



**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

Greetings to local presidents, CMAL delegates, and all interested LWV members:

The County Government Study Committee is on schedule to produce its written report and proposed consensus questions in December 2021 that will potentially update our County Government Positions that has not been updated since 1975.

Led by Mindy Greiling (LWV Roseville Area), committee members have finalized their website research and interviews with county officials and staff and the writing team is folding the results into a written report for CMAL delegates to consider at the January 15, 2022, meeting held via Zoom.

Each LWV in the metro area is entitled to have one member for each 50 members are Delegates who attend this meeting to vote on whether some or all the proposed consensus questions should be put to a vote of the nineteen metro area Leagues during February and March 2022.

Board Highlights

Delegates requested that the CMAL Board share more information about CMAL Board activities, please see the Board Meeting Highlights located in this issue.

Metro Water Presentation

Together with LWV Woodbury/Cottage Grove area we produced “Protecting the Metro Area Water Supply” on October 16 with presentations from Lanya Ross and Paul Gardner. They are leaders with

respect to the protection of the water supply in the metro area and the State of Minnesota. Both would be well-positioned to help design a local program on water supply issues. For those of you who missed this excellent program, below are links to their presentations and contact information.

Empowering Students Through Youth Engagement

Featured article from LWV St. Paul on youth engagement follows on page two (2). If your league would like to spotlight an interesting program, please let us know.

CMAL has indeed been busy this fall!

Karen Schaffer
CMAL Chair

Board Meeting Highlights from June – September

- Joann Ellis (St. Paul) and Dick Ottman (White Bear Lake) were welcomed to the CMAL Board of Directors
- The following directions to the CMAL Board from members at the Annual Meeting will be implemented:
 - Amend Article II of Bylaws to add DEI wording, as adopted at National League Convention.
 - Post all CMAL events on the state league Events Calendar and send information to All Member News.
 - Include Board meeting highlights in CMAL newsletter.
 - Leagues who want to receive the complete minutes each month should contact Karen Schaffer at: Schafferka@gmail.com.
- CMAL Board agreed to co-sponsor LWVMN Climate Change Task Force event, “Twin Cities Metro is Bulging with Trash” and to send news blast to local presidents and CMAL delegates by Sept. 1, to publicize event.
- Newsletter schedule for 2021-2022 will be July 1, October 1, and February 1.
- Quarterly meetings will be Oct. 16, 2021, Jan. 15, 2022, and March 19, 2022.
- Annual Meeting will be May 14, 2022
- Board meetings will be 2nd Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.
- Dick Ottman volunteered to send out CMAL communications and email blasts.

Empowering Students Through Youth Engagement

Note: This article originally appeared in the February 2021 issue of The Voter, the bimonthly newsletter of LWV St. Paul.

Pop quiz: What’s the most effective way to encourage 18-year-olds to vote?

- A. Get middle-aged adults to tell them about the importance of voting
- B. Engage students to rally their peers on why and how to vote

It’s kind of a no-brainer, isn’t it?

The LWVSP Youth Vote team has been working “answer B” for three years. Under the guidance of Dan Krivit, the team has supported forty-eight student leaders who’ve registered hundreds of new voters at the St. Paul high schools.

Dan, who’s stepping down as Youth Vote chair, is very enthusiastic about the program.

“It’s taken a lot of time, but it’s a passion of mine,” says Dan. “It’s really cool to see students engaged and excited, reaching out to their peers, putting their own spin on things. They’re on the front lines of making positive change in our society. Dan and other LWVSP volunteers hatched the idea in early 2018.

After partnering with a Minnesota Secretary of State online voter registration effort that spring, the St. Paul team received its first funding from the U.S. League, which put Dan and his collaborators in touch with similar programs elsewhere in the country. Then the adult volunteers, established relationships with teachers, who identified candidates to become Youth Vote student leaders.

Each semester, beginning in fall 2018, a new cohort of students has received training to register their peers and launch projects about voting and civic life. “We decided to pay student leaders a minimal stipend,” said Dan. “That helps create a worker/employer relationship. It also makes it easier for recruitment.”

Youth Vote reaches beyond high schools, too. The team has engaged college students to support voter registration drives at Macalester College, University of St. Catherine, and University of St. Thomas. Macalester students helped train and support the high school student leaders.

Another offshoot was Youth Vote's 2018 Tour to the Polls, where volunteers accompanied students from the Focus Beyond program to the Ramsey County Elections office for same-day registration and early voting.

The LWVSP sees young voters as "under-served and underrepresented," and knows the value of getting them to vote as soon as they are first eligible. The Youth Vote Program cites research from Tufts University CIRCLE project indicating a simple barrier to 18-year-olds getting registered: No one has ever asked them or shown them how to vote. Eighteen- to 29-year-olds have typically had the lowest voter turnout of any age group.

"Some people accuse youth of being apathetic, and that's not the case," says Dan. "They don't understand if it's immediately relevant to them, and whether it will make a difference. Working through those discussions is a big part of the effort."

CMAL 2021-2022 Program Schedule

DATES TO SAVE

- **January 15, 2022: 10:00 a.m.**
Delegates will discuss the CMAL County Government 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!

Protecting Metro Water Contact Information & Presentations

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Note that the Met Council has received an award from the U.S. EPA for its water conservation program.

Click link for further information.

[Council earns national award for water conservation collaborations - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](http://metro council.org)