



## 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

Susan Anderson  
Kate Redden  
Peg DuBord  
Thana Ross

## Letter from the Chair

### Virtual CMAL Board Election

I extend a hearty thank you to the 14 LWV members from 13 LWV chapters who participated in our virtual CMAL Board election this summer.

The election of Officers/Directors resulted in the following two-year (2020-2022) terms.

**Ardyth Norem** (Wayzata/Plymouth) – Vice Chair

**Holly Jenkins** (Dakota County) – Treasurer

**Susan Anderson** (Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapid) – Director#1

**Thana Ross** (Dakota County) – Director #4

Many thanks for your willingness to serve on the CMAL Board!

- Karen Schaffer, CMAL Chair

## Blue Ribbon Committee on the Metropolitan Council

In August, Governor Tim Waltz announced the establishment of a nonpartisan committee to study and evaluate the governance structure of the Metropolitan Council.

Among other things, this committee will study the “role of elected versus appointed Metropolitan Council members,” precisely the topic of CMAL’s 2018-2019 study and consensus. I am proud that CMAL’s study was so timely and on point. Thanks again to the members of the study committee and to all members who participated in the consensus process.

The committee’s first meeting was September 14 and it will meet every other Monday. A report to the Governor is due December 31, 2020. The October 26 the meeting will be devoted to testimony from interested third parties, such as the Citizens League, Legislative Auditor and other groups who have been promoting various Metropolitan Council reforms. We are waiting to hear if Committee Chair

Mary Liz Holberg, who is a Dakota County Commissioner will grant CMAL’s request to present the findings from our 2018-2019 study. For more information on the Blue Ribbon Committee, click [here](#).

## Study on County Government - Update

In January 2020 CMAL delegates voted to undertake a comparative study of the seven metro area county governments, to determine whether CMAL’s position on county government should be updated. This committee began meeting in late summer and will focus on comparing the transparency and accountability of each of the seven metropolitan county governments in the following areas:

### Communication:

- How do counties communicate with their citizens?
- Is adequate notice given to ensure citizens can fully participate in meetings?
- Are citizens able to provide input into county decisions, such as budget and citizen appointments??
- What is the public information system used by each county to provide public access to meetings of its County board and advisory committees?
- Is there a regular communication process between the county and its municipalities and other levels of government?

### The Committee will also look at:

- How the Metropolitan Council intersects with the seven metropolitan counties and the transparency of its policy-making process.
- Whether the counties are given opportunity for input in the initial planning and policy-making stages of Metropolitan Council decisions for which counties must implement.

If you want to learn more, it's not too late to join our committee. Our meetings are virtual and much of the work can be done online. If you are interested in county government, want to learn more or participate in the study, contact Karen Schaffer at [schafferka@gmail.com](mailto:schafferka@gmail.com) or call 651-636-7359.

## Following the Money –

### How the Regional Park System Works & How to Get Involved

#### Join CMAL in our 1st Virtual Meeting!

On Saturday, October 17 from 10-11:30AM join our virtual Zoom meeting devoted to the Regional Park System.

**All LWV Members are invited to attend, so please share with your league!**

#### Speakers will be:

**Emmitt Mullin**, Manager of the Met Council Regional Parks and Natural Resources

- Mullin will focus on where the money for Regional Parks comes from and the impact of the newly passed federal Land Conservation Act.
- He will also cover the financial structure, land acquisition, capital operations and maintenance, as well as how costs not fully funded by Legislature are covered and who really runs the parks.

**Holly Jenkins**, Founder/CEO of Wilderness in the City

- Jenkins will focus on how citizens can get involved in the regional park system and natural resource preservation

#### RSVP for Zoom Entrance:

Please RSVP to Marti Micks [MarthaAL60@msn.com](mailto:MarthaAL60@msn.com) If you plan on attending – a Zoom invitation is needed

**\*\*Flyer is attached if you want to print and share!**

## Metropolitan Council - Draft Parks Plan

The Met Council is seeking input from residents across the region for their views regarding the Regional Parks System. This plan outlines the future of the 55,000 acres of parks and 44 miles of regional trails.

They are specifically looking for input on:

- Adding parks and trails
- Equitable access to the parks
- Reconsidering history of the land
- Environment, climate, and the parks
- What your “dream” of the parks and trails would be

**For more information click [here](#)**

## Save the Date!

### CMAL Meeting on County Government

Saturday

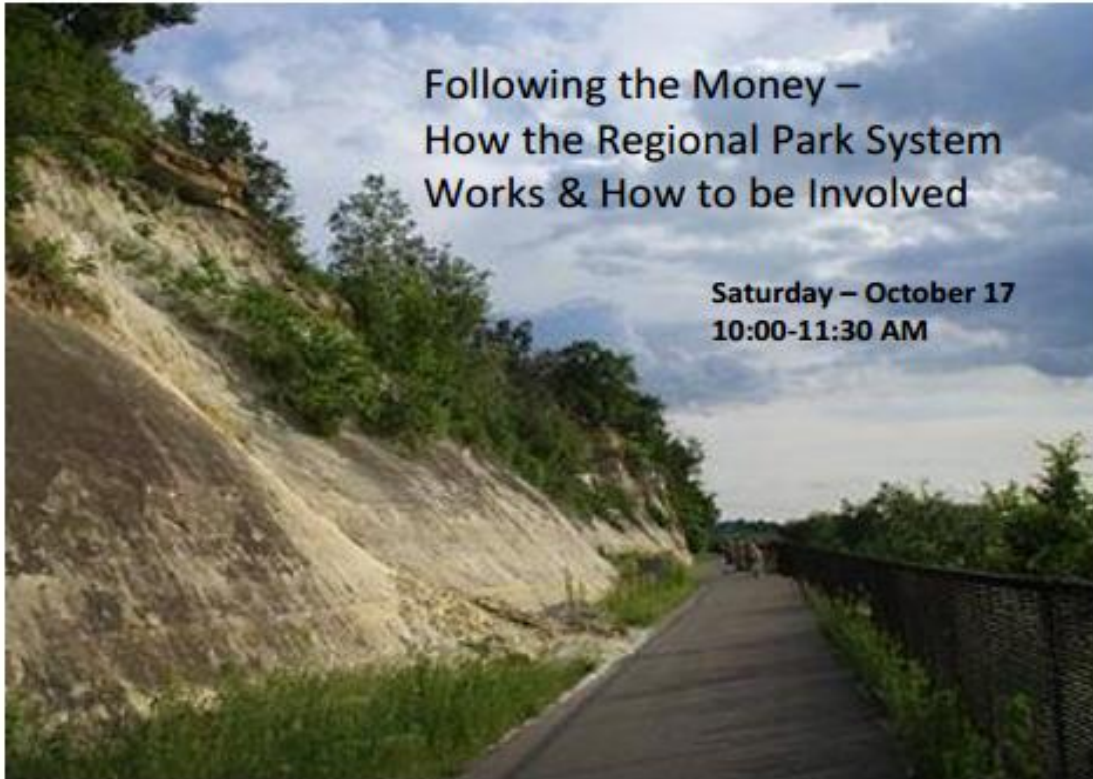
January 9, 2021

10:00 am-11:30 am (on ZOOM)

- Join us to hear a panel of county officials discuss the latest developments in county government:
- Panel discussion will be followed by Q & A with the audience.

**Join the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues  
in our 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Meeting – Via Zoom**

**All LWV Members are Invited to Attend**



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