

Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization Formation – October 24, 2015

The Upper Mississippi River Region extends from the Mississippi River headwaters at Lake Itasca near Park Rapids to Cape Girardeau south of St. Louis, Missouri. The UMRR ILO will bring local Leagues throughout the watershed together to work on education and advocacy to protect this river. All local Leagues are invited to join – more than 50 have committed to joining so far.

The LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization will be launched at its First Annual Meeting, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, October 24, 2015, in the Grand River Center, Dubuque, Iowa, overlooking the amazing Mississippi! It's not too late for your LWV to join the ILO and send a



delegate to the first annual meeting. Even if your League did not commit to joining the ILO, we would welcome you in October. Call or email Gretchen Sabel, gpsabel@yahoo.com or 763.486.2509 for more information.

We would love to have one delegate from each participating League; others are welcome to attend as well. Dubuque is a lovely river town and autumn is a splendid time to visit there. Conference attendance costs are low, just \$35 to register. **A block of rooms at the nearby Hampton Inn is available before Sept 30; conference registration is due by October 10.** Be sure your LWV doesn't miss the boat! (Keep in mind that the annual dues for your LWV are just \$25.00 PER LEAGUE to be part of this new ILO!)

Your LWV hasn't joined yet? Come on aboard the LWV-UMRR ILO launch anyway. All LWV members interested in protecting the natural resources of the Upper Mississippi River Region are invited. The meeting is designed to help you take back to your local LWV lots of valuable information and good ideas for programming on water

issues in your community. The meeting cost is \$35.00 and that includes lunch and materials.

Why not make it a great LWV weekend and join LWV-UMRR ILO organizers on Friday evening? League members in Jo Daviess County, just across the river from Dubuque, are hosting a "launch party" on Friday evening, from 6 to 9 PM. Enjoy wine and pizza in the company of LWV members from around the Midwest in the historic Galena neighborhood where U.S. Grant once trained a volunteer regiment. Tour the historic Washburne Home next door to the home of party hosts John and Bonnie Cox where Grant learned he had been elected President of the US. Call Bonnie, 815 777-9282, with your reservation!

The purposes of the LWV-UMRR ILO are to

- promote education, public understanding and active, informed citizen participation in evidence-based decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of the natural resources of the Upper Mississippi River Region.

- promote resource conservation, science-based stewardship, and long range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared and coordinated among levels of government.

Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization Formation – October 24, 2015

-promote efficient and economical government requiring competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, effective enforcement, and well defined channels for citizen input and review.