



**COUNCIL OF
METROPOLITAN AREA
LEAGUES**

64th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Including the 63rd Annual Convention Record

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Ridgedale Library

12601 Ridgedale Dr. Minnetonka, MN 55305

(Located south of Hwy. 394, between Hwys. 169 and 394)

5:30 – 5:45 Arrival, Check-In, Welcome and Brief Socializing Period

5:45 – 6:30 Keynote Speaker

"Metro Area Public Health:

Where Do We Go from Here?"

Sara Hollie, Director, Hennepin County Public Health Department

6:30 – 6:45 Break Time as Meals and Beverages are Distributed

6:45 – 7:45 Business Meeting

All League members are encouraged to attend. The general public is also welcome.

An Index for the Annual Meeting Booklet can be found page 23.

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) was established in 1962. It is an inter-league organization composed of all of the members of local leagues in the seven-county metropolitan area which includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties.

All members of local leagues are automatically members of CMAL and encouraged to participate in CMAL meetings and activities. Through CMAL, league members work to address governmental issues of metropolitan concern.

Keynote Speaker



Sara Hollie
Director
Hennepin County Public Health

Sara Hollie has spent over 20 years championing community health, equity, and systemic change.

Born and raised on the north side of Minneapolis, Hollie credits her upbringing for shaping her passion for public health.

Hollie holds the distinction of being the first African American Public Health Director in Hennepin County. In a state where public health leadership remains predominantly white, she sees her role as both an honor and a responsibility.

Ms. Hollie has a Master of Public Health in Administration and Policy from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies from the University of Minnesota. Previously, she was the Director of Public Health for Ramsey County.

She is also the radio host of KMOJ's 89.9 FM "Know Your Options" show (Wednesdays, 7:30 pm) that provides information and resources to communities most impacted by disparities.

2026 CMAL Annual Convention Agenda

1. Call to Order 64th Annual Convention
2. Appointment of recording secretary for the Convention
3. Roll Call of Leagues
4. Declaration of Quorum
5. Adoption of Proposed Convention Rules (page 3)
6. Chair's Report of 2025-2026 CMAL Activities (pages 3-6)
7. Treasurer's Report (page 6)
8. Adoption of Budget for 2026-2027 (page 6)
9. Adoption of CMAL Program for Action 2026-2027 (pages 7-12)
10. Adoption of program for 2026-2027 (page 13)
11. Proposed Amendments to the LWV CMAL Bylaws (page 14)
12. Bylaws of LWV CMAL (pages 15-20)
13. Election of Officers and Directors (page 21)
14. Direction to the Board (page 21)
15. CMAL Annual Meeting Minutes for 2025 (pages 22-25)

Roll Call of Leagues in CMAL

1. Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area
2. Bloomington
3. Brooklyn Park, Osseo, Maple Grove
4. Dakota County
5. Eastern Carver County
6. Edina
7. Golden Valley
8. Lake Minnetonka Plymouth Area
9. Minneapolis
10. Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins
11. New Brighton
12. New Hope Area
13. Richfield
14. Roseville Area
15. St. Louis Park
16. St. Paul
17. White Bear Lake Area
18. Woodbury Cottage Grove Area

Proposed Convention Rules

Only CMAL Delegates appointed by local LWVs, or their Alternate, may vote on resolutions. Delegates or Alternates will vote by raising a hand.

Chair's Report on CMAL 2025-2026 Activities

1. CMAL Newsletter

CMAL published Volume 62, issues #1, #2, and #3.

- Issue #1 (July 2025) highlighted the April 30, 2025, CMAL Annual Meeting held at Capitol Region Watershed District (CPWD) Headquarters in St. Paul. CPWD Administrator Anna Eleria led a tour of the ecologically sensitive CRWD building. Following the tour, CMAL delegates were treated to remarks from James Wisker, Administrator of Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), who showcased some of MCWD's innovative programs melding land use and water management practices in the watershed.
- Issue #2 (December 2025) reported on the October 29, 2025, presentation by Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras, noting her comments about ridership, shared vision, and safety.
- Issue #3 (April 2026) reported on the January 29 panel of county leaders who showcased how metro area counties are responding to the challenge of decreased federal funding and current pressures on the local property tax. Ling Becker (Ramsey County Manager), Kevin Corbid (Washington County Administrator), and Will Wallo (Dakota County Finance Director) presented detailed responses being implemented or considered for future implementation in their respective counties.

