

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

November 2024

Election Results Analysis & Annual Business Meeting

Monday, November 25th 5:30 to 7:00 pm

The Apple Blossom Cafe (409 Cullom St, Clinton, TN 37716)

Liz Ibbotson and Chase Lindsey will go over the results from this election compared to previous elections and counties. Liz & Chase will give us the stats, which will set the stage for the January ACDWC meeting with the candidates.

This is also the club's annual meeting where we go over how we spent the club's money in the past year, highlight the events and accomplishments, and discuss a high-level plan for the coming year. We will also elect officers for 2025 at this meeting. Those who have already put their names forward are: Ann Miller (for President); Ann Mostoller (for Vice President); Amanda Mantooth (for Treasurer); Sissy Randolph Byram (for Secretary); and Tiffany Malone (for Nominating Chair). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor for all positions. Voting for officers is only open to ACDWC members; however, everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. Amanda will be happy to accept your 2024 dues if you have not yet renewed and would like to vote.

For dinner, the restaurant's backroom menu of full meals to light snacks will be available.



Holiday Party & Potluck!

Sunday, December 8th 5:00 to 8:00pm

Museum of Appalachia

(2819 Andersonville Hwy, Clinton, TN 37716)

The holiday party is a time to come together & celebrate the last year of growing our presence, moving the needle in Anderson County, and strengthening the bonds between fellow Democrats.



Come early and explore the museum, which has been decorated for the holidays and open to our group, **at no charge**, between 9:00am and 5:00pm. The party will begin at 5:00. Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. The main dish proteins and non-alcoholic drinks (and, of course, your table settings) are provided by the club and party. Wine or beer is BYOB!

Please bring canned or non-perishable goods, household supplies, or personal healthcare items to help restock the food pantry in Briceville. We donated to this food pantry in 2023 and it was greatly appreciated!

Future ACDWC Events

January 2025 – Learn what the candidates learned from the 2024 election. This will be news we all can use!

February 2025 – We'll begin unpacking individual chapters of Project 2025 for insights into what might be coming. You can download the document from the club's website <https://acdwc.org/>.

Other Events

Volunteering on an Anderson County or Oak Ridge board or commission is a great way to make a difference. The City Council will appoint applicants to the positions during the 2nd Monday in December meeting. Please check out the openings on the Vacancies tab, and learn about the boards & commissions on the Boards tab at <https://www.oakridgetn.gov/212/Boards-Commissions>. The City Clerk will be able to assist you in applying if needed.

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

Club Updates

Make a Difference:

The club has many tasks – some small and some more involved – such as taking notes during the meetings for informative writeups or helping to set up for meetings. Please contact Ann Miller if you would like to pitch in on a task that fits your schedule and available time.

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 in the newsletter.

October Meeting Summary: Vouchers: A New Entitlement for the Elite

10-28-2024 at the Clinton Community Center (101 Hicks St. Clinton TN)

Marsha Livingston, a teacher in Anderson County secondary schools for 33 years before she retired, spoke about vouchers for private school education.

Marsha discussed the 2019 voucher legislation that was initially limited to 5,000 students in the first year, and expanded thereafter. The initial program included stipulations that included the same testing applied to public schools. The results of that testing showed poorer results in the private schools than in the public schools.

The 2024 “education freedom scholarship,” which is the Governor’s proposal, included no financial accountability and no testing requirements for the private schools. This “scholarship” is \$7500 per student, and can be used for homeschooling, private school, or an ad hoc religious “school” set up in someone’s basement. The TN Senate version of the bill includes some testing and financial accountability provisions, and adds some provisions for public schools. There are three versions of currently in the pipeline – the Governor’s, the Senate’s, and the House’s. In Anderson County, and in Oak Ridge, the school boards have passed resolutions to oppose vouchers. When vouchers were on the ballot they were defeated.

Marsha went through the history of school vouchers – a 30 year old phenomenon in America. In 1980, David Koch (one of the infamous Koch brothers and son of the founder of the John Birch Society) ran for President as a Libertarian. In that campaign he pushed repealing every major reform of the 20th century and foreshadowed today’s Project 2025, including the desire to control academia. Marsha recommends the book “Dark Money” by Jane Mayer to learn more about the Koch brothers and this time in history.

The 1983 report, “Nation at Risk,” reported that public schools were failing and blamed schools for all the woes of America. In 2018, in an NPR interview, commissioners working on the 1983 report disclosed that the data had been intentionally skewed to fit with Ronald Reagan’s wishes and world view, and that reports countering the “Nation at Risk” were intentionally not published.

Marsha also recommended “The Privateers” by Josh Cowen to learn more about the history of tax-funded voucher programs. And “School House Burning” by Derek Black that analyzes the assault on public education.



October 24th Postcard Writing Event

A thank you to the postcard writers: Ellen Faby, Mary Byrd, Mary Ann Hardy, Cynthia Wyse, Anne Garcia, and Jennifer and Richard Dawson. They completed 60 personalized postcards.

Contact the ACDWC

President: Ann Miller amiller.ixd@gmail.com

Vice President: Ann Mostoller amostoller@msw-law.com

Treasurer: Amanda Mantooth mantoothaj@gmail.com

Secretary: Pat Marshall patmarshall744@gmail.com

Nominating: Regina Guy reginaguy@gmail.com

Club Website: acdwc.org