

**NINETH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION  
INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

**May 29, 2024, Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

The ninth annual meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom this year by chair Mary Ellen Miller (IA Metro Des Moines). In attendance and eligible to vote were 8 Board members, 40 delegates from local chapters. *This year's theme was Expanding our Reach, Extending our Influence.* Rosemary Heilmann was parliamentarian.

**OPEN MEETING, SOCIAL TIME (5:30 p.m.)**

**Certification of Delegates**

Gretchen Sabel reported a quorum was present after she admitted all participants into the Zoom meeting. The list of delegates is appended at the end of these minutes.

**Call to Order/ Introduction of 2023-2024 UMRR Board**

Board members present gave a brief summary about their involvement with the UMRR-ILO.

In Memorium: We acknowledged gratitude for League members who contributed so much to further the advocacy efforts of all of us.

Lonnie McCauley, MN (Founder/Action Committee Chair)

Deborah Ann Turner, IA (LWVUS President)

**Minutes from May 22, 2023**

Minutes of the Eighth Annual Meeting held on May 22, 2023, via Zoom were included in program materials which were on the UMRR-ILO website prior to this meeting. Minutes were approved.

**Finance Reports**

The treasurer's report was submitted by Catherine Franczyk (IL Wheaton) and was included in the program materials which were on the UMRR-ILO website prior to this meeting. The UMRR-ILO fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30. As of May 1, 2023, we had \$7,029.94 in our checking account and \$5334.88 in our savings account for a total of \$12,364.82. As of May 1, 2024, there was \$15,794.45 in our checking account and \$5,370.62 in our savings account for a total of \$21,165.07. However, \$8,525.64 are funds from the Mississippi River Network (MRN) grant – Pure Sparkling Stream Water. Therefore, our working balance is \$12,639.43. This includes \$615 in donations in Lonnie McCauley's name. The LWV-UMRR ILO is holding steady financially. The UMRR-ILO has 67 members.

Catherine Franczyk presented the Current Year 2023-2024 Actuals and Proposed 2024-2025 UMRR-ILO budget. Total expenses \$6,177: total revenue \$6,177. Meeting by Zoom saves money, but plans are to include some in-person meetings especially for annual board retreats. LWV-UMRR ILO shares Zoom expenses with the ABC League in Minnesota. The annual review of the treasurer's records will take place at the Board retreat in July in Davenport, Iowa.

Rosemary Heilmann suggested that the budget include expenses for a delegate to the LWVUS convention in 2026. C. Franczyk will make a note to bring this topic up for discussion next year. Nancy Porter is our MRN representative and the MRN pays expenses for their delegates to attend their annual convention. Tamara Prenosil will attend the LWVUS Convention as a representative from her local League. She has been approved to exhibit LWV-UMRR ILO material in the Wares Market area at the convention. Mary Ellen Miller will ask LWVUS if ILOs are invited to the LWVUS Councils during the odd numbered years.

All delegates voted to approve the financial report.

### **By-Laws Revisions**

The proposed by-laws were included in the program materials which were on the UMRR-ILO website prior to this meeting. The by-laws were revised according to Robert's Rules of Order #12. The Board proposes we add the LWVUS recommended diversity statement. The current by-laws refer to four member states and the new wording now just says member states. The LWV-UMRR ILO is fortunate to have individuals from Missouri participating during both board meetings and action committee meetings, so we want to include those individuals as official members from Missouri. The LWV-UMRR ILO board also would like to have each of the states appoint three members to the board because our advocacy efforts have increased substantially. The Board will work to stagger the representatives' two-year terms. Committees existed in the past but were not in the by-laws. All delegates voted to approve the new by-laws.

### **Action Committee Report**

Kay Slama submitted the Action Committee Report prior to this meeting. The committee developed a policies and procedures document. The approval process from LWVUS to enable the LWV-UMRR ILO to sign on to advocacy letters was streamlined. Members participate in advocacy organizations at the local, state, and national level and report back to the committee. Members report on their state issues to learn about problems and strategies that might be applied across political boundaries. Additional people are quite welcome to join the discussions and do not need to be board members or appointed by their respective states. There are no limits on the number of participants.

### **Board Nominations (two-year terms)**

Cathy Eisenhoffer presented the report of the Nominations Committee.

- Secretary (two-year term) - Susan Adams (IL)

- Treasurer (two-year term) - Catherine Franczyk (IL)
- Co-Vice-Chair (one-year term) – no candidates were found. The current vice-chair will not go on to become chair in one year. (Current by-laws state the chair is limited to two consecutive terms of two years each. Her term will end in 2025.) Discussion determined the Board has the authority to appoint someone to fill the term of co-vice-chair if someone comes forward.
- Nominations Committee Chair (one-year term) – John Howard (MN)

All delegates voted to approve the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee.

