



## **Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues**

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

### **CMAL Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

Karen Schaffer, Chair  
Carol Barclay, Vice Chair  
Marti Micks, Secretary  
Peg DuBord, Treasurer

#### **Directors**

Dick Ottman  
Joann Ellis  
Thana Ross  
Wes Volkenant

## **Letter from the Chair**

Many thanks to everyone who attended CMAL's Annual Meeting on May 14! I appreciate your enthusiasm and good ideas. Your new CMAL Board met in June, and we are on the way to following your direction, as we embark upon CMAL's 61st year.

Special thanks to Julie Trude for producing the Annual Meeting Booklet and to Marti Micks for issuing Annual Meeting Minutes so promptly. Delegates requested that CMAL issue a press release regarding its new position on county government.

Good news: the press release was issued July 18. You can read it here [link]. Thanks to Peg DuBord for drafting the release, and to Marti Micks, Wes Volkenant, and Mindy Greiling for providing input.

Your CMAL Board has a request to make to all local LWVs: please keep us up-to-date on the names and email addresses for local presidents, vice presidents and CMAL delegates, as well as anyone else that you would like included in our newsletter mailing list. We intend to issue newsletters in July 2022, November 2022, and February 2023.

We also invite any local LWV to submit an article about local LWV activities for inclusion in the CMAL newsletter. Thanks to LWV Edina and LWV St. Paul for doing so last year.

Choose any topic which you would like to share with a metro audience. CMAL hereby invites nominations (or a volunteer) to serve on the CMAL Board. Due to the resignation of Kate Redden, we have a vacancy which may be filled by appointment. Please let me know by email and we will follow up. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year!

Many thanks to Julie Trude of LWV Anoka, Blaine and Coon Rapids for producing the CMAL Annual Packet and for representing CMAL at her first LWV National Convention. She had a great learning experience and wanted to share it, so we have attached her story.

Regards,

*Karen*

Karen Schaffer  
CMAL Chair

**A press release for the new CMAL County Government Study was sent to metro news/media outlets and can be found at: [CMAL Press Release](#).**

## CMAL Calendar

2022-2023

### Save the Dates

- **OCTOBER 15:** **QUARTERLY MEETING**  
Paul Linnell, Anoka County Elections Manager, who will speak on the topic of “Safety of Metro Area Elections”.
- **JANUARY 21:** **QUARTERLY MEETING – 10 AM ON ZOOM** Focus on County Government
- **MARCH 18:** **QUARTERLY MEETING**
- **MAY 20:** **ANNUAL MEETING**

## Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters Celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) was held on May 14, 2022. The following brief history is presented to remind us of the amazing tradition we have inherited from these visionary women.

### ORIGINS OF CMAL

But where did CMAL come from? Although formally launched on September 18, 1962, its establishment was preceded by years of discussion among metropolitan area League Chapters regarding problems created by the unprecedented rapid growth in the metropolitan area following World War II. Metropolitan areas all across the country were experiencing similar problems.

The area-wide problems that drew attention included water supply, sewage management, air pollution, transportation, competition for commercial or industrial tax base, conversion of open space to non-park uses, and governmental fragmentation. These problems seemed to require area-wide solutions beyond the capability of individual municipalities to address. New imaginative government structures were needed so that decisions could be made locally, rather than in St. Paul or Washington, D.C.

League members were not alone in discussing these issues. Leaguers were in the mix with local business leaders, Upper Midwest Research and Development Council, Citizens League (and other private civic organizations), local press, Metropolitan Planning Commission (and other government agencies), and the University of Minnesota.

In 1962 LWVMN, on behalf of a Steering Committee, issued newsletters to all metropolitan area Leagues on the question of whether there was a need for a metropolitan area LWV. The Steering Committee concluded that if LWV wanted to work on a program affecting the whole metropolitan area, there would have to be a properly constituted metropolitan

area League to do it. If established, it could have a voice in determining which metropolitan approach would work best for addressing metropolitan area problems.

## VISION

CMAL was envisioned as an extension of local LWVs in the metropolitan area that would speak with one voice on regional issues. Consistent with LWVUS, it would not be a new layer of League, imposing direction from above.

This vision is reflected in CMAL bylaws today. It is a membership organization, in which all members of local LWVs in the metropolitan area automatically are members of CMAL. CMAL is managed by appointed delegates from local LWVs, who elect a board of directors, adopt a budget, and adopt programs and studies.

## OPENING DAY

On September 18, 1962, LWVMN President Mrs. O. H. Anderson, LWV Mahtomedi gavelled to order the inaugural meeting of CMAL at Edina Colonial Church. Mrs. Anderson greeted the assembled 29 (of 31) metropolitan area LWV presidents and their CMAL delegates, representing more than 3,000 individual League members from across the region and led them through a discussion and votes adopting a CMAL agreement, electing a slate of officers and adopting a 1962-1963 budget of \$310. Dues of \$10 per League were assessed.

The agreement has been amended many times, mostly recently in 2019.



### Original CMAL Officers

From Back to Front:

Mrs. A.E. Ludwig, Treasurer – South St. Paul

Mrs. Richard Kemske, Secretary - Anoka

Mrs. C.R. Humphries, Vice Chairman - Stillwater

Mrs. William J. Vaughan, Chairman - Edina

The original officers were Chair Mrs. William J. Vaughan, Vice Chair Mrs. C. R. Humphries (also in charge of program), Secretary Mrs. Kemske, Treasurer Mrs. A. E. Ludwig, Nominating Committee Chair Mrs. John Borchert, and Nominating Committee member Mrs. J. Homer.

