



**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

I extend a hearty Thank You to all who attended our January 15th Zoom meeting where Mindy Greiling rolled out the CMAL County Government Study and proposed consensus questions. With nearly 70 attendees, the discussion was lively and also very helpful in refining the consensus questions. Thanks, in particular to Mindy Greiling, Committee Chair, Marti Micks, Zoom Host, Peg DuBord, Report Editor and Julianne Johnston, PowerPoint Contributor.

The final documents for the CMAL County Government Study have been posted at LWVMN.org – [Study](#). There you will find the January 2022 Report, Final Consensus Questions, Tally Sheet, and the Mail-In Ballot. These documents have also been emailed to the local league presidents and delegates.

Schedule for Consensus Finalization:

- February & March: Local Consensus Meetings to be held
- April 8th: Deadline to submit Consensus Tally Sheets
- April 9th: CMAL Board to evaluate the Tally Sheets & Ballots
- May 14th: CMAL Delegates consider Position Revisions
- May 15th: CMAL will issue a Press Release as appropriate to County Boards and County Government Interviewees

The county government study has been an amazing adventure. My hat is off to the hard-working study committee members and the county government interviewees. All names are listed in the final Report.

I'd like to thank Thana Ross, Peg DuBord and Joann Ellis for their warm remarks on January 15th about serving on the CMAL Board. Speaking for myself, it's not only fun to work on interesting regional issues, but also an endless source of enjoyment to meet and work with League members from across the metro, people whom I would have never otherwise even met. It's also deepened my appreciation of the League values of research, discussion, and consensus.

And a final thanks to the LWV Edina for submitting an article on their racial justice initiative. We are happy to publish it! If your LWV would like an opportunity to submit an article on a subject that is of interest to other Leagues, please let me know.

Regards,
Karen Schaffer
CMAL Chair

Board Meeting Highlights – October to February

- The CMAL Board reviewed the County Study update committee’s proposed consensus questions, which will be presented to the CMAL delegates at the January Quarterly Meeting for their input.
- Discussed what information will go in the February newsletter. LWV-Edina will give the local league highlight report.
- Planned the March 19, 2022, Quarterly Meeting on Livable Community Grants, with Tara Beard, Manager of Metropolitan Council Livable Communities as speaker. Possibly another speaker will speak to the impact of being a recipient community of a Livable Community grant.

LWV Edina Efforts to End Racism

Colleen Feige, President

LWV Edina

May 2020 brought much attention to racial issues in the Twin Cities and beyond.

In response to the racial issues, the LWV Edina stepped up and established a new goal for our organization. This goal simply stated was:

“To advocate and participate in local action to eradicate discrimination and systemic racism.”

That was only the beginning of our journey.

LWV Edina established a **Racial Justice Action Committee (RJAC)** with three subcommittees

- LWV and Race - Past, Present, Future
- Voting Rights is a Racial Justice Issue; and
- Learning and Unlearning: The History of Whiteness and Racism.

We realized that ACTION is necessary to move toward this goal.

To that end, in February 2021 our members approved a study to review our social institutions in Edina for an in-depth review of our racial diversity, equity and inclusion issues, which we hoped would lead to the development of best practices for our city. We initially hoped the study would be completed before our Annual Meeting in May 2022, but we realized that our issues were more complicated, and the study will not be finalized until 2023.

The League and RJAC is taking action to educate ourselves and community members to understand what exactly racial justice is.

To help in this education we have:

- Reviewed films such as **Jim Crow of the North**;
- Read and held discussions on books such as: **Caste** and **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You**

- Had a Guest Column written for our local newspaper
- Held Events on such topics as:
 - Voting Rights and Indigenous Peoples**
 - Voting Rights and Felon Disenfranchisement**

Still, this is only the beginning.

What we have learned so far.

- The importance of Partnerships
 - We have partnered with the Edina Community Foundation and the Edina Anti-Racism Collaborative.
 - These partnerships have been essential in helping our members learn and understand how racial injustice affects individuals and our community.
- There is no “recipe” for the eradication of discrimination and systemic racism.

As John Lewis once said, “When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something.”

I encourage everyone to do something to make our democracy work for all – Colleen.

CMAL 2021-2022 Program Schedule

DATES TO SAVE

- **March 19, 2022: 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)**
Met Council Livable Communities Act Grant Program
 - Tara Beard, Program Manager - Metropolitan Council Livable Communities
 - Local municipal official (invited)

Program will help us understand: Where the money comes from, how the funds are spent and whether the grants have been effective. Did your city receive one? Let us know what you think.
- **May 14, 2022: 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)**
CMAL 2022 Annual Meeting

Do you have ideas for the CMAL 2022-2023 Program?
 Should we undertake another study? Host interesting educational programs? Evaluate a current position?
 Let Karen Schaffer know what you are thinking! Contact her at: schafferka@gmail.com
- Interested in a position on the CMAL Board?
 Feel free to contact the following Board members if you are interested and need to talk about what we do.
 - ✓ Thana Ross – LWV Dakota County: thana.ross@gmail.com
 - ✓ Peg DuBord – LWV South Tonka: peg.dubord@gmail.com
 - ✓ Joann Ellis – LWV St. Paul: eastsidemom16@hotmail.com