

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

September 2024

Saturday, September 7th – 11:30am – 2:30pm

The Annual Summer Picnic!

Melton Lake Pavilion (697 Melton Lake Dr, Oak Ridge, TN 37830)

The Women's Club and the Anderson County Democratic Party welcome the fall election season with our annual picnic.

Enjoy some hot dogs, yummy sides, and a fun day. The Club is providing grilled hot dogs (with all the fixings), drinks, and the plates/utensils.

Please add to the festivities with a potluck side or dessert. (Remember to bring the serving utensil.)

This is a great opportunity to meet the Democratic candidates who will be on the November 5th ballot!

The picnic area is covered, so come rain or shine we'll still have fun.

Future ACDWC Events

September 10th – Anne Backus fundraiser at the 201 Café and Wine Bar (201 Jackson Square, Oak Ridge), 5:00 to 7:00pm. Let's support Anne Backus' run for Tennessee State House District 33. There will be live music from "The Missing Goats", hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar. Suggested donation \$50 each. If you can't attend feel free to donate. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/septacdwcfundraiser>

September 27th -- Jack Allen fundraiser at the Museum of Appalachia (2819 Andersonville Hwy, Clinton), 5:00 to 7:00 pm. There will be music, food, and time to get to know why Jack is the right person to send to the US Congress. Tickets start at \$100. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/nightwithjack>

Other Events

September 26th 8:00pm – League of Women Voters is sponsoring an online webinar on preventing book banning. Hear from organizations on the front line as they help us understand what libraries and school boards are facing: PEN America, ALA Unite Against Book Bans, and a Blount County, Tennessee School Board member. Register at: <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>

Upcoming Public Meetings: View meeting schedules for [Oak Ridge](#) and [Anderson County](#).
City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm 2nd Monday of month, Municipal Building Courtroom

Municipal Planning Commission, 5:30 pm 3rd Thursday of month, Oak Ridge Municipal Courtroom
Traffic Safety Advisory Board, 7 pm 3rd Monday of month, Central Services Complex Conf Room
Disability Advisory Board, 11 am 3rd Monday of Month, Senior Center
Land Bank Board of Directors, 8:30 am 3rd Tuesday of month, Municipal Building Courtroom
Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, 7 pm 2nd Thursday of month, Civic Center Social Room
Anderson County Commission Meeting, 6:30 pm 3rd Monday of month, Anderson County
Courthouse Rm 312
Anderson County Library Board, 5:30 pm 2nd Thursday of month, Clinton Public Library
Anderson County Operations Committee, 6:00 pm 2nd Monday of month, Anderson County
Courthouse Rm 312

Anderson County Democratic Party:

The party is looking for volunteers ready to make the next TWO months until the election count. To volunteer go to: www.andersoncountymunicipal.com/Volunteer2024

Club Updates

Make a Difference:

The **Hospitality Committee** is looking for those who want to make sure our meetings are fun to attend. Hospitality is in charge of the venue and the food/beverages for our monthly meetings. They are also the folks who do the decorations for the annual picnic and other events. The Hospitality Committee is a good way to make a difference with the Club, while accommodating a busy & variable personal schedule.

Please contact Ann Miller if you would like to help with the Hospitality committees.

Member news:

Appointment? Election? Promotion? Marriage? New baby? Move? If you have news to share with your sister Democrats please let us know and your news will be included it in the newsletter.

Anderson County Libraries With Miria Webb

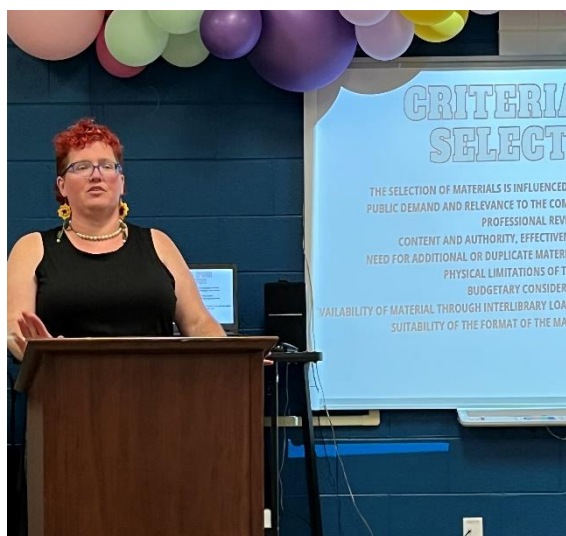
Monday, August 26th 2024 – Clinton Public Library

Miria Webb, Director of the Clinton Public Library, gave the Club excellent first-hand information about the libraries and how the current enthusiasm for challenging books has affected the libraries. We also got to flip through the challenged books as Miria was discussing the content and the reason for the challenges.

The initial 3 children's books, which included gay families and gender identity issues, were challenged in October 2022. After multiple reviews the books were retained. In February 2023, "It's Perfectly Normal" was challenged, retained, and then rechallenged in June 2023. There were also challenges to 14 other titles housed in the adult, young adult, and children's sections. In total, 3 of the books were relocated to the next maturity, and 2 books in the adult section were restricted. The challenges came from a very small number of people.

As a result of the repeated challenges to "It's Perfectly Normal," the rules for challenging books in Anderson County were updated. In December 2023 new rules went into effect and stipulate:

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- Orders for new books first go to the library board for review.
 - Books can only be challenged once every 3 years (or sooner if a new edition is published).
 - Only Anderson County residents can challenge materials.
 - Challenges are limited to a maximum of 4 challenges per person per year.
 - Challenges now go to a subcommittee consisting of 2 library board members and a library director from a different AC library.
 - If the challenger appeals the subcommittee's decision, the person must appear at the full library board meeting when it's discussed.
 - Libraries have the option of putting a placeholder on the shelf, and the patron can exchange the placeholder for the book at the circulation desk.



None of the books challenged between April of 2022 and August 2024 had a wide circulation. Five of the books actually had zero checkouts prior to the challenge, two books had one checkout, 1 had 2 checkouts, and 4 had 3 checkouts. One book, S.E.X. had a whopping 8 checkouts with an additional 12 after the challenge. One positive from the challenges was that the books saw a lot more patron checkouts after they were challenged.

Unfortunately, challenges are not just limited to the books on the shelves. The Clinton Public Library has an annual art show. Someone found a child's painting, essentially described as a blue dress mannequin with glitter, objectionable and not only had the painting removed, but also doxed the child on social media.

Miria Webb was born and raised in East Tennessee. She earned her Master's degree in Information Science from the University of Tennessee. She started her library career as the head youth services librarian in Wilkes County, NC and was also the head of teen services in Winston-Salem and the assistant director in Morristown, TN before accepting the directorship at CPL in 2013. She loves running a small-town library, getting to know her patrons, and creating connections and programs to better her community. It brings her joy even on the hard days. She was the 2024 recipient of the TNLA Honor Award for her significant contribution to the furtherance of librarianship in Tennessee.

[Miria's Presentation Slides](#)

Contact the ACDWC

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