2. Quarterly Meetings (there were only 2 this year)

- October 29, 2025: Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras, on current facing Metro Transit (via Zoom)
- January 29, 2026: Ling Becker (Ramsey County Manager), Kevin Corbid (Washington County Administrator), and Will Wallo (Dakota County Finance Director) on challenges to metro area counties from reduced federal funding and pressure on the local property tax (via Zoom).

3. Watershed Study

- The Table of Contents has been developed and finalized.

- Peg DuBord is working (with others) on completion of the grid that will compare the 33-metro area watershed management entities with each other.
- The introductory sections, describing the legal framework for watershed management, are being finalized.
- It is hoped that the Watershed Study will be completed this summer. Then the CMAL Board will develop a plan for sharing it with local LWVs, watershed management entities, county boards, city councils, and others.

4. CMAL Annual Meeting.

- Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at Capitol Region Watershed District building in St. Paul, James Wisker, Administrator, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, keynote speaker. As noted above, Mr. Wisker showcased some of MCWD's innovative programs melding land use and water management practices in the watershed.

5. CMAL Organizational Matters

- Following the 2025 Annual Meeting, the CMAL Board appointed Gwen Willems (LWV Roseville Area) and Jean McMenimen (Dakota County) to the Board as directors, each with a term ending May 27, 2026. We have appreciated their contributions throughout the past year.
- With regret, the Board accepted the resignation of Director Lindsay Stambaugh (LWV New Hope Area) at our April 7, 2026 monthly meeting.
- Progress on developing a more robust web presence has been delayed.

Chair Summary

Thanks to the CMAL Board for their dedication during this transition year, with contributions from both experienced and new members, resulting in valuable ideas and plans. So, thank you to Karen, Peg, Thana, Marti, Joann, Gwen, Jean, and Lindsay.

My take on our 2025-2026 Quarterly Meetings:

- At the end of October, Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras gave an overview of her agency and outlined strategic initiatives. Metro Transit prioritizes community service, rider experience, and employee care. Significant Improvements for Metro Transit include:

- METRO will expand by 36 miles, adding to its current 87 miles.
 - By late 2026, 38% of regional households without a vehicle and
 - 28% of all jobs will be within half a mile of a METRO station.
- Then in January, our County Administrative speakers discussed budget and financial challenges, including shifts in federal funding. Ling Becker focused on the effects of the potential loss of housing program funds impacting 3,900 Minnesotans, especially in Ramsey County. Dakota County's Will Wallo shared financial hardships, noting inadequate fund balances and rising levies, with actions such as delaying capital projects, slowing hiring, and reevaluating programs. Modernization was also addressed, with Kevin Corbid of Washington County suggesting changes to property tax systems and exploring regional or state-based human services funding.

The Watershed Study remains a standing item on each Board meeting agenda. Achieving a comprehensive and high-quality study has taken additional time due to its complexity.

If you have questions about CMAL, or would like to work on CMAL issues or serve on the CMAL Board, please contact me – or CMAL Board and LWV Roseville Area members Karen Schaffer or Gwen Willems, or email LWVCMAL@lwvmn.org.

Warmly,

Wes

Wes Volkenant, Chair

Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

Treasurer Report

COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN AREA LEAGUES

2026-2027 TREASURER'S REPORT

BANKING TRANSACTIONS & BALANCES						
	ACCOUNT BALANCES	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
	EDUCATION FUND BALANCE FROM LWVMN TO CMAL	9,434.74	9,434.74	9,434.74	9,434.74	
	CMAL CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 3/31/26	5,123.39	5,023.39	5,023.39	4,898.39	4,175.27
	TOTAL:	14,558.13	14,458.13	14,458.13	14,333.13	4,175.27
CHECKING ACTIVITY						
7/29/2025	KAREN SCHAFER FOR ANNUAL MEETING EXPENSES					(117.80)
8/1/2025	DEPOSIT FROM LWVMN					40.00
10/31/2025	WITHDRAWAL TO CD					(10,000.00)
11/7/2025	MARTI MICKS FOR ANNUAL MEETING EXPENSES					(22.74)
3/4/2026	KAREN SCHAFER FOR COPY & MAILING EXPENSES					(7.32)
3/4/2026	MEMBERSHIP TO UPPER MISSISSIPPI - 2 YEARS					(50.00)
	TOTAL EXPENSES/WITHDRAWALS					(10,157.86)
	AGREES WITH BANK BALANCE (14,333.13 - 10,157.86 = 4175.27)					4,175.27
	CMAL CD INITIAL DEPOSIT					10,000.00
	CMAL CD BALANCE AS OF 3/31/2026					10,124.87
	TOTAL ASSETS AS OF 3/31/2026					14,300.14
CMAL PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025-2026						
		2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
	REVENUE	-	-	-	-	-
	EXPENSES					
	LWV US NATIONAL COUNCIL	1,700.00	-	125.00	125.00	500.00
	LWV MN COUNCIL			100.00		
	LWV MN CONVENTION			200.00		
	CMAL ANNUAL MEETING			500.00	500.00	1,000.00
	UMRR MEMBERSHIP				25.00	25.00
	QUARTERLY MEETINGS	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
	WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT	500.00				
	COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT		500.00	500.00	500.00	
	ZOOM				115.00	120.00
	PRINTING - WATERSHED STUDY			150.00	150.00	400.00
	TOTAL:	2,700.00	1,000.00	2,075.00	1,915.00	2,545.00

