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

**Board Meeting --- February 3,2020**

**Phone Conference**

The twenty-fifth 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 February 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), Toni Dautel (IL-Glenview), John Howard (MN-Winona), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkin (WI La Crosse)

**Guests at the Board Meeting:** Paula Ekstrom (IL-McHenry County), Lee Ekstrom (IL-McHenry County (It has been indicated that Paula and Lee will be appointed as official delegates from Illinois at the next Illinois state board meeting.)

**Secretary’s Report:** J. McGinley moved and T. Dautel seconded the minutes from December 2, 2029 be approved with the correction on page two that the Watershed Games that are available to be borrowed in northern Illinois are stored at the McHenry County, Illinois Public Works Agency. Motion passed.

**Financial Report:** J. McGinley, treasurer, sent board members prior to this meeting the treasurer’s report as well as BUDGET VS ACTUALS for July 2029 – January 2020:

Revenues – December/January $275.24 (Memberships: $25, League member donations $50 in memory of Irene Ehrenkrantz, Individual Donations: $200 in memory of Judy Beck, Interest: $.24)

Expenses - $0.00

Bank Balance as of January 31, 2020: $9,355.47 (includes $300 in Judy Beck Memorial Fund and ERC II Restricted balance $819.75

UMRR-ILO received a request from Women, Food and AG Network to renew our membership. J. McGinley included a list of memberships and co-sponsorships that the UMRR-ILO has supported financially in the past. Discussion centered around the necessity to make sure our alignments are compatible with the UMRR-ILO mission and goals. Additional research is needed to learn if LWVUS has additional guidelines. It was decided to continue this discussion at the April meeting.

Currently there are 45 paid memberships. Reminder letters for 2019 will be generated.

C. Mahlum-Jenkins moved, and J. Howard seconded the financial report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

**Discussion of Bylaws:**

S. Ploeser, T. Dautel and J. McGinley met by phone conference on December 11, 2019 and made the following recommendations regarding the bylaws: Each state shall have one delegate and one alternate as currently stated in the bylaws. If there are two or more alternates from one state, they shall share one vote. The UMRR-ILO Board will need to present an amendment to the bylaws at the annual meeting regarding whether co-chairs get one or two votes and clarifying alternate votes. Alternates to the UMRR-ILO will assist with the duties of the delegate if the delegate is unavailable including acting as liaison to the state board as well as helping plan and coordinate meetings in their state. (The report from the phone conference was presented to the UMRR-ILO Board members.)

Currently a quorum consists of representatives from at least three of the four states and six voting members present (participating by phone conference is considered the same as in-person participation).

J. Howard suggested that the UMRR-ILO Board appoint interim members for at least three months until such time a State Board can approve a delegate.

Immediately after the April Board Meeting, notice will be sent to State Leagues and Chapter Leagues the proposed amendments to the bylaws including proposals for alternates, the number of votes co-chairs and co-alternates will have, as well as amend the notification period from two months to 45 days.

**Recommendation regarding future venues and role of alternates:**

Meeting sites shall remain as currently managed: rotating among the four states.

**Ideas for Annual Meeting:**

T. Dautel continues to finalize plans for the venue and speakers for the annual meeting. Discussion regarding the possibility of a tour of the Chicago Botanical Gardens in Glencoe, Illinois. (These gardens were flooded five years ago and have made an amazing recovery.

**Nominating Committee:**

Mary Ann Nelson (Cedar Rapids, IA) is resigning as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Co-Chairs will send letters to LWV Chapters asking for suggestions. T. Prenosil will contact Bonnie Cox in Illinois and Mary Ellen Miller in Iowa about being on the Nominating Committee.

**Status of the April 6, 2020 Board Meeting:**

S. Ploeser stated he has been in contact with Soldier’s Grove, Wisconsin and will send details as soon as confirmed.

**Virtual Conferencing:**

Using Free Conference Call is still available, but the Board reviewed the costs for Zoom video conferencing and decided there was enough money in the budget for the $180 per year package.

**Other Business:**

We will continue to discuss fundraising strategies at the April 6, 2020 Board meeting. The LWVUS Convention will be June 25 through 28, 2020. T. Prenosil and T. Dautel are tentatively planning to go. If T. Prenosil attends, she would be willing to staff an UMRR-ILO table and possibly lead an informal discussion at a luncheon regarding water issues such as what Gretchen Sabel did at the 2016 LWVUS convention.

J. McGinley moved and T. Dautel seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 pm.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil