



## Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

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

### CMAL

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to Metro Area LWV Presidents, CMAL Delegates, and LWV Members:

I am happy to report on exciting developments at CMAL.

### CMAL Watershed Study

On January 13 CMAL hosted a meeting to launch the Watershed Study. What a lively meeting we had! Members from 13 metro area Leagues reviewed the draft Watershed Report, the draft Questionnaire, and discussed which metro area LWVs might “adopt” one or more of the 33 watershed organizations in the metro area to study. Special thanks to Marcia Wattson (LWV – Bloomington) for recommending that CMAL frame its study into the larger narrative of the health of the Mississippi River. More information about the rollout of the study is elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Metropolitan Council Governance Task Force

The Metropolitan Governance Task Force has concluded its review of the Governance structure. I attended all of the meeting via zoom and had the pleasure of testifying in person on behalf of CMAL and our consensus position. A written copy of CMAL testimony is in Appendix C p. 97-98 of the Task Force Final Report.

Unfortunately, the Task Force decided to send along to the Legislature all of the Metropolitan Council governance proposals put forth at Task Force meetings, without recommending any one proposal for adoption by the Legislature. The proposals included: (1) Council of Governments (COG) consisting of local elected officials plus a directly elected Metropolitan regional civic Council; (2) COG consisting of local elected officials appointed by the governor plus a directly elected transit agency; (3) directly elected Metropolitan Council with no change in responsibilities; (4) COG consisting of 40 local elected officials (alternatively including some community members) plus some state appointees to vote on transportation issues; (5) modified COG consisting of 33 local elected officials; and (6) amended status quo, with staggered terms and an enhanced nominating/appointment process.

The Task Force adopted several “principles” which they thought should be considered when evaluating any proposed Metropolitan Council governance option including: accountability, credibility, accessibility, transparency, collaboration,

proportionality, regionalism, and compensation. Information on the various proposals, as well as the task force recordings can be found here: [Task Force Report](#). Task force recording can be found here: [Met Council Recordings](#).

As always, let me know what you are thinking and if you have ideas for CMAL programs in the future!

Warmly,

Karen

Karen Schaffer, Chair - Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

## MARCH QUARTERLY MEETING - COUNTY AND CITY REDISTRICTING

Saturday, March 16, 2024 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

10:00-12:00 PM (via Zoom)

We are extremely excited to have Paul Huffman, Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator for the LWV MN present to us at our March Quarterly Meeting. Paul is a leading nonpartisan expert on redistricting in Minnesota.

Paul will review key elements of current redistricting bills that would affect counties and cities in the metro area (and the State) and how they would address the needs of Minnesota residents, rather than the needs of political parties or elected officials.

**Redistricting of congressional and legislative districts is one of the most fundamental determinants of the health of our democracy. It is also one of the least understood and appreciated by voters and some legislators. In this presentation Paul will show how redistricting principles work at the local level.**

Paul will be able to take questions about the proposed legislation affecting counties and cities, as well as questions about state redistricting proposals.

This meeting is open to all LWV members and members of the public.

### ZOOM LINK

CMAL MARCH QUARTERLY MEETING

TIME: MAR 16, 2024 10:00 AM

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://LWVMN-ORG.ZOOM.US/J/82879367642](https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/82879367642)

MEETING ID: 828 7936 7642

## WATERSHED STUDY UPDATE

The Watershed Study is finally shaping up and heading down the backstretch and generating excitement from local leagues that are anticipating a chat with their local watershed districts!

The planning committee has developed a Watershed Report, questions that are being formatted into a Questionnaire, a Guide for working on the Watershed Study, and a Letter of Introduction to use when setting up interviews with watershed board members or staff.

When these materials are finalized, CMAL will send a notice to CMAL delegates and LWV presidents, so that they may launch their research teams.

### **Watersheds 101**

Last month LWV Woodbury/Cottage Grove Area hosted an excellent program on Watersheds in Minnesota, presented by John Loomis, Deputy Administrator for the South Washington Watershed District.

Although each watershed in the metro area (and also state-wide) is unique, by watching this presentation you will learn a lot about what to expect in the study of any of the other 32 watershed organizations in the metro area, including the origin of watershed management, the different types of organizations, how watershed management is funded and much more.

If you are interested in participating in the Watershed Study, viewing this presentation is a great introduction to the topic.

The event recording can be viewed [HERE](#).

### **CMAL JOINS LWV MN**

The CMAL Board decided to become an affiliate under the LWV Minnesota corporate umbrella, which means that CMAL will become a wholly owned subsidiary, similar to the local leagues across the State.

The Board determined that this move has many benefits.

- CMAL will continue to operate as it has been, developing our own budget, programs, studies, positions and agenda.
- CMAL is now officially a 501c3 charitable organization, which allows federal tax-exemption for donations.
- CMAL will have general liability Insurance through LWVMN, which will provide liability insurance for Board members and provide certificates of insurance when renting venues.

At the CMAL Annual Meeting on May 11, 2024, a new set of bylaws incorporating these changes will be presented for delegate approval. The proposed new bylaws will be circulated to metro area LWV presidents and CMAL delegates in late March 2024.

Questions may be directed to Karen Schaffer, Chair at [schafferka@gmail.com](mailto:schafferka@gmail.com).

### **SAVE THE DATES**

March 16, 2024

Quarterly Meeting

May 11, 2024

Annual Meeting