Adoption of 2026 - 2027 CMAL Program for Action

Program for Action adopted for 2025 - 2026

Metropolitan Council

Support the Metropolitan Council as the decision-making body for metropolitan needs in accordance with these criteria: efficiency and economy, equitable financing, flexibility, citizen control and responsiveness to the electorate through appointment of its members, including the chair, by the

governor. CMAL supports provision for coordinated metropolitan services focused through the Metropolitan Council. CMAL supports retention of a gubernatorial- appointed Metropolitan Council with use of its existing powers. (1969, 1976, 1993, 2001, 2019)

Details:

- The appointed Council is seen as less parochial, less subject to special interests, and better able to adopt and maintain positions for the good of the entire area. The most important qualifications for appointees are knowledge of regional issues, having a regional perspective, demographic diversity, and the ability to effectively meet the time requirements for service as a Metropolitan Council member.
- The appointed council is responsible to the governor and the residents of the metropolitan area as a whole.
- CMAL supports an open appointment process including publicized vacancies, a nominating committee that recommends to the governor a slate of potential appointees, with citizen, local government and legislative influence on appointments.
- CMAL supports fixed staggered terms for Metropolitan Council members, removal only for cause, and districts of equal population.
- CMAL does not support the appointment of local elected officials to, or direct election of, members to the Metropolitan Council.

County Government

CMAL supports measures to ensure accountability and visibility of county government. (1975, 2022)

CMAL believes that accountability and visibility of a governmental body, such as a county, are obtained by:

- Effective communication of its policies and procedures to residents of the jurisdiction;
- Public access to the budget process where priorities and policies are set, including an opportunity for the public to give timely and meaningful input; (2022)
- Offering members of the public opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input into policy development, county initiatives and capital projects, including, by way of example, one-on-one meetings with county commissioners, virtual and in-person town meetings, and open houses; (2022)
- Provision of ample and easily accessible notice of the location, time, date and agenda for county board meetings, county board committee meetings, county board work sessions and county advisory committee/commission meetings; (2022)
- Posting on its website minutes or discussion notes from county board meetings, county board committee meetings, county board work sessions, and county board advisory committee/commission meetings; (2022)
- Posting on its website video recordings of county board meetings and county board committee meetings; (2022)

- Dissemination of information on the procedures for appointment to advisory committees/commissions, as well as posting the number of members for each committee/commission and the identity of current appointees; (2022)
- Ensuring public access to county board meetings, county board committee meetings, county board work sessions and county advisory committee/commission meetings, plus the opportunity for members of the public to make public comment at county board meetings and county board committee meetings; (2022)
- Regular communication between county government and municipalities and between county government and other levels of government. (1975)

CMAL also recognizes the responsibility of residents to become adequately informed.

CMAL views the Metropolitan Council as the regional planning and coordinating body, while the counties are viewed as administrators, implementers, and enforcers of regional policy. CMAL believes that counties should be involved in the initial planning and policy-making stages of Metropolitan Council activities in order for counties to carry out their eventual implementation.

CMAL supports measures to improve cooperation and communication between the Metropolitan Council and county government in the metropolitan area.

