

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

August 2022

<https://acdwc.org/>

This Month

Homelessness in East Tennessee

August 22, 2022 -- 6:30 pm -- Oak Ridge Marina Pavilion (next to the Oak Ridge Rowing Association) 697 Melton Lake Dr, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

ACDWC presents Andy O'Quinn from TORCH (Tennessee Out-Reach Center for Homeless) and Dave Clark our Anderson County Attorney General discussing homelessness in our area. This topic is particularly timely with the new legislation that makes camping in parks and other public property a felony, and the increasing needs seen by organizations such as TORCH.

Please consider a contribution of portable food such as granola bars that do not require heat/utensils, and personal care items such as toilet paper.

Future ACDWC Events

Candidate Rally –
October 24th

Trivia Night –
November (date TBD)

Holiday Party –
December (date TBD)

Other Local Events

"A Vote of Her Own – The Musical" August 20th 8:00 pm at the Bijou Theatre. For tickets:
<http://www.avoteofherown.com/>

Tennessee Advocates for Planned Parenthood – Grassroots Organizing Retreat at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns TN. August 19th - 21st. To register and learn more about this training
<https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/tennessee-advocates-planned-parenthood>

Anderson County Democratic Party Candidate Event – Sept 17th – Oak Ridge Marina Pavilion – 2:00 to 4:00

Roane County Democrats Labor Day Picnic -- September 5th -- Shelter #1 Roane County Park – Noon to 1:30. Full-service BBQ, candidate speeches, swag, and good fellowship. Recommended \$15 donation.

Club Updates

Scholarship Fund: One of the club's yearly priorities is granting a scholarship to a college bound female student. We are actively working toward this goal with the Scholarship Coordinator for Anderson County Schools. You can get involved too! Please consider donating to the Scholarship Fund – any amount will get us that much closer to the award goal.

Last Month's Meeting: TAPP Leader Provides Actions We Can Take After Roe v. Wade Overturned



Francie Hunt gave the ACDWC recommendations for action that advocates for abortion rights can take in the wake of Roe v. Wade's demise at the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court majority.

Hunt, the Executive Director of Tennessee Advocates for Planned Parenthood (TAPP), also encouraged anyone interested to register for the Grassroots Organizing Retreat TAPP is hosting Aug. 19-21 at Montgomery Bell State Park with organizing and advocacy leaders from across Tennessee. Follow the link at this site to register for the retreat and to join the advocacy movement: <https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/tennessee-advocates-planned-parenthood>.

TAPP is the advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi, which provides reproductive health care in four locations across Tennessee. Hunt, who spoke in Oak Ridge July 25, described Tennessee as a super majority anti-choice state, referring to the legislature and the governor, each with a specific theologically evangelical bent affecting how they govern.

With abortions soon to be limited to up to six weeks of pregnancy, when few even know they are pregnant, she said it is safer now for Planned Parenthood to send patients to providers out of state.

"We do need your help, because there are a lot of scared individuals right now," Hunt said.

Hunt said she is frequently asked, "What can I do?" and provides several answers:

- Local Policy

Nashville and Memphis have passed resolutions that decriminalize abortion. They established that prosecution of a person getting or providing an abortion is low on the priority list and that discrimination of people based on pregnancy status is prohibited.

Hunt noted that Tennessee narrowly passed a ballot initiative on abortion in 2014 and that the state legislature will introduce more anti-abortion legislation, which she calls "reproductive coercion," in 2023. Advocates need to be ready to fight those things, she said.

- Elections

We have to register voters, Hunt said, and to teach people to talk about abortion through civic education and training. When canvassers have the facts about abortion and hold conversations around values, they are able to move opponents up the scale of support for abortion. The opposition is "very smart, very calculating," and abortion rights advocates need to be the same, she added.

- Action Councils

TAPP is organizing Action Councils across the state. The teams form locally, and each has a different personality and different vibe, depending upon those involved.

Knoxville Advocates for Reproductive Rights, for example, gets together once a week for postcards, canvassing and gathering. Members are taking action and building community.

The Nashville action council provides training on lobbying, registers voters, invites candidates to speak and joined a boycott of Gov. Bill Lee's company, Hunt said. The group also hosted a forum with doctors and attorneys to figure out what is legal as ob-gyn physicians provide reproductive health care.

- **Individual Actions**

Individuals can put up yard signs. They can place stickers with information about resources in public places, such as bathroom doors and newspaper boxes.

Individuals may also attend the Grassroots Organizing Retreat later this month to learn more about organizing and advocacy, Hunt said.

She listed <https://www.abortionfinder.org/> as a resource with information on abortion providers. She noted that it is possible to order abortion pills online. The ACLU offers digital surveillance training to avoid online tracing of those orders as states enact laws outlawing that.

"Our happiness, our freedom has never been given to us by the Supreme Court, by the government," Hunt told the Democratic women. "It was because there was a mass movement. There was a huge groundswell of activism."

Contact the ACDWC

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