

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

November 2025

Anderson County's Use of Federal Opioid Funding and the ACDWC's Annual Meeting

Monday, November 24th 5:30 pm

Clinton Community Center (101 S Hicks St, Clinton, TN 37716)

Come at 5:30 for \$5 pizza and conversation before we kick off the evening with an important report of how our county is spending Federal grant money.

Ebony Capshaw, Anderson County Commissioner for District 6, will report on how Anderson County has used Federal funds from the opioid settlement payout, which was earmarked for opioid treatment and prevention.

Ebony M. Capshaw is an Oak Ridge native and Anderson County Commissioner. She is a 2025 Girls Inc. of Oak Ridge Bold Award winner, Leadership TN Next Class IX graduate and 2024 Emerge America Signature Bootcamp graduate. She is a seasoned leader who is passionate about driving positive change through effective leadership and has successfully led diverse teams toward achieving shared goals. Whether it's guiding projects in a corporate setting or steering volunteer efforts in local organizations, she consistently prioritizes clear communication, empathy, and a results-oriented approach.



Capshaw has experience in many roles focusing on policies and procedures with application, inventory management, automation, and data management with CVS Health, Cardinal Health, and the University of Miami. She also serves as an advisor and training coordinator with local colleges' pharmacy students and Co-Operative Education high school students. Ms. Capshaw also serves on the Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge Board of Directors, Anderson County Democratic Women's Club Executive Board, RAM Clinic volunteer, TCCA Emergency Services committee, Youth Leader at Greater Warner Tabernacle AME Zion Church, and East TN Regional Medical Reserve Corps volunteer. She has previously served in many roles such as TNDP State Executive Committeewoman, Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County, TN Board of Directors, Roane State Community College Pharmacy Technician Program Advisory Board member, 2nd Vice President for the Knoxville NAACP, TN State Conference NAACP Executive Committee Member-At-Large, and ran as a 2018 Anderson County Trustee candidate. Capshaw is passionate about educating and exposing youth to HBCUs and STEM opportunities. She enjoys reading, traveling, ballroom dancing, and cooking. She believes in living her CAU mottoes every day by having a "Culture for Service" mindset and "I'll Find a Way or Make One" attitude.

At the meeting, Club members will elect 2026 ACDWC Officers. If you would like to fill an officer seat, but are not yet on the ballot, please come to the meeting and be nominated from the floor. There will also be several Bylaws changes to bring the 2010 Bylaws up to current practices. You can review the current (2010) Bylaws at <https://acdwc.org/about-acdwc>. Club members will also vote on a resolution.

A separate mailing was sent to Club members on October 20th with information about the proposed Club officers, the Bylaws changes, and the resolution. Please send a reply to this newsletter email, or ac-democratic-women@outlook.com, if you are a member and cannot locate the voting information.

Future ACDWC Events

December 2025 – Stay tuned for information about the Club's holiday social! Let's get together, enjoy some good food, and have some fun. We will also install the ACDWC 2026 Officers at this event.

Other Events

November 6th – Join the **Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County** for the "Gratitude Gala." The Child Advocacy Center offers a better way to help children and youth who are victims or witnesses to abuse and other crimes. This fundraising event will be at the Museum of Appalachia (2819 Andersonville Hwy, Clinton, TN 37716) Thursday, Nov 6th at 5:30. For more information and to purchase tickets <https://givebutter.com/c/AbuWHA>.

November 7th – **Emory Valley Center's** 70th Anniversary Community Breakfast. 7:30-9:00am. RSVP to: <https://www.emoryvalleycenter.org/70th-anniversary-breakfast/>

November 15th – **Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge's** 2025 Gala. With a theme of "Come Fly With Me", this year's gala will be held at the Oak Ridge Conference Center. Featuring live music and dancing, live and silent auctions, a dinner catered by Fire & Salt, and an open bar. All proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge!

November 15th – **ADFAC's** 13th annual Bill Wilcox Bow Tie event. DoubleTree Hotel in Oak Ridge. For tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-bill-wilcox-bow-tie-celebration-fundraiser-tickets-1657200504319>

Upcoming Public Meetings:

Oak Ridge: View meeting schedules and agendas for [Oak Ridge](#)

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

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: View meeting schedules and agendas for [Anderson County](#).

The Commission's Strategic Planning Workshop is open to the public, and your attendance is recommended. **11/7/2025** from 8:30am – 4:30pm at the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce (500 N. Charles G. Seivers Blvd. Clinton, TN 37716).