CMAL believes that county government should post general information on its website about funds received from or through the Metropolitan council and how such funds are used. (2022)

Environment

Support a requirement that local governments adopt implementation ordinances for protection of environmental quality for review and approval by the Metropolitan Council. (1981)

Support the Metropolitan Council as the agency to plan and coordinate the water supply needs of the region. (1995)

CMAL supports:

- Water supply as a regional system with Metropolitan Council review and approval of local plans and implementation of the water supply system through local water utilities,
- Consideration of water supply availability in shaping the growth of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and the Metropolitan Council should have the authority to deny approval of development in areas with limited water supply availability through approval of amendments to land use plans,
- Protection of water supply resource, emergency response, and water conservation as high priorities in a regional water supply plan with plans for alternative sources of water a slightly lower priority,
- Water supply becoming a regional operating system only if implementation of local water supply plans is ineffective and threatens the water supply of the region, or major regional

investments are needed for interconnections to provide for the water supply of the region, and/ or if supplies of water must be brought in from outside the region; and

- Metropolitan Council having a role in educating the public.

Financing Metropolitan Services

Support operating and maintaining the metropolitan systems and services with a mix of funding sources specific to each service (federal, state and local funds and user fees). If a supplemental fund is created, CMAL supports additional user fees, new or increased, appropriate to the service. (1985)

CMAL supports:

Improved accountability of metropolitan agencies by:

- Uniform reporting and submittal dates of agency development programs to the Metropolitan Council
- A responsible, uniform system of administrative procedures for all metropolitan agencies

Improved accountability of the Metropolitan Council by:

- Establishing a permanent legislative committee/commission for metropolitan affairs
- Regular reports to the legislature on regional programs for financing
- Regular reports and discussion sessions with local elected officials
- Responsible administrative procedures

Funding/Financing Fiscal Disparities

Support area-wide sharing of fiscal resources, to move toward the solution of problems created by fiscal disparities and to finance services which benefit the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area as a whole or affect the lives of all its citizens. (1970)

The integrity of the area-wide pool used in the sharing of fiscal resources should be maintained with no exceptions. (1997)

Loans from the pool should be discouraged and if made they should not be forgiven. (1997)

Health

Support the continuation of health planning and coordination at the metropolitan level with state and/or regional funds if federal funds are reduced. (1981)

Housing

Support the Metropolitan Council as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority acting as an administrative agency providing technical assistance to communities requesting service. CMAL opposes an independent regional body separate from the Council to own and operate subsidized housing. (1981)

Housing/Health Care for the Aging

Support local planning for the housing and service needs for the elderly and disabled in the community. Support the preparation of a local “Blueprint for Action.” (1989)

CMAL supports:

- Providing a single telephone number at the local level for information and referral for senior housing and services available in that area (CMAL supports the city as the most appropriate provider of this service),
- Local ordinances which allow for the provision of housing and services necessary to meet the needs of the aging,
- Providing additional health, home care, and housing support services as they become necessary,
- Flexibility in the provision of these services—providers can be in the private sector (profit or non-profit), the county, city, school district, community center, the informal network, or any combination of these.

Land Use & Environmental Quality

CMAL recognizes that increased pressures for development in the entire Twin Cities area indicate the need for a strong public voice in land use decisions. CMAL supports metropolitan-level planning, programs and policies directed toward channeling development in ways that will:

- 1) preserve and enhance the natural environment;
- 2) use public investment to the best advantage; and
- 3) provide area residents with diversity in the choice of facilities and amenities. (1972)
(Also see LWVMN and LWV-US positions.)

CMAL supports:

- Channeling growth so that necessary public services are provided in an efficient, orderly pattern,
- Preserving the natural environment to the extent possible by protecting land and water during and after development, and from development where necessary, and preserving open space for recreation, protection and amenities,

- Using land in the seven-county area to implement social goals, such as a full range of housing choices, adequate transportation, parks and the necessary facilities and amenities to enhance the quality of life,
- The authorization of the Metropolitan Council to develop the policy tools necessary to implement these goals, provided local governments are involved in decisions affecting them.

School Integration/Desegregation

Support the following measures to achieve school integration/desegregation in the metropolitan area: mandatory participation by the school districts; voluntary participation by students; combination of student exchanges, magnets and incentives; combination of incentive plans for school districts and individuals funded by state money; redrawing of school district lines (as necessary). (1991)

Transportation

Support the Metropolitan Council as the single metropolitan agency planning and coordinating a diverse transportation system, meeting varied needs, and having approval authority over this system's major capital expenditures. New funding sources should be service-related. (1983) (Also see LWVUS position in Impact on Issues.)

CMAL supports:

- Various modes of transportation, both public and private, including ride-sharing, carpools, vanpools, paratransit, buses and deregulated taxis. A light rail transit mode can be supported if assured of high ridership, economic feasibility and integration into the total transportation system.
- Transportation service for people with disabilities, fringe parking and feeder services, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, bikeways, walkways and selected reduced fares.

