



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
Board of Directors

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Karen Schaffer, Chair
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to Metro Area League Members & Friends

I hope that you will take a minute to read this Newsletter and share it with your friends and LWV members.

We at CMAL know that local Leagues are extremely busy with voter outreach activities and candidate forums during this election season.

At the October 30 Quarterly Meeting you can take a short break from election activities by joining our Zoom presentation on “**Post-Pandemic Demographic Trends**” in the State of Minnesota and the Metro Area.”

CMAL has not hosted an event on demographic trends since 2020, so this will be an opportunity to get caught up on this key information.

Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster at the Met Council, will present both State-wide and metro area data via Zoom at 6:30.

The CMAL watershed study continues. We held a second check-in meeting on August 21 and to date half of the 33 watershed studies have been submitted; more are underway. Check out the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Attached to this newsletter is a Flyer for the October Quarterly Meeting. We hope you will share it with your League as well as your friends who may be interested.

As always, let me know if you have questions or ideas for CMAL programs and have a great fall.

Warmly,
Karen

Karen Schaffer, Chair - Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

OCTOBER QUARTERLY MEETING - OCTOBER 30 - 6:30-8:00 PM

Todd Graham, the Principal Forecaster for the Metropolitan Council will present the **Post Pandemic Demographic Trends** for Minnesota, with a focus on the metropolitan area.

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

6:30-8:00 PM

Via Zoom:

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/86974938474?pwd=HbVY9w5hq5AS5yHdK4Kpczbg6m1gPi.1>

Meeting ID: 869 7493 8474 Passcode: 441505

Meeting Open to all LWV Members and the Public

NOTES FROM THE LWVUS CONVENTION

By Wes Volkenant, VP CMAL

Despite the chaotic nature of the hybrid Plenary Sessions of the 2024 LWVUS Convention from Washington, DC, business of the LWVUS was actually accomplished. Interestingly, electing the new President and Board, and adopting a Budget/setting the final PMP for local Leagues was the easiest work.

Workshops before and during the Convention were plentiful. Here are three that were very interesting.

➤ **"Addressing the Electoral College During a Presidential Election Year."**

This LWVUS Convention was about ending the Electoral College, focusing on the **National Popular Vote Compact**. In a short, pre-convention workshop members from LWV Princeton, NJ discussed means of subverting the current Electoral College.

- The best recommended resource shared was: <http://nationalpopularvote.com>.

➤ **2021 Study on the Local News: "Educating Members on the Study Process: From Inception to Position."**

The Washington State League (LWV WA) conducted this pre-convention workshop with the hopeful outcome that other leagues might consider taking on consensus studies.

The four broad areas of their 2021 study were:

- Program Planning
- Convening a Study Committee
- Consensus Process and
- Taking a Position

Their study process began at the local chapter level with guidance from the State level for resources and direction.

This process incorporated the following tools/strategies:

- Defining the scope of the study
- Having members complete a questionnaire
- Using the replies to present to the state convention for permission to embark on the study
- Using a committee approach for planning, data gathering, compiling the report/study, and developing consensus positions.
- Finalizing the consensus positions for approval

Additional Resources:

LWV Washington developed a nice resource page at: <https://lwvwa.org/2024Resources>.

LWV Texas is: "A Guide to League Study, Consensus and Concurrence." <https://www.lwvtexas.org/program-planning#gsc.tab=0>

➤ **"Election Observation: Protecting Voters and Democracy by Shining a Light on our Elections Processes"**

This presentation was not about the usual Observer Corps activities but referred to various types of election observation League members might engage in.

- Our job is to protect the right to vote!
- With this in mind the election monitoring process is NOT partisan poll-watching but is a process of monitoring the election process to help resolve eligible voters' issues and to make recommendations for improvement, to election officials.

The best resources are the LWVUS's "**No Time to Fail Screening Toolkit**" and "**Election Observer Toolkit**" found on [LWV US](#)

WATERSHED STUDY UPDATE

A second Zoom Watershed Update meeting was held on August 22. Approximately one third of the watershed surveys have been completed, with another third in process and the last third not yet started.

It appears that for the most part that the Watershed Organizations that have been surveyed have been receptive to the study and happy that we are bringing to light the great projects and work that they have been engaged in.

We realize that this is an extremely busy election season for all leagues and hope that following the election our leagues can get back on track to finish the surveys by the end of December. We are still hoping for the Study Report to be completed in time for the CMAL Annual Meeting in May.

In the meantime, if you have questions feel free to contact Peg at peg.dubord@gmail.com or Karen at schafferka@gmail.com.

PURE IOWA WATER

On July 28 I had the opportunity to attend an exhibition of "Pure Iowa Water" by Iowa artist Christine A. Curry.

The event held at Landmark Center in St. Paul, was hosted by LWV St. Paul, featured 3-dimensional art pieces celebrating (facetiously) Iowa's sparkling (actually dirty) waters of the Mississippi River.

We heard remarks from the artist herself as well as from Anna Eleria, Administrator of Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD).

It was energizing to see the connection between art and the science of clean water come together in Curry’s art and advocacy and the work of Capitol Region Watershed District and the Upper Mississippi River Region.

I also had the opportunity to network with respect to CMAL’s watershed study. Anna Eleria spoke positively about her interaction with LWV Roseville Area on the study of the CRWD.

I was happy to pose next to the “Pure Iowa Water” bottle with Christine Curry and LWV Roseville Area President Teresa Wernecke. I also had the opportunity to chat with LWV East Metro leaders Bea Owen (LWV St. Paul), Teresa Wernecke (LWV Roseville Area) and Jackie Reis (LWV White Bear Lake Area) about the CMAL watershed study.

Curry’s work is supported by the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region (UMRR) and the Mississippi River Network.



Karen Schaffer, ? ? & ?

?, Karen Schaffer & Christine Curry

NOTE TO CURRENT METRO LEAGUE LEADERSHIP - DELEGATE APPOINTMENT

It is important that CMAL has a list of the Delegates that will represent their league for CMAL. We want to keep in close contact with all who are involved/interested in what's happening at CMAL.

Metro League Leadership

1. Send the contact information for the President/Co President(s) for your league.
2. Send the contact information for the Delegates that will represent your league on CMAL
3. If there are any interested parties wishing to be included in the CMAL mailings, please email your contact information to CMAL at: lwvcml@lwvmn.org.

CMAL Calendar for 2024-2025

In response to the discussion held on at the Annual Meeting, the CMAL Board has decided on a new and different approach to the meeting schedule. We are switching the meetings to the 5th Wednesday of a month.

We hope that League members and presenters will like not meeting on Saturday.

Quarterly Meetings via Zoom

Wednesday October 30, 2024 6:30 p.m. Zoom - Post Pandemic Trends

Wednesday January 29, 2025 6:30 p.m. Zoom - program TBD

Annual Meeting

Wednesday April 30, 2025 6:30 p.m. In Person - location TBD