

Council of Metropolitan Leagues (CMAL) Newsletter (2 pages):



Volume 57 – Issue 1

**Council of Metropolitan Area
Leagues**

Established in 1962 as an ILO and is composed of the members of the local LWWs in the seven metro counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties.

CMAL Board of Directors

Officers
Karen Schaffer, Chair
Ardyth Norem, Vice Chair
Holly Jenkins, Treasurer
Martí Micks, Secretary

Letter from the Chair

Greetings to all metro area League members! Today we re-establish the splendid tradition of the CMAL Newsletter which first began with the organization's founding in 1962. For decades these quarterly newsletters were sent to all metro area League chapters and interested political leaders to create open dialogue about CMAL work. And by "sent" of course I mean paper copies in the US mail. No wonder postage was such a large expense for the early CMAL!

I have had the opportunity to read many of the historical newsletters and they are a treasure trove of meeting notices/invitations with amazing rosters of speakers, reports from observers of metro government meetings, reports on lobbying activities in St. Paul and Washington, D.C., CMAL committee reports, and consensus planning.

Our goal in reestablishing this venerable tradition is to revitalize open communication that will:

- 1) Provide timely information about CMAL activities and programs
- 2) Publicize upcoming CMAL events
- 3) Publicize notable events of metro area League chapters
- 4) Share information about developments in metro area regional governance

Directors
Susan Anderson
Kate Redden
Peg DuBord

It has been an honor to serve as CMAL Chair. CMAL's study and consensus on regional governance completed in March 2019 was exciting and energizing. It showed that metro area League members remain interested in how regional government affects our communities. I thank all League members who participated on the committee and who participated in the consensus process.

- Karen Schaffer, CMAL Chair

2020 Annual Meeting / Board Elections

In lieu of conducting the 2020 Annual Meeting in May, the board has decided to use an online ballot to elect the new slate of officers for positions concluding their current term in 2020. CMAL Board meets monthly – remotely at present. If you are interested in regional government issues, have a passion for research and visiting with local officials, and would like to meet League members from across the metro area, CMAL Board membership could be a rich and rewarding experience. Be on the lookout for online ballots soon!

PROPOSED SLATE FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Vice Chair 2020-2022: **Ardyth Norem (Wayzata/Plymouth)** is nominated to serve another term
- Treasurer 2020-2022: **Holly Jenkins (Dakota County)** is nominated to serve another term
- Director #1 2020-2022: **Susan Anderson (Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids)** is nominated to serve another term
- Director #4 2020-2022: **Thana Ross (Dakota County)** is nominated to serve a first term



Lynn Gitelis

Lynn Gitelis, a director on CMAL Board and member of the LWV Golden Valley, died on March 6, 2020. Our CMAL Board will miss Lynn’s intellect and vast knowledge. Her interest in political issues began young when she went to Iowa to serve as a volunteer on a presidential campaign.

- Her passion was environmental issues: she served many years on Golden Valley’s Environmental Commission and volunteered with Minnesota Environmental Partnership.
- She used her organizing skills to bring “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” to Golden Valley.
- Her mantra was “Save the Earth. It’s the only planet with chocolate.”

A link to her obituary: <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000349773/>

Study on County Government

In January 2020 CMAL delegates voted to undertake a comparative study of the seven metro area county governments to 1) increase public knowledge of county government and 2) determine whether CMAL’s position on county government should be updated. Initial steps include forming a committee, conducting research through the end of the year, interviewing county officials starting in January 2021, and submitting study findings to the CMAL Board in April 2021.

Committee tasks will include: review and refine study guidelines as proposed by the CMAL Board, conduct research and attend committee meetings (mostly virtual), develop a questionnaire and conduct interviews, compile the study and results. The effect of the pandemic on county government operations will need to be addressed as well.

We are now seeking interest League members to join the County Government Study Committee. To join the committee, please contact Holly Jenkins at hollyc.jenkins@gmail.com. Still undecided? All are invited to learn more about the County Government Study Committee at a virtual meeting on Saturday, July 25, 10 - 11 am. To receive a meeting link, send a RSVP to Holly at hollyc.jenkins@gmail.com on or before July 24.

Metro Transit’s Response to COVID-19

Metro Transit has been adjusting its services to respond to the pandemic.

Essential Trips Only

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, transit should be used for essential travel only. Reducing demand will make transit safer for operators and those who have no alternatives but to take transit. Examples of essential travel include:

- Commuting to a job that cannot be performed at home.
- Obtaining groceries or other necessary supplies.
- Seeking medical services and medications (**do not take transit if sick**).
- To care for a family member, friend or pet in another household.

Helping Slow Community Spread

Those who must leave home for an essential reason and have no other option but to take transit should remember to:

- Leave space between themselves and other passengers and the operator, and to board and exit buses using the back door (front doors are available for those who need it for any reason).
- Cough/sneeze into a tissue or a sleeve.
- Regularly and thoroughly wash hands or use hand sanitizer when it is not possible to wash hands.

Face Coverings are Required

- Passengers are now required to wear face coverings while riding on Metro Transit trains and buses
- There is no plan to deny service to anyone who declines to wear a face covering nor to provide them to riders
- Transit operators are not required to wear face coverings.
- [Learn more about Metro Transit requirement](#)

These developments beg the question of the financial impacts on Metro Transit. GM Kooistra states that Metro Transit will receive \$214 million from the federal CARES ACT, which, along with budget reserves, provides one-time relief from the losses in fare and other revenues. For information from Metro Transit on pandemic issues, visit www.metrotransit.org/health.