CMAL Program for 2026 - 2027

- The CMAL Board **does not** recommend a new study for 2026-2027. The CMAL recommends that work compiling surveys continue on the Watershed Study and that a written report be prepared during the summer of 2026, based upon the completed watershed studies available at that time. The CMAL Board does not believe that a resolution is required. Members who would like to work on the written report should contact Karen Schaffer or Peg DuBord.
- CMAL requests that CMAL delegates recommend programs or activities (other than the watershed study) that they would like the CMAL to carry out during 2026-2027. The following ideas have been gathered from Board discussions and suggestions from sources:

- Field trips to water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, Hennepin County Energy Recovery Center (HERC), steam plant in St. Paul, Dakota County Tour de Trash (some of these may be limited in terms of number of participants)
- Program on a potential federally-established management structure of oversight of upper Mississippi River Region
- Presentation on use, regulation and impacts of sewage sludge on agricultural lands (could involve national, state and metro aspects)
- Affordable housing in the metro area (not just for seniors)
- Programs hosting water management speakers from state, local and metro watershed management entities
- Metro Transit Consolidation legislation
- Public Health initiatives
- Water Supply - Build on current CMAL position with updated information.

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of League of Women Voters, Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, LLC

CMAL Proposed Bylaws Changes to Reduce Length of Current Notification Time by Two Weeks

Article VIII

Section 5 Notice. [last sentence] Nominations for officers and directors shall be provided to delegates [six] at least four (4) weeks before the annual convention.

Article IX Program

Section 2. The board shall consider any recommendations received from local LWVMN chapters in the metropolitan area at least [two months] six (6) weeks before the annual convention and shall formulate a proposed program. The proposed program, including non-recommended items, shall be communicated to the local LWVMN chapters at least [six (6)] four (4) weeks before the annual convention.

Article XIV Amendments

Any proposed amendment of these bylaws requires the approval of a majority vote and the annual convention, provided that written notice has been sent to each delegate and to presidents of the local LWVMN chapters in the seven-county metropolitan area at least [six (6)] four (4) weeks in advance of the date of the annual convention at which the proposed amendment is to be considered. Proposed amendments may be sent to the Board by any member at least [two (2) months] 6 weeks in advance of the annual convention at which the proposed amendments are to be considered.

Rationale for Changes:

- (1) The current timelines were set before email and electronic meetings existed. Leagues are able to send notifications instantly with email.*
- (2) CMAL and local boards are able to meet/communicate electronically, to discuss proposed nominations, program recommendations or bylaws changes.*
- (3) This change doesn't preclude notices going out earlier, as the term "at least" was added to the Article VIII proposal and was already in the Articles IX and XIV.*
- (4) Board members often serve on their own local league boards, so this gives more flexibility for meeting Annual Convention deadlines for notification.*
- (5) Sometimes, when notice is too far in advance, it gets forgotten. Our local leagues only need to give 10 days-notice of proposed changes after we became LLC's.*

Bylaws of League of Women Voters, Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, LLC

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters, Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, LLC, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues or as CMAL. CMAL is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as LWVMN.

Article II Purposes and Policy

Section 1. Purposes.

- a. The purposes of CMAL are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.
- b. CMAL will work to increase the knowledge and effectiveness of its members in the field of area-wide governmental issues.

Section 2. Policies.

- a. CMAL will not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- b. CMAL is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

Article III Membership

Section 1. Eligibility.

Any person who: a) subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League of Women Voters (LWV) will be eligible for membership; and b) is a member of LWVMN as defined in LWVMN bylaws; and c) resides within the seven-county metropolitan area of Minnesota, as defined in state law as the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington, excluding the cities of Northfield and Rogers, is a member of CMAL.

Section 2. Delegates.

- 1. Each local chapter of LWVMN in the seven-county metropolitan area may appoint one or more delegates to CMAL. A local chapter with more than 50 members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 50 members, or fraction thereof.
- 2. The term of office of delegate to CMAL shall be at the discretion of the local chapter.
- 3. Each delegate to CMAL shall be a voting member.
- 4. Each local chapter may appoint an alternate delegate who shall be a voting member in the absence of the delegate.
- 5. CMAL shall invite LWVMN to appoint a liaison as a nonvoting delegate.
- 6. Delegates and members shall not be deemed to be members within the meaning of the Minnesota Limited Liability Company Act but shall have all of the rights and privileges set forth in these bylaws.

Article IV Board of Directors

Section 1. General Powers.

