



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

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Members,

I hope that your Thanksgiving holiday included some joy, some relaxation, and some tasty dishes. I hope that the December holiday season similarly brings joy, relaxation, and some more tasty dishes!

Quarterly Meeting: January 14 - Zoom Meeting Metro County Government in 2023

Please invite your members and the public in your area to our January 14, 2023. The goals of the January meeting are to educate members on what county government does, how to navigate the county system, how and when to have your voice heard and how commissioners might improve transparency in their operations. All speakers will be sent copies of the CMAL County Study report. We will quiz them on how they might work to bring CMAL values to the everyday work of county government.

A flyer is attached for you to use in promoting this event. This Zoom event link will also be posted on the LWV MN Events Calendar: [LWV MN Events Calendar - January](#)

Program Year: 2023-2024

Please give some thought to what CMAL might offer as program ideas for our coming year. Our membership is always churning with ideas, and we need your input to create a vibrant year of learning.

We also invite you to consider serving on the CMAL Board. We meet monthly on Zoom. You can work with League members from across the metro area whom you would otherwise never meet.

I hope to see you on January 14!

Happy Holidays!

Karen

Karen Schaffer
Chair

Are Metro Elections Safe?

Paul Linnell, Deputy Elections Director
Office of Secretary of State

Recap of October 15, 2022 Presentation

Paul Linnell gave an outstanding presentation of the security measures that are used in Minnesota's elections. Minnesota uses paper ballots, which leave an auditable paper trail. Minnesota has had the highest voter turnout in the nation, reflecting confidence in the voting system.

Cyber-navigator program is a key piece of election infrastructure. The State partners with federal intelligence agencies in classified security briefings, to inform states if they have the right security in place.

Local elections offices across U.S. have been target of falsehoods and threats.

There are three types of information that have created distrust in the election system.

- **Misinformation.** Is false but not created or shared with the intention of causing harm. An example is when people were receiving ballot applications and confused those with an actual ballot.
- **Disinformation.** Is deliberately created to mislead, harm or manipulate a person, social group, organization or country.
- **Malinformation.** Is based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm, or manipulate. For example, it was reported that there were hundreds of thousands of missing absentee ballots. At that point in time, that information was pulled when the county was still in process of entering information. Had they waited a day or two, all those ballots had been processed.

Where to find resources to learn more about our elections:

- Resources: [MNVotes.gov/Facts](https://mnvotes.gov/facts)
- [#trustedinfo2022](https://twitter.com/trustedinfo2022)
- County websites

An important take away from the meeting is that the voting machines are tested and certified before election day and after the election. They are safely stored by local government.

The machines are not connected to the Internet on Election Day. Another important take away is that machine counting of ballots is more accurate than hand counts. Minnesota also engages in a post-election review of election results, including a hand count of ballots for selected races in randomly selected precincts across the state.

Issues related to ballot access and ballot security remain topics of interest, even as election day has passed. We were fortunate to have a Minnesota expert address them in October. If you would like a copy of Paul Linnell's PowerPoint or want a copy of the recording please contact Marti Micks marthaal60@msn.com.

Let's Make Our 2023-2024 Program Relevant

The CMAL Annual Meeting is set for May 14, 2023, where CMAL will adopt our annual Program.

The CMAL Board is seeking ideas and recommendations from our LWV Metro Leagues.

Please set aside some time during your upcoming meetings to discuss suggestions that are of interest to your members.

- Are there Metro issues that require a new study?
- Should we update one of our current positions?
- What's bubbling up in your area that should be highlighted for potential speakers or subjects to explore?

CMAL Website: [Website & County Government Study](#)

CMAL Positions: [Current CMAL Positions](#)

CMAL Board is depending on you for ideas! Pass them along to us, together with the names of members who might like to work on the issue.

Board Meeting Highlights August – November 2022

The CMAL Board of Directors:

- Authorized \$100 reimbursement for Julie Trude (LWV-ABC) to represent CMAL at the national LWV Convention.
- Sent suggested questions for local leagues to use at their county commissioner forums.
- Received feedback on the questions that were used at two county commissioner candidate forums.
- Finalized plans for October Quarterly meeting on “Election Security”, with Paul Linnell, Deputy Secretary of State and publicity for this event.
- Decided to invite three county commissioners to speak as a panel at CMAL’s January Quarterly Meeting. The Board used the following criteria to select the participants:
 - Outstanding speaker or tenure as a commissioner
 - Represent a large county
 - Preference to a commissioner that has not participated in a CMAL event

The following county commissioners were asked to be part of the panel:

- Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
 - Laurie Halverson, Dakota County
 - Trista Matascastillo, Ramsey County
- We learned LWV Duluth may do a county study and sought information on CMAL’s County Government study.