**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

**Board Meeting --- October 5 ,2020**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The twenty-eighth board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Co- Chairs Mary & Steve Ploeser (WI-Dane County) on August 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Co-Chairs were:**  Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque), Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Jeri McGinley WI-Steven’s Point), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkin (WI La Crosse), Lonnie McCauley (MN-Coon Rapids), Sue Wilson (IA Dubuque), Lee Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Paula Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Mary Ellen Miller (IA Des Moines), Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City)

**Secretary’s Report:** T. Prenosil reviewed the minutes from the 8-3-2020 UMRR-ILO Board Meeting. L. McCauley moved and L. Ekstrom seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** J. McGinley, treasurer, sent the treasurer’s report as well as the BUDGET VS ACTUALS for July 2020 through September 2020 to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues – August/ September $1,100.15 (Memberships: $1,075, League member donations: $25, Interest $.15)

Expenses - $2.55 PayPal fee (membership dues): $2.55

Bank Balance as of September 30, 2020: $9,707.32 (includes ERC II Grant of $326.82 and Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300).

J. McGinley and G. Sabel Have been coordinating membership renewals. A membership renewal letter was sent to 67 local chapters and states. So far, 46 have responded bringing our total to 49 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Follow-up is needed.

G. Sabel updated the current list of the Board of Directors during the meeting so the treasurer could file the annual nonstock corporate report in October.

A new UMRR-ILO Board member said a column showing last fiscal years actual amounts would be helpful for comparison.

S. Wilson moved and N. Porter seconded that the treasurers report be accepted. Motion carried.

**Action Committee Report:** L. McCauley submitted a ‘Brief recount of first quarter FY 20-21 activities’ which included actions taken by the UMRR-ILO board (program about marshes and wetlands at August Board meeting, securing representatives from all four states and appointing C. Mahlum-Jenkins as representative with the MRRRI, approved a letter frquested by MRN that state agencies opposing gulf hypoxia, letter to Wisconsin environmental agency in support of legislation to disallow PFAS pollution into waterways).

The report also summarized actions taken by UMRR-ILO representatives in their respective states. Most interaction with other advocacy groups has been done virtually due to COVID 19.

There was some discussion of an article that Cargill is beginning to promote regenerative agricultural practices with farmers across 10 million acres. The following is from that article:

The initiative will focus primarily on row crop rotations that include corn, wheat, canola and soybeans and other staple crops. Cargill expects these regenerative agriculture practices to benefit the long-term profitability and resiliency of farmers while simultaneously advancing the company’s progress against its [science-based climate commitment](https://www.cargill.com/2019/cargill-expands-climate-change-commitments) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its global supply chains by 30 percent per ton of product by 2030. The initiative will also contribute to the company’s efforts to protect and enhance [water](https://www.cargill.com/2020/cargill-commits-to-restoring-600-billion-liters-of-water-by-2030) resources.

N. Porter is on the Mississippi River Network (MRN) Engagement Committee which works with many groups to promote water quality and quantity. This group is encouraged by Betty McCollister’s (Rep from Minnesota) efforts to promote a Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) similar to other organizations in other parts of the country

Website donation button: S. Ploeser said getting a donation button on the Facebook site is a little complicated because the UMRR-ILO does not have a permanent address. UMRR-ILO has a PayPal account with the Website page. S. Ploeser, G. Sabel and M. Miller will continue to pursue this option. M. Miller suggested the LWVIA past president, Mary Rae Bragg may have contacts with website professionals.

M. Miller suggested having a brief biography of Board members on the website.

**UMRR-ILO positions regarding signing letters of support:** Discussion suggested that local LWV chapters can decide to write letters regarding local issues. If the issue is a state issue, then the LWV for the state should give permission. If an issue involves a national issue generally the LWVUS should be consulted and permission given. (In most national issues each of the four states would be consulted prior to going to LWVUS.

**Upper Mississippi River Webinar Series:**  Board members in attendance volunteered to attend one or two of the webinars. G. Sabel moved and N. Porter seconded that the UMRR-ILO pay for all webinars. Motion carried. ($10 for each webinar or 3 for $25 for a total of 9 webinars)

**Other Business:** S. Ploeser said the fundraising group continues to think about possibilities for fundraising in addition to adding donate buttons to Facebook and the Website. The UMRR-ILO Board decided to keep dues at $25 regardless of LWV chapter size.

J. McGinley posted the link for the LWV Chapters that have paid dues. (on October 6)

G. Sabel emailed an excel spreadsheet of Board members and contact information (on October 5)

G. Sabel moved and N. Porter seconded that this meeting adjourn at 11:30 am Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting:** December 7, 2020 at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil

**Afternoon Program:** **David Osterberg, speaking about water issues in Iowa**

**He is Founder, Researcher and Former Director Energy & Environment, Economic Opportunity**David is a former Iowa state representative who was chairman of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee as well as the Agriculture Committee. David was the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate in 1998 and worked for one year as a consultant to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. David holds an M.S. in water resources management and another in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is professor emeritus in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Iowa.