The affairs of CMAL shall be governed by or under the direction of its Board of Directors (“Board”), subject to the instructions of the delegates given at the annual convention. The Board shall have the power to determine and implement consensus.

Section 2. Number. The Board shall consist of the four officers of CMAL, four elected directors, and not more than seven appointed directors. Officers and directors must be members.

Section 3. Election and Term. At the annual convention, delegates shall elect persons to serve on the Board. Two directors shall be elected at each annual convention. Officers and directors shall serve two-year terms. Appointed directors shall serve one-year terms.

Section 4. Resignation and Removal. An officer or director may resign at any time, by giving notice to the Chair of the Board. A member of the Board may be removed at any time by 2/3 majority vote thereof.

Section 5. Filling Vacancies. Vacancies on the Board caused by death, disqualification, resignation, or removal shall be filled, until the next annual convention, by the Board. A person filling a vacancy shall hold office until the earlier of the next annual meeting, until his or her successor has been duly qualified and appointed, or his or her earlier death, disqualification, resignation, or removal.

Section 6. Compensation. No person shall receive compensation for serving on the Board. Nothing in these bylaws shall preclude be construed to preclude any person from serving CMAL in any other capacity and receiving compensation, therefore. A member of the Board may be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by such member in rendering services to CMAL, as the Board from time to time determines such services to be directly in furtherance of the purposes and in the best interest of CMAL.

Section 7. Committees of the Board. The Board may establish committees of the Board and determine the number and the identity of persons to serve on such committees. Committee members must be natural persons but need not be members of the Board. All committees shall make recommendations to the Board and shall not have the authority to act on behalf of the Board, unless otherwise determined by the Board.

Article V Meetings of the Board

Section 1. Regular Meetings. The Board shall meet at least quarterly. The Board shall meet within one month of the annual convention and establish a regular meeting schedule.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time, for any purpose, by the Chair or Vice Chair or any two members. Notice of every such meeting of the Board shall be given to member of the Board at least five (5) days before the day on which the meeting is to be held, via U.S. Mail, or by delivery in person, by email or telephone, no later than 24 hours before the meeting is to be held.

Section 3. Quorum. A Board meeting at which at least a majority of the members of the Board are present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. Voting. Only members of the Board who are present at any meeting may vote. There shall be no voting by mail or proxy. Each member of the Board shall be entitled to only one vote on any matter brought before any meeting of the Board.

Section 5. Action Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken by written action signed, or consented to by authenticated electronic communication, by the number of members of the Board that would be required to take the same action at a meeting of the Board at which all members of the Board were present. If written action is taken by fewer than all members of the Board, the remaining members shall be notified promptly of that action.

Article VI Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Terms. The officers of CMAL shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chair and Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years, and the Vice Chair and Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Section 2. Duties.

a. Chair. The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the CMAL and the Board. The Chair may sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The Chair shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee and shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of Chair and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

b. Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall, in the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the Chair, possess all the powers and perform all duties of the Chair, until such time as the Board shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice Chair shall perform such other duties as the Chair and Board may designate.

c. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of CMAL and the Board. The Secretary shall be the custodian of the minutes and all other official documents that have come before the Board or meetings of CMAL, as well as all unofficial documents and communications of CMAL relative to governance, bylaws, and program. The Secretary shall assist the Board with the development of a permanent repository for CMAL documents and records.

d. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due, and be the custodian of these moneys, and shall endorse and deposit them in a bank designated by the Board and shall sign and disburse the same only upon order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at its regular meetings and at the annual convention.

Article VII Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of CMAL shall commence on the first day of June.

Section 2. Dues and Assessments. CMAL may assess dues or assessments to local chapters of LWVMN in the seven-county metropolitan area. The amount must be approved by delegates at the annual convention. Any dues or assessments shall be based on the number of members in each such local chapter, excluding LWVUS and LWVMN State members or life members

Section 3. Distribution of funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of CMAL and upon payment of all CMAL obligations, all monies shall be distributed to LWVMN.

Article VIII Meetings of CMAL

Section 1. Meetings. There shall be a minimum of one program meeting a year, in addition to the annual convention, as the Board may determine. All members shall be invited to such meetings.

Section 2. Annual Convention. An annual convention shall be held each year by June 15. The annual convention shall adopt a program for the year, elect officers and directors, adopt a budget and transact such other business as may have come before it.

Section 3. Voting. A majority vote of delegates present is necessary to take action, unless specified in these bylaws. Proxy voting is not permitted.

