



**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  
Ardyth Norem, Vice Chair  
Holly Jenkins, Treasurer  
Marti Micks, Secretary

**Directors**

Joann Ellis  
Kate Redden  
Peg DuBord  
Thana Ross

**Letter from the Chair**

Thank you to the CMAL delegates, LWV local presidents, and additional LWV members who participated in the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual CMAL Convention on May 8, 2021. We certainly had some interesting insights into county government from our speakers, Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner and Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt. Some of their insights already have found their way into CMAL’s current study on county government. (See Mindy Greiling’s article on the study).

Welcome to our incoming CMAL Board members: Chair Karen Schaffer, Secretary Marti Micks, Directors Joann Ellis, Kate Redden and Peg DuBord. They join Vice Chair Ardyth Norem, Treasurer Holly Jenkins and Director Thana Ross, who were not up for election.

Special thanks to attendees who provided direction to the Board. We intend to follow up on these.

Have a safe, busy, and enjoyable summer.

Karen Schaffer  
CMAL Chair

**An Invitation to the Metropolitan League of Women Voters**

CMAL is a metro-wide organization. We produce three newsletters per year (February, July, and October) as well as sending our News & Updates as needed to inform our membership about upcoming events and information.

We would like to offer space in either our newsletter or updates for metro LWV chapters to highlight past achievements and milestones, such as: a recent study; insights into DEI strategies; recruiting successes; advocacy successes; new initiatives.

CMAL is not able to promote attendance at most future events. Rather we offer space for metro area LWVs to get to know each other and what is happening of interest in other metro leagues.

Send articles to Karen Schaffer at [schafferka@gmail.com](mailto:schafferka@gmail.com).

## CMAL County Government Study Committee – Mindy Greiling, Study Chair

CMAL members will be hard at work this summer and fall on a robust study of metro area county governments, the level of government sometimes called “invisible.” We seek to shine a light on their role and how county government works. We also hope to educate members about how to be more engaged.

Using a common questionnaire, teams are researching each county website with an eye towards how visibly and accountably each of the 7 metro counties operate, how they engage the public and how they relate to other levels of government. How much of this information is available and easily found on the websites will speak volumes. After websites are plumbed, each team will set up interviews, as needed, with county managers, other staff, and county commissioners to finish the questionnaire.

In early January, we will send the final report to members in preparation for the **January 15 CMAL quarterly meeting** that we hope will be in person, with food. Members will determine if our 1975 county position is still relevant or if it needs revision and if we need a consensus for best practices recommendations to counties. If so, local Leagues will hold consensus meetings during February and March.

Committee members: Chair Mindy Greiling (Roseville Area); Wes Volkenant (Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids); Dee Ann Christensen (Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids); Julie Trude (Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids); Peg DuBord (South Tonka); Holly Jenkins (Dakota County); Lisa Scribner (Roseville Area); Linda Krefting (Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove); Nikki Marie Coler (Bloomington); Maureen Scaglia (Richfield); Joann Ellis (St. Paul); Karen Schaffer (Roseville Area); Thana Ross (Dakota County); Heather Mockler (Woodbury); Amy Mino (St. Paul); Marti Micks (Golden Valley).

Additional committee members are welcome! If you'd like to join, contact Mindy Greiling at [mindygreiling@gmail.com](mailto:mindygreiling@gmail.com).

### CMAL 2021-2022 Program Schedule

#### DATES TO SAVE

- **October 16, 2021: 10:00 a.m.**  
Metro Area Water Management and Water Quality (Speakers TBD)
- **January 15, 2022: 10:00 a.m.**  
Delegates will discuss the CMAL County Study Report to decide whether consensus is needed
- **March 19, 2022: 10:00 a.m.**  
Met Council Livable Communities Act Grant Program  
Where the money comes from and who gets it? (Speakers TBD)
- **May 14, 2022: 10:00 a.m.**  
CMAL 2022 Annual Meeting

So far, we are planning to host these meetings via Zoom.

We value hearing from League members regarding a return to in-person meetings.

Let us know!