Importantly, the plan for conducting a four-part survey of the metropolitan area was announced. Four committees would prepare each part, with the first due on November 29, 1962. The purpose of the surveys was to gather

information and indicate areas for future study and legislative action. All of this before the Metropolitan Council was established by law in 1967.

The four surveys were completed during 1962 and 1963 with CMAL volunteers and no money. They covered the entire metropolitan area: 7 counties; 3,000 square miles; 299 units of local government. The printing company had the patience to wait to be paid. Its patience paid off. The surveys became a best-seller. CMAL's role as a documentarian of the metropolitan area and its issues was established.

## THE REST IS HISTORY

CMAL's prodigious output and activities in support of its vision are briefly summarized here, until a more complete history can be written.

- Published four surveys documenting the characteristics of the metropolitan area, published 1962-1963. These groundbreaking reports described to the public and League members the metropolitan area and its problems, something that had never been done before.
- Published the handbook **Government in the Metropolitan Area**, which launched in January 1966 at a gala party at WCCO-TV, where the first copy (25,000 were printed) was presented to Governor Rolvaag. It was an instant success and provided the community with a government framework for decision-making in the metropolitan area. It was known fondly as the "little blue book."
- Published in partnership with the University of Minnesota, "**Metropolitan Maze, the Council-Watcher's Guide.**" This publication described the origins and creation in 1967 of the Metropolitan Council. It was updated in 1971 (Maze II), 1981 (Maze III), 1992 (Maze IV) and 2000 (Maze 2000), and it became part of the Metropolitan Council's orientation for newly-appointed Council members.
- CMAL membership wrote and distributed many major publications on transportation, fiscal disparities, land use, intergovernmental relations, housing, watershed management, Metropolitan Council governance, county government, school desegregation and integration, water supply and tax-basing sharing were issued through the years.
- Educated a corps of regionally-informed residents, through quarterly programs and quarterly newsletters. Quarterly newsletters are documented through 2007. CMAL resumed publishing newsletters in 2019.
- Responsible for leading several one and two year programs of study leading to the development of consensus positions.
- Took action through lobbying, testifying, observing, and partnering with local coalitions on many important issues.
- Maintained regular press relations, by way of press releases, the distribution of quarterly newsletters to the press, and even a weekly radio program.
- Held programs at venues across the metropolitan area with well-credentialed speakers on a wide variety of government issues to large audiences of CMAL delegates, LWV members, the public, legislators, and regional government officials.
- In 1974 CMAL finalizing the amendment of its bylaws to earn recognition as an Inter-League Organization (ILO) by the League of Women Voters – United States.

## IN SUMMARY

CMAL's early track record made CMAL a go-to organization for legislators and regional officials who needed information or fact-based support. CMAL became known as a group of people who actually knew what they were talking about. It's an illustrious history that we should be proud to continue.

## CMAL Welcomes New Board Members

Carol Barclay – Vice Chair  
Wes Volkenant - Director

**Carol Barclay** joined the LWV in Columbus, IN in 1965 and has been active in six different Leagues across the county and has served as president of several Leagues, has been on the boards of League of Women Voters in Florida and Minnesota. She is a Communication graduate of Metro State University and has been involved with CMAL as a delegate from the LVM Fridley.

A major part of her work life, prior to retirement, has been working with volunteers. She coordinated hospice and clinic volunteers at HealthPartners and was on staff at the First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis.

**Wes Volkenant** is a man of many interests! He is a St. Cloud State University graduate, which led him to a 28 year career with the Hennepin County Human Services Department. He has been active in the LWV since 2016 and he currently is the Treasurer for LWV Anoka-Blaine-Coon Rapids. He has been active with CMAL on the Metro County Government for the past two years and has enjoyed being a part of the LWV Observer Corp.

Besides his LWV activities, he currently serves on the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission, was elected to the Anoka County Historical Society Board of Directors and has created a much followed Facebook page entitled “Eye on Anoka County”.

### Board Meeting Highlights

#### April

Board agreed to co-sponsor meeting presented by the Public Safety Committee of LWV-Minneapolis next year.

The Board reviewed the local league responses to the County Study consensus questions. Only responses with more than 85% support became part of the new position to be recommended to the CMAL Annual Meeting delegates.

#### May: Annual Meeting Highlights

- Changes to CMAL’s Bylaws were made to conform with national LWV for Articles II and III.
- The 2022-2023 CMAL Program for Action was adopted with the new and revised County Government position. Also, a motion was passed to form a committee to develop an action plan using the study report findings for leagues to follow up with their county officials.
- The slate of officers and directors recommended by the board were elected.
- CMAL delegates preferred continuing with Zoom meetings this coming year.
- The chair of the new county “work plan” committee should be a person who is seen as nonpartisan.

#### June

Dick Ottman was appointed to a one-year term as director. A vacancy on the CMAL Board was also announced due to resignation of Kate Redden.

#### July

- The board will offer potential questions for local leagues to ask at county commissioner candidate forums.
- The January Quarterly meeting will have a panel of County Commissioners representing both a large and small county.