Section 4. Quorum. If at least one delegate from one-third of local LWVMN chapters in the seven-county metropolitan area is present, there is a quorum. Each delegate shall have one (1) vote.

Section 5. Notice. CMAL shall provide electronic notice of program meetings and the annual convention to all delegates, local LWVMN presidents and other interested members. Nominations for officers and directors shall be provided to delegates six weeks before the annual convention.

Article IX Program

Section 1. Program. The program of CMAL shall consist of those governmental issues of regional concern chosen for study and action.

Section 2. Action by the Annual Convention. The Board shall consider any recommendations received from local LWVMN chapters in the metropolitan area at least 2 months before the annual convention and shall formulate a proposed program. The proposed program, including non-recommended items, shall be communicated to the local LWVMN chapters at least six (6) weeks before the annual convention. At the annual convention, non-recommended items may be adopted by 2/3 vote of delegates present.

Section 3. Action. Members may act in the name of CMAL only when authorized to do so by the Board.

Article X LWVUS National Convention

The Board may select delegates to LWVUS National Convention in the number allotted to CMAL by LWVUS.

Article XI Wholly Owned Subsidiary

CMAL is a wholly owned subsidiary of League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, d/b/a/ League of Women Voters Minnesota.

Article XII Electronic Meetings

Regular meetings of the board, special meetings of the board, program meetings, the annual convention, and committee meetings are authorized to be held by electronic means so long as all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting. An anonymous vote conducted through an internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

Article XIII Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised will govern CMAL in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the provisions of Minnesota law or these bylaws.

Article XIV Amendments

Any proposed amendment of these bylaws requires the approval of a majority vote at the annual convention, provided that written notice has been sent to each delegate and to presidents of the local LWVMN chapters in the seven-county metropolitan area at least six (6) weeks in advance of the date of the annual convention at which the proposed amendment is to be considered.

Proposed amendments may be sent to the Board by any member at least two (2) months in advance of the annual convention at which the proposed amendments are to be considered. Proposed amendments recommended by the Board require a majority vote of delegates present. Proposed amendments not recommended by the Board require a 2/3 vote of delegates present. Any proposed amendment of these bylaws also requires the approval of LWVMN.

Article XV Dissolution

A member or Board member may submit a dissolution proposal to the board at least two (2) months in advance of the annual meeting at which it is to be considered. The Board communicates the proposal and its recommendation to the delegates and presidents of local LWVMN chapters in the metropolitan area at least six (6) weeks in advance of such annual meeting. If the proposal is recommended by the Board, it may be adopted by majority vote of delegates present. If it is not recommended by the Board, it may be adopted by 2/3 vote of delegates present.

Certification

These bylaws were approved at a meeting of League of Women Voters, Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, LLC, on the 11th day of May, 2024.

Karen Schaeffer

Chair

Version: January 28, 2024

February 28, 2024 Date

Election of Officers and Directors 2026

In the absence of a nominating committee, the CMAL Board of Directors recommends election of the following individuals to serve on the CMAL Board for the designated terms:

Position	Term	Nominee
Chair	2025-2027	
Vice Chair	2026-2028	Karen Schaffer (Roseville Area)
Secretary	2025-2027	
Treasurer	2024-2026	Peg DuBord (Lake Minnetonka Plymouth Area)
Director	2025-2027	Gwen Willems (Roseville Area) - to complete the final year of Lindsay Stambaugh's term
Director	2026-2028	Thana Ross (Dakota County)
Director	2026-2028	Jean McMenimen (Dakota County)
Director	2025-2027	

The offices of Chair (Wes Volkenant, LWV ABC) and Secretary (Marti Micks, LWV Golden Valley) are not up until 2027.

Direction to the Board

The Board requests direction with respect to:

- Any other matters of concern or interest to CMAL delegates

Minutes of the 63rd Annual CMAL Convention on April 30, 2025

Minutes of the 63rd Annual Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters Convention on April 30, 2025

Call to Order

Chair Schaffer called the 63rd Annual Convention to order at 7:40 pm following the keynote speaker: James Wisker, Administrator of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. The topic was “Watershed Management in the 21st Century: Weaving Together the Land and the Water.”

Karen gave thanks to James Wisker for his presentation and Samantha of MCWD. She also thanked Margo Bock (LWV-Roseville) for putting together the Annual Meeting packet.

Appointment of Recording Secretary

Chair Schaffer noted the convention’s recording secretary would be Marti Micks, LWV-GV.

