

League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region  
Nominating Committee Report  
Annual Meeting, May 21, 2022

Nominating committee members:

Rosemary Heilemann, chair (Illinois), Tamara Prenosil (Iowa), Lee Ekstrom (Illinois), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkns (Wisconsin), Lonnie McCauley (Minnesota)

The LWV UMRR Nominating Committee is delighted to nominate the following individuals.

1. To fill the remainder of the term of the treasurer, 2022 - 2023:

Catherine Franczyk, LWV Wheaton, IL

2. To serve as Secretary for a 2-year term, 2022-2024:

Tamara Prenosil, LWV Dubuque, IA

3. To serve as Nominating Committee Chair, 2023:

Bonnie Cox, LWV Jo Daviess County, IL

Biography: Catherine Franczyk

Catherine had a thirty-seven-year career at Wilton Brands with a consistent advancement in the Product Development Group, Director of Product Development and Education Liaison. Her job included development of product goals, plans, budget development, and return on investment analysis, with presentation of these plans to the executive team, board, and sales associates. There was emphasis on education and development of educational products and lesson plans. Catherine served as treasurer for the International Cake Exploration Society for two terms.

Throughout her life, Catherine has had a strong respect, wonder, and concern for our natural world. She was a Steward for the Will County, Illinois Forest Preserve District doing restoration work at several forest preserves. She is a trained Openlands Tree Keeper and a member of various environmental organizations such as NRDC, EDF, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, CCL, National Wildlife, Conservation Foundation <https://www.theconservationfoundation.org/> (DuPage, Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Will, Kendall and LaSalle Counties in Northern Illinois), Illinois Environmental Council, and the Environmental Working Group.

Catherine is currently the Secretary and Environment Chair for the LWV Wheaton, Illinois. She is also a certified League Observer and has been observing the DuPage

County Board Environment Committee since 2019. There are nine members of her LWV Environment committee, and they study and act on local and state environment issues. They attend Lobby Days and were part of the coalition supporting the groundbreaking Clean Energy Jobs Act signed into law by Governor Pritzker last year. Based on feedback from their membership that climate change and biodiversity were on the top of their list of priorities, she formed an opt-in group of fifteen members to provide additional help on calls to action. They support local DuPage County organizations such as SCARCE <https://www.scarce.org/> and attend webinars and meetings to enhance their knowledge of their communities, state, country, and world to push for climate action, build resilience, and protect natural areas and support biodiversity.

#### Biography: Tamara Prenosil

Tamara joined the League of Women Voters of Dubuque in 2012 after retiring and attending a LWV sponsored forum about brain health issues in the community. While chatting with a friendly local League member she was asked if she wanted to join, and that League member pulled a membership form from her purse and collected her dues on the spot. Tamara now carries membership forms in her purse. Tamara retired from a position as a psychiatric social worker, but throughout her social work career worked in a variety of social work settings beginning as a rural social worker in northeast Iowa. Driving the backroads in the northeast Iowa counties gave her a love for this area. She has had an interest in environmental issues since college when she joined the Iowa Mountaineers and after marriage to a fly fisherman who kitted her out to fish with him.

Tamara is the current president of the League of Women Voters of Dubuque. Her involvement in LWV environmental issues began in June 2014 when three chapters of the League of Women Voters (Dubuque, Iowa, Jo Daviess County, Illinois and the Lake Michigan Region) collaborated to present a program in Dubuque Storm Water from the Ground Up, a program for homeowners and community leaders to learn how to prevent damage and non-point source pollution from storm water runoff and flooding. She was a member of the planning committee in the formation of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization and has served as its secretary since May 2017.

#### A few Biographical Highlights, Bonnie Cox

Bonnie Cox is well-known to the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region as one of the founders of the organization. Bonnie has been active in water issues and has secured numerous federal and other grants for water improvement projects on behalf of her local League, LWV Jo Daviess County. Bonnie was President of the LWV of Illinois 2017 to 2019 and has many accolades for her League and community work.