

UMRR virtual board meeting February 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2020 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM		
10:30	Call meeting to order	Mary and Steve
	Approve December Board meeting minutes	Tam
10:35	Finance Report	Jeri
10:50	Discussion of Bylaws	
	Recommendation of Sub Committee regarding future venues and role of alternates	Toni Steve and Jeri
11:35	Ideas for Annual meeting	Steve and Toni
11:45	Nominating Committee	Steve and Mary or Mary Ann
12:00	Finance Committee	Jeri
12:15	Status of April meeting	Steve
12:20	Virtual Conferencing	Gretchen
12:25	Other Business	Steve
12:30	Adjournment	Steve

Conference Call phone number: 712-770-4010 (*use code 950753*)

***Notes from Dec 2, 2019 Board meeting follow.***

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

**Board Meeting --- December 2, 2019**

**North Suburban Library District Public Library – 6340 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Loves Park, IL 61111**

The twenty-fourth 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 December 2, 2019 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),

**Board Members attending the meeting by phone conference were:** John Howard (MN-Winona)

**Guests at the Board Meeting:** Paula Ekstrom (IL-McHenry County), Lee Ekstrom (IL-McHenry County, Randy Dautel (IL-Glenview), Rosemary Heilemann (IL- Deerfield and Lake Michigan ILO), Shawn Choinard (IL-Rockford), Linda Miller (IL-Rockford), Diane Cushing (IL-Rockford)

**I. Operations:**

**Secretary's Report:** Jeri McGinley moved, and T. Dautel seconded that the agenda for today's meeting as well as minutes of the August 5, 2019 Board Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** J. McGinley reported:

Revenues – October/November \$390.23 (Memberships: \$200), Donations \$190 (LWV Dane County \$175 & LWV St. Croix Valley \$15), Interest \$.23 Oct. only)

Expenses – October/November: \$10 (Annual Nonstock Corporate Report)

Bank Balance as of November 30, 2019: \$9,130.01 (includes ERC grant II balance \$869.75 (\$50 paid as honorarium to Jean Eells for 10/7/20'9 UMRR-ILO Board meeting program), Judy Beck Memorial Fund balance \$100 (generally for advocacy activities)

**Judy Beck Memorial fund:** Board members concurred that the previously agreed upon use, which was that the funds would be used for advocacy work and approval by the Board would be needed before this fund was used, be continued. Checks can be written to UMRR-ILO with Judy Beck memorial on the memo line.

Old Business: Authorized signers on our account have not yet changed but this is not a problem. UMRR-ILO BUDGET VS. ACTUALS report as well as the summary of October/November Revenue and Expenses were included with this Board Meeting packet

T. Dautel moved and T. Prenosil seconded that the financial report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

**Membership Update:** Currently there are 48 memberships. A reminder will be sent out. The LWV chapters and states that have not yet paid dues are available for review online.

**II. Update on delegates and alternates:** T. Dautel and R. Heilemann reviewed the by-laws for the Lake Michigan ILO regarding delegates and alternates. UMRR-ILO by-laws state that each of the four states have one delegate and at least one alternate. T. Dautel moved and J. McGinley seconded that a committee be established to discuss what the UMRR-ILO would find most efficacious. This might

necessitate a change in our by-laws. T. Dautel, J. McGinley, and S. Ploeser agreed to be on this committee.

**III. Traffic pumping and our telecommunications:** T. Dautel reviewed the issue and although this Board is satisfied with the Free Conference Call service, it was agreed that we should explore other options that might improve communications. Businesses such as Zoom or Skype would require this Board to meet where WiFi was available. G. Sabel will explore options and costs.

**IV. Locations for future meetings:** Board members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having a fixed location verses rotating the meetings between the four states. It was decided that we would continue to rotate meeting locations because it gave both Board attendees and local LWV chapters opportunity to explore environmental issues in different locales.

**V. Amending ERC Grant guidelines:** L. McCauley recommended the grant money could be used to help defray the cost of members attending conferences (ex. Half of registration fees). Board members agreed this would be an acceptable use. L. McCauley is the administrator of this grant.

**VI. Discuss formal agreement with Mississippi River Network (MRN):** The UMRR-ILO is already a member of the MRN. Nancy Porter and Lee Wood agreed at the UMRR-ILO Board meeting in October to be delegates and attend the annual meeting in St. Louis in November 2019. The MRN would like the UMRR-ILO to be more active members. R. Heilemann suggested this Board clarify the difference between joining another advocacy group and being “friends”. This discussion will be postponed until our February Board meeting. J. McGinley will compile a list of organizations to which we pay dues or make contributions.

**VII. Other Business:**

G. Sabel joined “Clean Water for All” and is now on this organization’s mailing list. The group worked on the Farm Bill and now that this Bill has passed, they are researching and developing policy issues regarding Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). The group has once monthly conference calls on Thursdays at 11:00 am. G. Sabel will forward emails to T. Prenosil and T. Dautel who also expressed interest in this topic. T. Prenosil reported attending a local Sierra Club meeting which presented the new documentary “Freedom to Harm” which showed the consequences of large CAFO businesses moving into communities in several states.

J. McGinley brought up the need for fundraising. A calendar with scenes from the Mississippi was discussed. Solicitations of photographs would be requested from members and friends of UMRR-ILO. G. Sabel will contact Kay Salma who has done this type of calendar in the past.

T. Dautel reported the University of Minnesota has no date when the new version of the Watershed Game will be completed and ready for purchase. R. Heilemann has the River version which she borrowed from \_\_\_\_\_ Rockford LWV just returned the stream version to \_\_\_\_\_. Discussion about where the versions should be stored for easy access to LWV Chapters that want to use it determined the need for a different site. R. Heilemann will help T. Dautel learn how to use the game.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- February 3, 2020: virtual
- April 6, 2020: Wisconsin (S. Ploeser will explore the possibility of Soldier’s Grove)

- May 30-31, 2020: Annual Meeting in Chicago area. (T. Dautel will research venue options.)

S. Ploeser moved and T. Dautel seconded that the meeting adjourn at 12:08. Motion carried.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil

**Afternoon Program** (available on UMRR-ILO website)

“Getting the Lead Out” by the City of Rockford Water Division

Janie Rott, Nadine Miller, Kyle Saunder

Jo Daviess County LWV Chapter wins \$50,000 grant from the EPA

Bonnie Cox and Beth Baranski