

RECENT ILLINOIS LEAGUES' INVOLVEMENT ON WATERSHED ISSUES

●LWV Lake Michigan Region ILO

Through education campaigns on nutrient pollution and stormwater runoff pollution, the LWVLMR has presented over 40 public programs since 2014, most sponsored by local Leagues. Last year, in support of the Waters of the U.S. rule of the Clean Water Act, LWVLMR offered members two webinars, a conference call, and a template of draft comments about the rule. Additionally, we provided 1000 post cards supporting the Clean Water Act and mailed them to members' federal legislators. League members attend the yearly Great Lakes Day to advocate on Capitol Hill. LWVLMR has also educated members about the impacts of Coal Tar Asphalt Sealants, and suggested actions that local Leagues might take in their own communities to alleviate the dangers. Currently, we are working on an education campaign on the benefits of native plants for cleaner water. LWVLMR has applied for & received grants as well as fee-for-service funding for its work.

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●LWV Upper Mississippi River Region (UMRR) ILO

An outgrowth of its involvement in county watershed planning, northwest Illinois' LWV-Jo Daviess County was instrumental in the formation of this new four state ILO (IA, IL, MN, WI) that was launched in October 2015. Its current action focus is to conduct watershed education, particularly on reducing the loss of soil nutrients that can create local and downstream water quality and habitat problems. The UMRR and Lake Michigan Region ILOs will jointly sponsor a caucus at the 2016 LWVUS convention.

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●LWV Lake County ILO

The Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group represents community interests in the cleanup of the harbor and nearby areas. These monthly meetings are monitored by a Lake County ILO observer.

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●Federal Advisory Committee (FACAct) on Water Information

The purposes of the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) are to identify water information needs, evaluate the effectiveness of water information programs and recommend improvements. The member organizations represent all levels of government, tribal interests, and the private sector. LWV Glenview-Glencoe member Judy Beck serves as the LWVUS representative on this committee which seeks to improve water information for decision making about natural resources management and environmental protection.

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●Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)

MWRD's treatment of wastewater concentrates phosphorus, one of the two nutrients of concern contributing to the Gulf of Mexico hypoxia zone. Members of the Cook County ILO regularly observe and report on MWRD board meetings.

See the Cook County blog at <http://www.lwvcookcounty.org/mwr-d-eyewitness>.