Dear League Leader:

For the last six months LWV members from Dubuque and Cedar Rapids (IA), Jo Daviess Co. (IL), and LaCrosse (WI) have been meeting to develop a LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization (LWV - UMRR ILO). The primary purpose of this ILO is to coordinate and strengthen the work the LWV does on natural resource issues within the five states of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The state LWV boards of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have voted to approve the development of this ILO and the decision is pending before the board of the LWV-Missouri.

The LWV-US recommends an ILO’s membership to include two thirds of the local LWVs representing at least two thirds of the total membership within the ILO’s region. If in the next three months we receive commitments to join the ILO from a sufficient number of local LWVs, we will go ahead with planning the first annual meeting for the LWV-UMRR ILO next summer in Dubuque, Iowa.

This is what we need from you and your board:

1. Discuss with your board whether your local LWV will commit to joining the ILO. To aid your discussion, please go to this link http://youtu.be/8HAhuToAOKk to see steering committee members explaining the rationale for the LWV-UMRR ILO. The video shows a map of the region and the local LWVs within it. A draft of the proposed bylaws for the ILO is also attached. Please note that the per league membership fee is only $25.00. There is no individual member PMP.

2. Contact the LWV-UMRR ILO Steering Committee member for your state if you have questions.

   In Iowa: Sue Wilson, wilsonsue@mchsi.com (H) (563) 582-7366
            (C) (563) 543-3881

3. Please complete the survey monkey response form at this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KBFTP8Q to respond with your LWV’s decision about membership in the UMRR-ILO by April 1. Please complete the survey even if your LWV is not interested in joining the ILO.

Thank you for your time and attention. We hope you will join us!
Sincerely,
Bonnie Cox, President, LWV-Jo Daviess County; State Board Member, LWV-IL, and Steering Committee Member, proposed UMRR-ILO.