### **2024-2025 Program for Action**

The Board presented the Program for Action for approval. The document was included in program materials which were on the UMRR-ILO website prior to this meeting. The LWV-UMRR ILO plans to support federal legislation to protect the Mississippi River's quality and quantity by advocating for the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI), Safeguarding our Mississippi River Together (SMRT), and advocating for funding for conservation practices in the 2023 Farm Bill. We will research the possibility of a Mississippi River Compact to protect the Mississippi River from water diversion. All delegates voted to approve the 2024-2025 Program for Action.

### **General Announcements**

Mississippi River Network (MRN) Mini-Grant to tour Pop Art Clean Water Exhibit. This Exhibit is available to all member Leagues. Mary Ellen Miller is researching funding for expenses to continue to travel to show this in the five states. The LWV-UMRR ILO has purchased one set of panels.

Mary Ellen Miller will send her annual report to all state league presidents and members of the LWV-ILO Board after the end of the program year.

LWVUS Convention, Washington D.C. June 27-30

Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary see <https://uppermiss100.com>

Mississippi River Network (MRN)/1 Mississippi "Days on the River" June 1-15, 2024

### **Program 7:00 pm: Steven Marking, Riverlorian "A Visit from Will Dilg**

Steven Marking plays Will Dilg in **A Visit From Will Dilg**. In 1922 he became the founding president of the Izaak Walton League of America, and he lead an extraordinary national crusade to preserve a 261 mile stretch of Mississippi River Backwaters we now know as the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

## 2023-24 Program Schedule

August 7, “2023 Farm Bill Update,” Duane Hvorka, Nat’l Wildlife Federation

November 6, “Clean Water Act Implementation after Sackett Decision” Rob Lee, Midwest Environmental Advocates

December 4, “CO2 Pipelines: Activism, Coalitions, Legislative Action” Peg Furshong (CURE, MN), Pam Richert (Eco-Justice Collaborative IL), and Jan Norris, (Pipeline Opponent, IA)

February 3, “The Swine Republic” Chris Jones, author

February 5, “St. Cloud Minnesota’s Circular Energy Economy,” Tracy Hodel, City Public Works Director

March 2, “The River Knows,” Neil Hamilton, author

April 4, “Clean Water Forever” Robert Hirschfeld, Prairie River Network

State	LWV of...	Name of Delegate	Attending May 29, 2024
IA	Blackhawk Bremer Counties	EJ Gallagher	1
IA	Dubuque	Sue Wilson	1
IA	Johnson County	Diane Duncan-Goldsmith	1
IA	Metro Des Moines	Robin Fortney	1
IA	Sioux City	Jeanne Bockholt	1
IA	Metro Des Moines	ME Miller	1
IA	Davenport	Steven Paulsrud	1
IA	Johnson County	Nancy Porter	1
IA	Dubuque	Tam Prenosil	1
IL	Chicago	Win Flint	1
IL	Deerfield/Lincolnshire	Rosemary Heilemann	1
IL	Evanston	Paula Leather	1
IL	Glen Ellyn	Joyce Miller	1

IL	Greater Rockford	Shawn Stacy-Choinard	1
IL	Illinois	Becky Simon	1
IL	Jo Daviess County	Shari Kochman	1
IL	McHenry County	Johanna White	1
IL	McHenry County	Paula Ekstrom	1
IL	Naperville	Julie Niles	1
IL	Roselle/Bloomington	Pamela Re	1
IL	UMRR Board	Catherine Franczyk	1
IL	Wilmette	Laurie Leibowitz	1
MN	Edina	Susan Clark	1
MN	Golden Valley	Jean Rainbow	1
MN	Minneapolis	Ann Erickson	1
MN	Minnesota	Laura Mielke	1
MN	New Ulm	Megan Benage	1
MN	Richfield	Maureen Scaglia	1
MN	Rochester	Marilyn Morem	1
MN	Roseville	Sherry Hood	1
MN	St. Cloud	Marlene Haider	1
MN	St. Paul	Nona Beining	1
MN	Willmar	Kay Slama	1
MN	ABC	Colleen Werdien	1
MN	Willmar	Karen Kraemer	1
MN	Woodbury-Cottage Grove Area	Lynne Markus	1
MN	St. Louis Park	Deb Brinkman	1
MO	Metro St. Louis	Mickey Croyle	1
MO	Missouri	Sheryl Eufinger	1
WI	Ashland and Bayfield Counties	Kate Miller	1

WI	Beloit	Brittany Keyes	1
WI	Beloit	Susan Adams	1
WI	Dane County	Mary Ploeser	1
WI	La Crosse	Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins	1
WI	La Crosse Area	Jane Powell	1
WI	Stevens Point Area	Susan Zach	1
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