

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

March 2025

Learnings From the Trenches

Monday, March 24th 5:30 to 7:00 pm

201 Café and Wine Bar (201 Jackson Square, Oak Ridge, TN 37830)

Come for a rousing discussion on the 2024 election with a panel of our club members who ran races in the 2024 election. The panelists will include some who were successful in their races, and some who were not successful this time. They will field questions prepared by the ACDWC to guide the discussion and address your questions about campaigning. Let's learn what worked, what didn't, and what they want to try in the next election cycle.

Bring your questions, your ideas about what we can do to make the next election a success, and your concerns about possibly running for one of the upcoming local positions.

If you are considering running, the EMERGE training could be a great option. The national program has an upcoming virtual bootcamp (\$350) that accommodates busy schedules. The deadline to apply for the national training is 4/16. The deadline to apply for the state 2025 in person EMERGE training is 3/7/2025 – apply at <https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/lorapply>. Please talk with Ebony Capshaw about the state and national EMERGE programs and the club's EMERGE scholarships. Freda Player with EMERGE Tennessee is also available for questions: freda@emergetn.org or 615-853-4440.

NOTE: The 201's complimentary appetizers will be served with a cash bar for beverages.

Future ACDWC Events

April 28th 2025 – Climate Change – Clinton Community Center

May 19th 2025 – Sam McKenzie and the State of the State Legislature – Clinton Community Center

Other Events

Upcoming Public Meetings: View meeting schedules for [Oak Ridge](#) and [Anderson County](#).

Please check the website for Oak Ridge meetings as some locations might be different due to on-going construction at the Municipal Building complex.

Oak Ridge:

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
Board of Education, 5 pm 4th Monday of month, Board Room - School Admin Bldg (304 New York Ave.) <https://www.ortn.edu/central-office/board-of-education/members-schedule/>

Anderson County:

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: Mark your calendars for the annual \$10 chili supper on March 22nd from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the Oak Ridge Recreation Center Gym.

Another way to get involved in shaping the party is by voting in the annual reorganization of the party leadership, including the officers and the district chairs. The reorganization will be on April 5th. For more information and to re-register visit the [ACDP website](#).

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.

Thank you to Lynne Walford for stepping forward to help on the Program Committee.

Member news:

Appointment? Election? Promotion? Marriage? New baby? Move? If you have news to share with your sister Democrats please let us know.

February Meeting Summary: *Educate, Empower, and Engage*

2-24-2025 at the Clinton Community Center.

The ACDWC welcomed Sylvia Woods as our dinner speaker for the February monthly meeting. Sylvia is the President of the Democratic Women of Knoxville and is a Board Member of the Tennessee Democratic Party.

Sylvia Woods has a long history of participation in local union activities. She has worked for the AFL-CIO for thirty years and is a forty five year union member. However, Sylvia came to not only warn us and remind us, but also to inform us of the profound impact of Project 2025. Labor issues are only a small part of what workers/ordinary citizens have to contend with. Project 2025 is an assault not only on worker's rights but also on all aspects of their lives.

She spoke of some of these impacts: taking away our right to birth control, the elimination of Title 7 and sex discrimination, changing overtime rules and elimination of half-time pay, removing workers right to organize, weaponize civil rights laws, undermine workplace safety, eliminate EOC and data

collection (so we don't know what's going on), her message is clear: Democrats have to stand up for working people because Democrats are on the side of the worker.



Labor is the last line of defense in preserving our way of life. Thus, the AFL-CIO also has a plan to impact Project 2025 which includes building coalitions. They have done this in the past by cooperating with neighboring county union organizations.

The enactment of the Conservative movement's Project 2025 is to change life as we know it. It is their idea of how to put America back on track. Project 2025 is a playbook to relieve the suffering of Americans from our democratic and leftist policies and it is to be complete in 180 days! It is a wish list of right-wing policies that wants the nuclear family at the center with a mother that stays at home and a father that is in charge.

It is not a well-known fact, and Sylvia pointed this out, that the concepts of today's Project 2025 began in the early Reagan years. She referenced firing the air traffic controllers for example, the historic desire to take down the "deep state," trickle-down economics, and hollowing out the priorities of the New Deal including radical cuts in education.

Thus, there is a long and persistent push that has resulted in our current situation. It may seem demoralizing for that is what the conservatives want, but it is not inevitable. We must join together and stop the coup.

You can download the full 900+ page Project 2025 from the Home page of [club's website](#).

Contact the ACDWC

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