Roll Call of CMAL Leagues of Women Voters

- Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area: Julie Trude, Wes Volkenant and Mary Vanderlaan
- Bloomington: Marcia Wattson
- Brooklyn Park, Osseo, Maple Grove: absent
- Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth, Robbinsdale: Lindsay Stambaugh
- Dakota County: Thana Ross, Jean McMenimen
- Eastern Carver County: absent
- Edina: Idelle Longman
- Golden Valley: Marti Micks
- Lake Minnetonka Plymouth Area: Peg DuBord, Linda Krefting
- Minneapolis: Lisa Mills
- Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins: absent
- New Brighton: absent
- Richfield: Maureen Scaglia
- Roseville Area: Karen Schaffer, Alana Howey, Lisa Scribner, Gwen Willems
- St. Louis Park: Shelly Colvin
- St. Paul: Joann Ellis
- White Bear Lake Area: Dick Ottman
- Woodbury, Cottage Grove Area: Lynne Markus

Declaration of Quorum

There being 14 of 18 local league representatives present, Chair Schaffer declared there was a quorum.

Adoption of Proposed Convention Rules

Motion to adopt proposed convention rules (page 3) that only CMAL Delegates appointed by local LWV’s or their Alternates may vote on resolutions and Delegates or Alternates will vote by raising a hand was moved by Lisa Scribner (LWV-Roseville) and seconded by Peg DuBord. Motion passed.

Chair's Report

Karen Schaffer directed delegates to her written report on pages 3-5 in the Annual Report. She is stepping back from her position as CMAL Chair, but is looking forward to remaining on the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Peg DuBord, treasurer, said there were no expenditures in 2024-2025 fiscal year. Per her request, the LWV of Minnesota Education Fund sent a check to CMAL for the remainder of CMAL's Education Funds being held by state league. The total of \$14,333.13 remains the same; however, now CMAL's funds are all in its own checking account. Peg suggested that those funds could be invested in a Certificate of Deposit to get some income. This will be discussed further at a Board meeting.

CMAL Proposed Budget for 2025-2026

Julie Trude moved to amend the budget to include increasing the LWVUS Council from \$125 to \$1,125 to cover the cost of registration, housing and airfare, seconded by Charlotte Caldwell. Rationale is that the CMAL delegate should not have to be wealthy to represent their league. During discussion, it was mentioned that CMAL should join LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region, adding \$25.00 to the budget. The motion carried.

Adoption of CMAL Program for Action 2025-2026

Julie Trude moved to approve the CMAL program as presented, seconded by Lisa Mills and motion carried.

Adoption of Program for 2025-2026

CMAL will continue the Watershed Study. Chair Schaffer hopes that Leagues will finish their watershed survey questionnaires in the next month or two.

Two topics were brought up as ideas for quarterly meetings this coming year.

1) Lynne Markus suggested the topic of Managed Aquifer Recharge in which ground water is pumped out, treated and put back in, or taking gray construction water and putting it back in the aquifer to recharge it.

2) Idelle Longman can get a speaker name for the Affordable Housing topic.

Election of Officers and Directors 2025

- Chair: Wes Volkenant (ABC), Term 2025-2027
- Secretary: Marti Micks (GV), Term 2025-2027
- Director: Lindsay Stambaugh (CNHEPR), Term 2025-2027
- Director: Karen Schaffer (Roseville Area), Term 2025-2026 (finish Wes's term)

Motion to approve the Board's recommended slate of officers and directors with the addition of Marti Micks as secretary was seconded by Lynne Markus. Motion carried.

Direction to the Board

Delegates like Wednesday evenings for the Quarterly meetings. The problem is not all meeting months have a 5th Wednesday, so the Board will decide dates for October, January, and April. Members did not want to have Saturday meetings.

Delegates like the Zoom meetings and attendance has been good.

It was suggested that CMAL delegates be given a roster of all the delegates: their names, league, email, and phone number (if willing to share it), in case a delegate needs a ride to meeting, etc.

Thanks, and Gratitude to Karen Schaffer for Serving as Chair since 2017

Marti Micks shared thanks to Karen for bringing life to CMAL. It was ready to fold in 2017, and since Karen has been chair, CMAL has conducted three studies: Metropolitan Governance, County Government and Watershed study. She has written over half of Metro Governance and County Government studies. We requested that a motion to give our thanks and appreciation of Karen Schafer in her position as Chair be put into the official minutes. All delegates resoundingly said Aye.

Motion to Adjourn

Julie Trude moved to adjourn, Wes Volkenant seconded, and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Marti Micks
Recording Secretary

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