

System Merger Impact on WPLC

February 2023

With the merger of the Arrowhead Library System (ALS) and the Lakeshores Library System (LLS), there are a few areas where this merger will impact the rest of the WPLC.

1. Budget

- a. **Partner Shares.** Currently, all partner shares are split evenly by the number of WPLC partners. When the 2023 budget was approved, there were 16 partners thus, the total cost of the member shares, \$111,248, was split evenly by 16, where each partner pays \$6,963. In 2024, if the partner shares were to hold at \$111,248 and are still evenly split, but by now 15, each partner will pay approximately \$7,417.
- b. **Buying pool.** Both the buying pool and magazine cost formulas are a combination of circulation (75%) and population (25%), so a system merger will not affect the cost of the buying pool for systems.
- c. **Holds reduction.** The holds reduction amount is based solely upon the number of holds placed during the previous year per system. System mergers will not have an effect on holds reduction amounts.

2. Voting

- a. WPLC Bylaws Article 5, Section 3a. states, "The Board shall consist of one voting representative from each of the Partners. Each Partner shall designate its own voting representative, and may change that voting representative at any time." Because of this, after a merger of two partners, the new partner will only have one vote and one representative.

3. Digital Library Steering Seat Apportionment

- a. The number of representatives each partner gets on the Digital Library Steering Committee is based on a percentage of the previous year's buying pool contribution and an average of the past three year's Advantage account spend. The percentage of the total contribution then determines the apportionment. The following is currently used: 1%-9%: 1 seat, 10%-18%: 2 seats, >19%: 3 seats. The number of seats for any merged system will most likely be affected after a merger.

4. Selection Committee Members

- a. The selection committee consists of two representatives from each of the public library systems in Wisconsin if they so choose. With a merger of two systems, there would be fewer members on the committee.

Consideration:

Because both ALS and LLS have paid their full individual partner shares for 2023 as agreed upon and approved in the 2023 budget, they should both retain seats on the Board, retain voting rights, and seats on the Digital Library Steering and Selection Committees through 2023. Then, in 2024 they will be reflected as the combined Prairie Lakes Library System in all aspects.