- d. Fifty-one (51) percent of the presently appointed voting members of the System Board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of holding a meeting and conducting the business of the Board.
- e. Members of the System Board and of the Executive Committee shall receive no compensation from the System but may be reimbursed by the System for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred in attending official meetings. Board members are reimbursed at the same rate as SCLS employees as described in the SCLS Employee Handbook

Section 2: Meeting Conduct

- a. Unless otherwise approved, meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
- b. In the absence of a quorum, the Board members present may adjourn a meeting to a day that they shall fix, notices of which shall be given by the Director according to Section 2 of this article.
- c. The order of business shall include the following:
 1. Minutes of the preceding meeting(s).
 2. Review of bills and financial accounting with approval of bills.
 3. Report of the System Director.
 4. Communications.

5. Committee reports.
6. Nominations and elections, if any.
7. Adjournment.

d. Board members who are unable to participate in person at a meeting may attend such meetings by telephone or video conference. The Director shall select the conferencing equipment to be used and the location of the conference meeting place. The equipment selected shall be such that Board members are able to hear all participants at the meeting and be able to verbally communicate with all those present at the meeting.

Article X—Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the System shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Article XI—Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Board where a quorum is present by a two-thirds vote of the members present, providing a copy of the proposed amendment was distributed one meeting previously and sent out in the call of the next regularly scheduled meeting. These By-laws shall be reviewed every four years, beginning in the year 2000.

Article XII—Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the system, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt or charitable purposes, or shall be distributed to a local government or its members, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the system is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Adopted by the South Central Library System Board of Trustees on May 10, 1982

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on December 14, 1998.

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on May 8, 2000.

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on December 13, 2004

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on November 10, 2008

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on December 14, 2009

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on December 13, 2010

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on December 12, 2011

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on June 27, 2013

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on October 26, 2017

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on January 27, 2022

Revisions adopted by the SCLS Board of Trustees on January 25, 2024