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

**Board Meeting – April 3, 2023**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The forty third board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Chair Mary Ellen Miller on February 6, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Chair:**  Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Lonnie McCauley (MN Coon Rapids), Nancy Hill (WI La Crosse), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI La Crosse), Steve Ploeser (WI Madison), Shawn Stacey- Choinard (IL Rockford), Lee Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Paula Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Catheryn Franczyk (IL Wheaton ), Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City), Sue Wilson (IA Dubuque),Tamara Prenosil (IA Dubuque), Mary Ellen Miller (IA Des Moines Metro)

**Approval of Minutes**

L. McCauley moved and S. Wilson seconded that the minutes from October 3, 2022, be approved. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:**

C. Franczyk, treasurer, sent the Treasurer’s Report for February 2023 and March 2023 as well as the Revenues & Expenses with Budget vs Actuals (July 2022 – March 2023) to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues: February 2023/March 2023: $1.97

* $1.97 Other Income

Expenses: February 2023/March 2023: None

Bank Balance as of March 31, 2023:

* Checking: $7,192.94
* Savings: $5,334.88
* Includes Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $100 and ERC Restricted Grant II balance $166.82)

Total Liabilities and Equity: $12,527.82

The financial report was accepted for future audit.

The budget Committee met on 3/21/2023 to review the proposed budget for 2023-2024. The Current Year Actuals & Budget and Proposed Next Year Budget was included in the material that C. Franczyk sent prior to this Board meeting. This Document will be discussed at the annual meeting. We will continue to have Board meetings via zoom but have an in-person retreat. Zoom meetings keep expenses down. C. Franczyk encourages Board members to report in-kind donations.

**Action Committee Update:**

C. Mahlum-Jenkins reported the LWVUS ha given permission to the UMRR-ILO to advocate for MRRRI. The UMRR-ILO will wait for tis bill to be reintroduced in federal legislation. C. Mahlum-Jenkins sent a copy to Board members to use in our respective states.

The 2022-2023 Program for Action will continue for 2023-2024

The CO2 pipelines continue to be a source of concern. In Iowa the state legislature did not pass legislation to require CO2 pipelines to have 90% of farm owners approval before Eminent Domain can be used. This means fewer farm owners need to agree before Eminent Domain can be used. The Illinois legislature appears to have a somewhat more positive stance on the CO2 pipelines ending in that state and strategies are being discussed to avoid the necessity of Environmental Impact Statements.

N. Porter reported the Mississippi River Network (MRN) is promoting the Celebrate the River events again this year. In Iowa, the celebration will coincide with the LWVIA state convention in Dubuque on June 9 with a meal at Stone Cliff Brewery (right along the river) and a presentation in Galena about Mississippi River History. Minnesota’s Celebrate the River activities will also coincide with the LWVMN State Convention the first weekend in June at New Ulm. There will be speakers and a seed packet giveaway.

**Annual Meeting (virtual) May 22, 2023**

* Business Meeting: 6:00 pm (may gather to socialize at 5:30 pm via the zoom link)
* Program: 7:00 pm
* Bonnie Cox (LWV Jo Davies County ILL) will be invited to attend.
* Current Board members whose term is up agreed to be on the ballot for reelection (Shawn Stacy-Choinard is resigning as co-Vice president).

Mary Ellen Miller, Chair

Nancy Porter, Vice-Chair

Catherine Franczyk, Treasurer

Gretchen Sabel, Director of Communications

Bonnie Cox, Chair of Nominating Committee (non-board member)

Nominating committee members for 2022-2023 were Bonnie Cox (IL), Chair and non-board member; Jon Howard (WI) non-board member; Tamara Prenosil (IA); Paul Ekstrom (IL); Carolyn-Mahlum-Jenkins (WI)

We will appoint a bylaws committee at the Annual Board Meeting. A notice to local Leagues will be sent to appoint delegates.

**UMRR-ILO Board Retreat:**

Mary Ellen has sent a tentative agenda. An orientation for new members needs to be developed. A current PowerPoint needs to be made. Jessica Rohloff, Midwest Regional Organizer for LWV US. will introduce the LWV US initiative (regional reps) to our members.

August Board Meeting: Monday August 7, 2023 10:30 am via zoom

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil