



# The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County, MO

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME & ORIENTATION JANUARY 7

All new members and other interested members are invited to a New Member Welcome and Orientation on January 7 at 10 am to learn more about your local LWW and how it links with the state and national level Leagues. Learn about how your membership supports actions at all three levels to educate voters, monitor legislation, and take action on important public policy issues.

If you are interested in becoming more involved, this Member Welcome can also help you find your niche in our League. You will learn how to sign up for legislative alerts and take action from your computer. Many of our members have a particular issue they are passionate about and use the LWWUS resources to do research, monitor legislative action on national or state levels, and find ways to make an impact. Others have time to serve on committees to help plan programs and actions and conduct the work of our local League.

Many of us use the League to become better citizens by reading our newsletter, attending our

programs and forums, and supporting the work of the League. The

League's power is in its membership locally, state-wide, and nationally!!

For 100 years, members have found that involvement in the League has led them to a better understanding of public policy issues and helped them be more active citizens. Many of us have found personal growth in working with other League members interested in public policy. At the same time, we have sharpened our skills in leadership, management, communication, and public speaking.

A Zoom invitation will be sent to members before the event. If you are interested but unable to attend, please contact Meredith Donaldson, [mjdonsn@gmail.com](mailto:mjdonsn@gmail.com), 573-289-3018, as she plans to arrange another Welcome in February.

— Meredith Donaldson, Chair  
Membership Committee



## JANUARY 10 LUNCH & LEARN: BOONE COUNTY COMMUNITY AGAINST VIOLENCE

Join us on Tuesday, January 10th, for our Lunch & Learn Program at noon on Zoom, featuring Shaunda Hamilton from Boone County Community Against Violence. She will share what this organization is doing to reduce violence in our community and how you can help. Register [here](#) or on the library website for a Zoom link.

Coming up on February 14th, Carol Amparan, Sierra Club Chair, will discuss the crucial issue of Climate Change and how we can successfully achieve 100% renewable energy locally by 2030.

Thanks to Anthony Simones from the Missouri Bar Civic Education Committee, who discussed the Role of Judges and What they Do at our December Lunch & Learn Program. He shared an interesting and interactive case study and also took questions. If you missed it, you can watch this and previous programs on our website at [lwwcbc.org](http://lwwcbc.org)

As always, thanks to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library, who co-sponsor these programs.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair  
Lunch & Learn Committee



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2023 ARE NOW DUE**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone! We hope the coming year is better than the last: that voting becomes easier, not more difficult, especially for the most disadvantaged; that immigrants are welcomed and treated with warmth and respect and that immigration reform is addressed; and that climate change, which threatens all life and everyone's future, is adequately addressed. We have many hopes, but they all depend on commitment and action.

Our Democracy is fragile and must be tended to, supported, and revived if it is to survive and thrive. The ideals and foundation of Democracy have always been strengthened and rekindled by immigrants, who often value and appreciate the fundamentals of Democracy even more than many U.S.-born citizens. Most of our ancestors came to the U.S. to escape persecution, famine, and strife, looking for a land of opportunity and freedom. We must remember that and continually work to keep their hopes and dreams alive for all.

On a different but related note, if you have yet to go to Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, Arkansas, you must go there. It is a magnificent world-class art museum funded by Alice Walton, with beautiful, extensive outdoor grounds and trails. It has many wonderful permanent and new exhibits and an excellent Speakers Series. We spent two days there between Christmas and New Year's Day and saw the exhibit "We the People: The Radical Notion of Democracy," which ends on January 2. Included in the Exhibit is the official first edition of the 1787 U.S. Constitution by John Dunlap and David Claypoole, printers, as well as an original 1823 engraving by William J. Stone of the Declaration of Independence and an early copy of the Bill of Rights, one with the originally proposed 17 amendments and one with the final 14 amendments.

A highlight for us was the related speaker series which featured Liz Cheney, who flew straight from the last January 6 U.S. House Committee Meeting to address a sold-out crowd that same day. We had the good fortune of listening to her live on the Crystal Bridges website. She was very knowledgeable, inspiring, and insightful. Fortunately, her talk was recorded, and you can view her talk at the

Crystal Bridges Museum website: <https://crystalbridges.org/calendar/wtp-liz-cheney/>. You can also listen to Hillary Clinton, who spoke at Crystal Bridges a week or two before and was very well-informed and thoughtful: <https://crystalbridges.org/calendar/nov-30-evening-talk-hillary-clinton/>. Both are well worth listening to for content and inspiration.

On a different note, I also want to say Congratulations to our Education Committee!!! And in particular, Zona Burk, Chair, and all those who helped her launch our first-ever youth page on our website for the New Year. The link to view it is: <https://lwvcbc.org/young-voters/>.

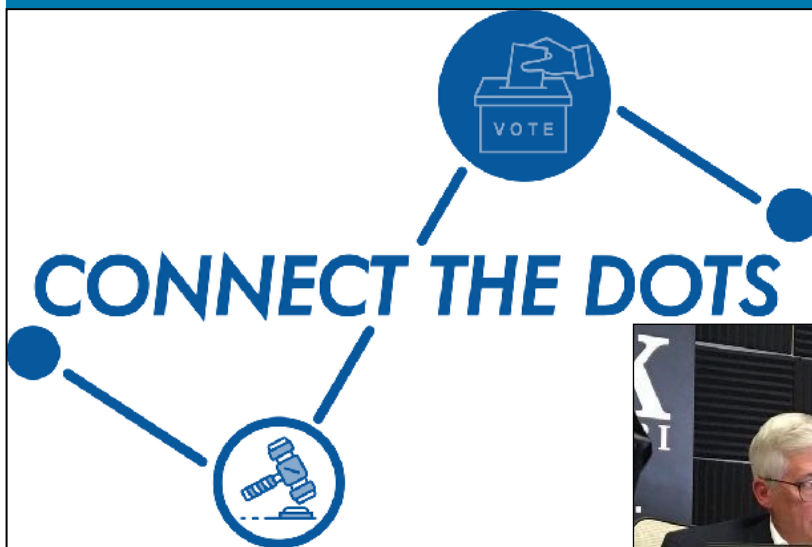
Please share it with young people and others you know who interact with young adults. They are our future. We need them informed, knowledgeable and active if Democracy is to survive and thrive.

Happy New Year to all!

— Barbara Hoppe, President  
[yesforparks@hotmail.com](mailto:yesforparks@hotmail.com)



Barbara Hoppe presented the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award to Mel and Barbara West. See page 5.



**For our first project in the LWVCBC “Connect the Dots . . .” informational video series,** we interviewed our Boone County state representatives and senator in Mid-December, prior to the 2023 session. Each of them kindly agreed to share their time with us, and David Lile graciously agreed to moderate. The interviews were done at the REDI studio, and are about 10 minutes in length.

These recordings will acquaint you with our local legislators and highlight the issues each will focus on in 2023. The League will share legislative updates during the upcoming session. We hope you will keep up with the issues and take the time to contact your representative and senator to share your thoughts.

Below is a list of the legislators with links to the interviews on our YouTube channel. You can also access them on our webpage, [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org). For the best audio, use the speaker symbol/button on your device to increase the sound to maximum volume.

#### **Boone County House Representatives**

Cheri Toalson Reisch, District 44 <https://youtu.be/-Rqigs3wBpc>

Kathy Steinhoff, District 45 <https://youtu.be/HQ2bn1UEEDU>

David Tyson Smith, District 46 <https://youtu.be/e3Qoj7ad68U>

Adrian Plank, District 47 <https://youtu.be/LOe-iHsLuOE>

Doug Mann, District 50 <https://youtu.be/LOe-iHsLuOE>

#### **Boone County Senator**

Caleb Rowden <https://youtu.be/MEjOEVvVzF8>

#### **Our Request of You—**

These interviews are the first project in our LWV-CBC “Connect the Dots . . .” series, and creating them has been a learning process. After listening, please share your ideas with us. What would you like to learn more about in our community? Let us know your ideas on topics/issues and format. If you would like to work on this project, please let us know. To provide feedback, email [sharon@schneeberger.net](mailto:sharon@schneeberger.net). We look forward to hearing from you.

— Carol Schreiber, Diane Suhler, and Sharon Schneeberger



## A MEMORABLE FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION



Verna Laboy portrayed the celebrated cook and businesswoman, Annie Fisher. She displayed a biscuit machine like Fisher used and told about her life.

Our December 11 Founders Day Celebration in the Friends Room of the Library was delightful, refreshing, enjoyable, and well-attended. About 45 members gathered in person to celebrate the Founding of our local League 103 years ago! (Last year and the year before, we celebrated Founders Day virtually on Zoom.)

We enjoyed savory and sweet mini biscuits from Ozark Mountain Biscuit Co., as well as tea, coffee, and cookies as Verna Laboy entertained and educated us about the amazing and accomplished life of Annie Fisher.

Annie Fisher was a consummate cook, caterer, and businesswoman. She was born on December 3, 1867, in Boone County, Missouri, the daughter of the formerly enslaved Robert and Charlotte Knowles. From an early age, Annie worked to help support her family. She attended school when possible but did not complete her education.

In 1904 the Louisiana Purchase Exposition was held in St. Louis. Annie Fisher entered her beaten biscuits and reportedly won a gold medal. She worked as a cook for the George Bingham Rollins family in Columbia and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Missouri before starting her own catering business. People fell in love with her country ham and beaten biscuits. She catered events of all sizes and owned enough silver, linen, and china for one thousand place settings. Former Columbia residents living in New York, (Cont'd on next pg)



At the December 11 Founder's Day Celebration at the Columbia Public Library, Verna Laboy entertained and educated the group about the amazing life of Annie Fisher. The daughter of former slaves, Fisher was a successful cook, caterer, and businesswoman and lived in Boone County.

## A MEMORABLE FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

(Cont'd from pg 4) Denver, and Los Angeles placed orders for her biscuits and fruit cake.

Verna Laboy displayed a biscuit machine like the one Annie Fisher used and shared words of wisdom from Annie Fisher's life that are relevant and applicable today. You can learn more about Annie Fisher's accomplishments and amazing life by going to: <https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/annie-fisher>.

### Outstanding Citizen of the Year

The Outstanding Citizen of the Year award was given to Mel and Barbara West, founders of Mobility Worldwide, which supplies wheeled carts for disabled persons in developing nations, the Festival of Sharing project, and the Fun City Youth Academy. Although in their 90s, they continue to be deeply committed and involved in those organizations.

Diane Suhler spoke about why she nominated the Wests for this award. (Her statement follows this article.) Mel West accepted the award and told us about those organizations' history and continued work.

### The Liz Schmidt Community Service Award

The Liz Schmidt Community Service Award was presented to City of Refuge for their outstanding work with Immigrants and Refugees in our Community. It was accepted by Stephanie Nichols, City of Refuge's Head of Community Engagement. City of Refuge is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to help refugees recover and regain control of their lives.

As persecution increases and people become more divided, it is urgent for our city to join together and stand for those in need. Over the past few years, thousands of women, children,



President Barbara Hoppe poses with awardees Stephanie Nichols and Mel West. Stephanie Nichols, Head of Community Engagement for City of Refuge, accepted the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award on behalf of the organization.

and men from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East have fled conflict and disaster, seeking a place to survive and recover in our community. Many do not speak English and arrive with only a few pieces of clothing and very little money. City of Refuge serves them by helping with their immediate needs, building relationships over time, and helping them acclimate to the Mid-Missouri area.

Short video snippets and more photos of our Founders Day Event can be found on our website at [lwwcbc.org](http://lwwcbc.org). Much thanks to Marilyn McLeod, Pam Springsteel, and Elaine Blodgett for helping me plan and set up this event

— Barbara Hoppe, President  
LWVCBC

## LWV OUTSTANDING CITIZENS FOR 2022: MEL AND BARBARA WEST

I have taught economics for many years and one of my favorite stories to share with students concerns the factors that led to the explosion in international trade since the 1950s. When asked, most people think the primary factors leading to increased trade have been very dramatic events—the development of the internet, new global tariff agreements, and

technology increasing the speed of travel and communication. No doubt, all of these events have been factors. However, overlooked is a simple, unassuming invention that changed the face of international trade — The "Box!" Container shipping has allowed goods to be loaded into a container and onto a ship at a point of origin and never (Cont'd on next page)

## LWV OUTSTANDING CITIZENS FOR 2022: MEL AND BARBARA WEST

(Cont'd from pg 5) leave this container until ready to be unloaded at some final point of use. The container is often called the 'Humble Hero' of international trade—it has revolutionized international trade, but few among us are aware of its impact.

We have two 'Humble Heroes' in our midst who we are honoring today—Mel and Barbara West. They are a husband and wife team who has worked tirelessly for decades to improve the lives of those on the margins of society, but who have done so with no fanfare and no drum rolls. They have enormously impacted the lives of so many in a quiet and unassuming way. A brief look at some of their work will help us to understand their enormous impact.

Within Columbia, Mel and Barbara are perhaps best known as the founders of Mobility Worldwide, which supplies wheeled carts for disabled persons in developing nations. Mobility Worldwide is primarily a volunteer-based organization operating in 24 locations throughout the United States that makes hand crank wheelchairs for people around the world. The impact of these simple devices cannot be overstated. To quote Reverend West: "It is a life-changing thing to see a person who is literally crawling on the ground, disabled by polio, birth defects, war amputation, land mine injury, to all of a sudden have mobility."



However, Mobility Worldwide is just the culmination of the many projects Reverend and Mrs. West have spearheaded. Many of us are familiar with Fun City Youth Academy. This organization was founded in 1970 at the grassroots level by Rev. and Mrs. West, Wynna Faye Elbert, and Beulah Ralph, with a mission to help keep inner-city youth from hanging out in the streets and getting into trouble. The program has grown over the years and continues to serve youth throughout our community—giving

them activities and mentoring so important for their lives. Some of the funding for Fun City comes from City commissions which I serve on. These commissions consistently rate Fun City as one of the most impactful organizations in our community.



Reverend and Mrs. West started the Festival of Sharing project in the 1980s. This is a collaborative effort among faith groups and other entities to respond to poverty and hunger in Missouri and throughout the world. Groups from across Missouri create gifts and kits to distribute to those in need free of charge. These include Personal Hygiene Packs, Family Food Boxes, Student Packs, Baby Bundle Packs, Reading and Writing Packs, and Women's Prison Packs, to name only a few. The monetary value of these donations is in the millions; the emotional and psychic value is immeasurable.

The list continues . . . We are all familiar with Habitat for Humanity. Barbara and Mel helped start Habitat for Humanity in Columbia and the surrounding counties. They were also instrumental in creating Koinonia House, a lodging place for low-income persons with family members in the hospital.

There can be no doubt that this 'duo' has positively impacted our world. Before concluding, I would like to share one small way in which I have been personally impacted by Reverend and Mrs. West. One day I was talking with Mel and he looked down (Cont'd on pg 10)



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES — WEBSITE ACTIVE, GEARING UP TO REGISTER, YOUR HELP NEEDED!

The **YOUNG VOTER WEB SITE** is active! To view the site, visit the LWVCBC home page and click the Young Voters icon. Many thanks to Brooke Omar and Marilyn McLeod for their work! Education Committee members will be back in the high schools in January to promote the website. Business cards, stickers, and posters are being designed to give to students.

### YOUNG VOTER PROMOTION DESIGN

Below is the first design that the Education Committee will use to direct high school students to the new website. It will be a sticker for the backs of cell phones and used on cards and posters. This was created by committee member Terryonna Samuels-Nunnally and reviewed by Board and Committee members.



### APRIL ELECTIONS

We will register high school students in late February and early March in preparation for the April elections and Get Out The Vote (GOTV) promotions in late March and early April. Ene-Kava Chippendale has plans to engage students in the April School Board elections, with in-person, website, and other activities.

### HELP WANTED

We need League volunteers to help at the schools. We will also engage students as helpers. Please contact Zona Burk if you can assist at [z.burk@mchsi.com](mailto:z.burk@mchsi.com).

**STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP** Linda Headrick is working with Douglass High School faculty and students to get input on GOTV and grow relationships with the students. Douglass is a great model for testing LWVCBC and Education Committee ideas. Susie Adams has also recruited students at Battle High School.

— Zona Sharp-Burk, Chair  
Education Committee

**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY**  
EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

HOME ABOUT JOIN CALENDAR DONATE ELECTIONS ISSUES NEWSLETTER VOTER INFO VIDEOS

**JOIN THE LEAGUE**  
Helping the League of Women Voters is very important because it's a part of an organization with a 100-year history of Making Democracy Work.  
Click here to join today!

**LWV PHOTOS**  
Joni O'Donnell and Judy Muddick

**Young Voters**  
**KABOOM!**  
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**More than 8 Million Youth**  
**are newly eligible voters in 2022.**

**LWV**  
 > LWV402  
 > LWV NC (state organization)  
 > LWV ST. LOUIS  
 > LWV415 (national organization)  
 > Vote 411 Log

**RECENTLY TWEETED**  
 RT @LWVSTL: 15\_CSR\_30\_200\_013.pdf (mchsi.com)  
 Contains are sources of knowledge into necessary for informed, active citizens...  
 @LWVSTL  
 RT @LWVSTL: Almost every interview I did pre-election I was asked about poll's that said abortion was no longer a priority for voters...  
 @LWVSTL  
 RT @LWVSTL: This map is very revealing...  
 @LWVSTL  
 Follow @LWV402

**New Voters Can Decide Elections—If Campaigns Reach Them!**  
Young people who have turned 18 since the 2020 election are a sizable group that is disengaged from the electoral and can have a decisive impact. In Spring 2022, members of the League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County interacted with about 400 high school students in Columbia Public Schools. Responding students recommended the League create a web page dedicated to—and for—young people.

**This is a space for young people to be Creators of Voting Information and Consumers of existing information.**  
 • Learn about voting and how to register to vote  
 • Learn about issues and elections  
 • Offer comments to other young people about voting  
 • Contribute to knowledge about issues  
 • Interact with others

**VOTING**  
 Register to Vote Here!  
 Learn about Voting in Columbia/Boone County

**Issues Students Said Would Bring Them To Vote:**  
 Abortion  
 Gender Equity (LGBTQ)  
 Economics/Student Debt  
 Climate Change  
 Health Care  
 Safety/Gun Control/Bullying  
 Workers' Rights/Workplace Safety  
 Racial Equality/Racism/Profiling  
 Civil Liberties/Rights

**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY**  
EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

In Spring 2022, members of the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County interacted with about 400 high school students in Columbia Public Schools. The bar chart shows what these students identified as the issues most important to them.

**VOTE TO BE HEARD**



## Upcoming League Events!



JANUARY 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JAN 1	2	3	4 LWV on Paul Pepper Show KBIA 8:50 am	5	6	7 New Member Welcome 10am Zoom
8	9	10 Lunch & Learn Boone County Community Against Violence Zoom at Noon	11	12	13	14
15	16 LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	17 Luella Committee Mtg 1:30 pm Zoom	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

## COLUMBIA ELECTRIC UTILITY UPDATE

Columbia is moving toward 100% renewable energy, hopefully by 2030. That will result in a huge (more than a third) reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) production in Columbia.

The best thing individuals can do to help reduce GHG is to go all-electric in their homes. A major portion of a typical gas bill is for winter heating, often 80% or more of the annual total. Mini-split air-source heat pumps use less than half as much energy as a gas furnace because they extract heat from the outside air and move that heat into the house. The remainder of your gas is used for heating water and cooking. When that is all you are doing, the base rate is the majority of the bill, over \$160 annually.

Before you install a heat pump, learn about how you can benefit from rebates and special billing rates from the city: <https://www.como.gov/utilities/columbia-power-partners/residential->

[programs-and-tools/air-conditioner-and-heat-pump-incentives/](#). Columbia Water & Light also offers low-interest loans for many residential improvements that improve energy efficiency. You need to contact them before you begin the process; see <https://www.como.gov/utilities/columbia-power-partners/residential-programs-and-tools/home-performance-rebates-and-loans/>

There are other things you can do to reduce GHG production. An electric car is a good idea, but most of us will only replace a car when we need a new car. Then you should get an electric vehicle. Fuel is under 4 cents per mile, \$8 for a 200-mile gas tank. Another good idea is putting solar panels on your home.

— Dick Parker  
Energy & Climate Committee



# RENEW MEMBERSHIP NOW WITH THIS FORM OR ONLINE

## LWV Officers:

President: Barbara Hoppe  
(424-9668)  
1st VP: Mahree Skala (474-2195)  
2nd VP: Sharon Schneeberger  
(443-4605)  
Secretary: Carol Schreiber  
(657-0639)  
Treasurer: Elaine Martin

## Elected Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)  
Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)  
Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)  
Linda Headrick  
Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)  
Rene Powell (864-4087)  
Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
Pam Springsteel (445-0642)  
Diane Suhler (443-0549)

## Appointed Directors:

Dick Parker (256-4397)  
Zainab Jasim  
Terryonna Samuels

## Committee Chairs:

Budget:  
Civil Liberties: Pam Springsteel  
Education: Zona Burk  
Energy & Climate: Barbara Hoppe  
& Sharon Schneeberger, Co-chairs  
ERA: Susan Koenig  
Fundraising: Open  
Health: Mahree Skala  
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel  
Luella Committee: Pam Springsteel  
Lunch & Learn: Barbara Hoppe  
Membership: Meredith Donaldson  
Mental Health: Mahree Skala  
Speakers Bureau: Open  
Voter Registration: Linda Smith  
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

**The Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

Local Website: [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org)  
State: [lwvmisouri.org](http://lwvmisouri.org)  
National: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org)

Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

## MEMBER NEWS

**We have 159 new and renewed members  
which means that 43 members have yet to renew for 2023!!**

### Welcome to New Members:

Elizabeth Allen/Restrepo  
Beth Hastings  
Ann Mericle (welcome back)

## 2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM

**League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County**

### COME AND JOIN US!

**Simply fill out the form and mail to the address below**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

First Time Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues include local, state and national membership. **\*We invite you to add an additional \$23 for 2023 to support the work of our League.**

Individual Dues \$65 \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\$88** \_\_\_\_\_

Household Dues \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\$123** \_\_\_\_\_

New member 30 years of age and under. \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Student Dues (Ages 16 to 25; Enrolled FT/PT) \$FREE \_\_\_\_\_

Subsidized Dues (for members on limited income) \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to subsidize dues for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

members who cannot afford membership rates.

General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to LWV and mail to:**

League of Women Voters  
PO Box 239  
Columbia, MO 65205

Newsletters are sent via email. If you need a paper copy, please check here \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Donation to LWVCBC Education Fund \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible. Please include a separate check payable to LWVEF-MO704**



JANUARY 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

## LWV OUTSTANDING CITIZENS FOR 2022: MEL AND BARBARA WEST

(Cont'd from pg 6) at his shoes. They were a bit worn—they had certainly seen some better days. He said he thought about buying a second pair of shoes but ultimately decided that the \$50 could be better spent for someone in need. Since then, I can never buy a new pair of shoes without looking down at my current pair and wondering whether or not this is the best use of funds.

Mel and Barbara are both in their 90s but continue to work to improve the lot of all. They have had seismic impacts on our local community and the community at large but have done so in a quiet and unassuming way. It is a great honor to introduce the recipients of the 2022 LWV Citizens of the Year award -- our 'Humble Heroes' – Mel and Barbara West.

— Diane Suhler  
LWVCBC Board



Mel and Barbara West received the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.