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, location rotates between the four libraries (Nov 13th Clinton Public Library; Jan 8th Norris Community Library; Feb 12th Rocky Top Public Library; March 12th Briceville Public Library)

Anderson County Operations Committee, 6:00 pm 2nd Monday of month, Anderson County Courthouse Rm 312

Club Updates

Of note: Over 2,300 voters have been purged from the roles. You can check your registration by contacting the Anderson County Election Commission or verifying your data via the state website <https://tnmap.tn.gov/voterlookup>.

The Club is looking for women to sponsor for **EMERGE training**. If you can imagine yourself running for an office in 2026, EMERGE training can help you get there. There are EMERGE training sessions coming up, both with the national and the state organizations, that will teach you how to clarify your message, ask for money to fund the campaign, and manage the nuts & bolts of running a campaign.

Please contact Ebony Capshaw, the club's EMERGE liaison, for more information about EMERGE.

Make a Difference:

The club needs help with meeting setup/cleanup. Please contact Ann Miller if you would like to pitch in on that monthly task.

October Meeting Summary

Fighting the Attack on Public Education: A Night of Learning & Giving with Derek Black

10-17-2025 at The Lodge in Clinton

Derek Black is a professor of law, and Ernest F. Hollings Chair in Constitutional Law, at the University of South Carolina School of Law. He also directs the law school's Constitutional Law Center. His areas of expertise include education law and policy, constitutional law, and civil rights. The focus of his current scholarship is the intersection of constitutional law and public education, particularly as it pertains to educational equality and fairness for disadvantaged students.

We were honored to hear Mr. Black's thoughts about the current attack on public education, and the historical and social underpinnings, he has learned from his research.

The way public schools have been described has changed in the past few years. Schools were respected in the past; however, now are often



described as indoctrinators, or worse. The rhetoric is that of populists & white nationalists. The State Superintendent of Oklahoma was documented making racist comments and endorsing Trump. Rhetoric shapes how institutions are viewed in society. For the first time in American history, we saw one person try to dictate and enforce curriculum through the Trump loyalty pledge sent to all State Superintendents. Historically, the Supreme Court had protected school children's rights – those days are gone.

Before the Civil War there were black people running schools, including schools for enslaved children. A formerly enslaved man, Denmark Vesey, was able to purchase his freedom, educate himself, and became a thought leader regarding slavery. He used his education to write abolition letters to countries profiting from the slavery business, and used his platform to help organize a slave insurrection. The South Carolina legislature reacted and concluded that to control people they needed to control who had the ability to read and write.

Vigilante groups began burning educational materials in black communities and punishing speech about abolition. They also destroyed textbooks used in both black and white communities when they realized the books contained favorable information about northern farming methods and other practices.

Today, all 50 states have a provision to provide public education. Approximately 26 states prohibit expending public funding to private schools. Rural Republicans (even Mike Huckabee) historically opposed vouchers until January 6th when elected officials learned they would be in election jeopardy if they opposed vouchers.

Some of the allure of private schools is wanting teachers to have more freedom in what they teach – as long as that freedom is used in harmony with their religious values. However, graft and corruption are rampant and have soured the sentiment amongst people in the know. But the average pro private school parent does not know how corrupt many of the school operators are. Private schools also don't want the hard to teach, including special needs or financially stressed students. The "freedom of choice" is really the school's freedom to choose its students – not freedom of choice for the parents.

Churches that have never run a school, and do not know how to run a school, see a financial incentive to start schools. It's the students' education that ultimately suffer. Performance statistics, when they are captured, don't tell the whole picture. It is important to understand the social context behind the numbers. For instance, one high school with just 3% of the students at the poverty line is judged the same as one where the student body has 50% at the poverty line.

There was a lively question and answer opportunity following the talk. Mr. Black was available to sign books as well. Two of Derek's books specifically address the evening's topic of the intersection of democracy, public policy, and public education: "Dangerous Learning: The South's Long War on Black Literacy" and "Schoolhouse Burning: Public Education and the Assault on American Democracy."

All the proceeds from the evening will go toward supporting Anderson County Democratic candidates in the upcoming fight to take back Anderson County.

Contact the ACDWC

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

Treasurer: Amanda Mantooth mantoothaj@gmail.com

Secretary: Sissy Byram sissybee52@gmail.com

Nominating: Tiffany Malone tiffanymalone09@gmail.com

Scholarship and EMERGE Liaison: Ebony Capshaw ebonymcapshaw@hotmail.com

Hospitality: Open position

Club Website: acdwc.org