

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club (ACDWC) News

August 2024

August Program:

Monday, August 26th, at 5:30pm at the Clinton Public Library

Miria Webb will speak on the State of the Anderson County Library Board and the Clinton Public Library. \$5.00 pizza. Held at the Clinton Public Library, 118 South Hicks Street, Clinton, TN

Miria Webb was born and raised in East Tennessee. She earned her Master of Science 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.

Tuesday, Aug 27th Ashley Craven Fundraiser at 6:30pm at Café 201, Oak Ridge

Wine and Design Fundraiser benefiting Ashley Craven's campaign for the Oak Ridge Board of Education! Join us for a fun, creative "unleash your inner artist" fundraiser event featuring painting with a twist art class by Make Lemonade Art Studio and a mystery wine pull. Tickets are \$50 for a guided art class to paint a picture (all supplies provided, no experience necessary), and \$25 to "pull" a mystery bottle of wine. Full experience, \$75. Space is limited so be sure to reserve your spot today. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided and there will be a cash bar

For tickets: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/voteacravendesign>

Future ACDWC Events

September 2nd Roane County Annual Labor Day Picnic! From 11:30am – 1:30pm at the Roane County Park, Pavilion 2, 3515 Roane State Hwy, Harriman. \$10 suggested donation for BBQ lunch.

Vote Y'all tee shirts will be available for sale.



September 7th – Anderson County Democratic Picnic – 11:00am to 5:00pm at the Melton Lake pavilion. We'll have grilled hot dogs, drinks, condiments and paper goods. Bring your best potluck sides and desserts to share.

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/>

October 28th – Marsha Livingston will speak on school vouchers at the Clinton Community Center, we'll have delicious Fall soups to enjoy. Bring a side dish and/or bread to share.

November – business meeting

December – holiday party

Candidate Openings for the November 5, 2024, Election

Qualifying Deadline for all City Councils is Noon August 15th.

OAK RIDGE

<https://www.oakridgetn.gov/212/Boards-Commissions>

City of Oak Ridge Council Seats

Jim Dodson

Derrick Hammond

Chuck Hope

Environmental Quality Advisory Board immediate opening to Dec 31, 2024

CLINTON

<https://www.clintontn.net/o/clinton/page/boards>

City of Clinton City Council Seats

Rob Herrell Ward 1

Larry Gann Ward 2

Jim McBride Ward 3

NORRIS

<https://www.cityofnorris.com/board--commission-vacancies.html>

City of Norris City Council Seats - All 5 seats up for election

Chris Mitchell, Mayor

Chuck Nicholson

Bill Grieve

Will Grinder

Loretta Painter

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tree Commission

Norris Archives

Norris Little Theatre Board

Anderson County Library Board (Norris Appointment)

If you are interested in serving on any of these boards, please contact Mayor Chris Mitchell.

Email chris@chrismitchellmc.com, Phone 865-494-7645

Upcoming Public Meetings:

Oak Ridge

City Council Regular Meeting, August 12th 7pm, Municipal Building Courtroom

Municipal Planning Commission Work Session, August 8th 5:30pm, Oak Ridge Municipal Courtroom

Municipal Planning Commission Bus Meeting, August 15th 5:30pm, Oak Ridge Municipal Courtroom

Personnel Advisory Board, August 15th 5:15pm, Oak Ridge Municipal Training Room

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, August 8th 7pm, Oak Ridge Civic Center

Disability Advisory Board, August 19th 11am, Oak Ridge Senior Center

Traffic Safety Advisory Board, August 19th 7pm, Central Services Complex

Oak Ridge Land Bank, August 20th 8:30am, Oak Ridge Municipal Building

Clinton

Clinton City Council, August 26th 5:30pm, Clinton City Hall

Clinton Board of Zoning Appeals/Planning Commission, August 12th 6pm, Clinton City Hall

Anderson County

Anderson County Commission, August 19th 6:30pm, Anderson County Courthouse Rm 312

Anderson County Planning Commission, August 13th 6:30pm, Courthouse Room 312

Anderson County Democratic Party:

Action Outreach Evenings, Mon/Wed/Thurs 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Democratic Party Headquarters

Club Updates/Member News

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.

Recap of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women – Summer 2024 Picnic and Project 2025 Friday, August 2nd, 2024 at Norris State Park

Our East Tennessee TFDW VP, Glenda Whitfield, organized a great celebration of Democratic Women and empowerment through information. The picnic was very well attended by women from all over Eastern Tennessee, including members of the ACDWC.

If you have not heard of Project 2025, please download the document from TFDW.org (scroll down on the Home page) or from the link on the ACDWC.org Home page.



Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership is a far right-wing plan to fundamentally reshape America into a white, Christian, patriarchal regime. This is the blueprint for the 2nd American Revolution. The document was spearheaded by the ultraconservative Heritage Foundation and includes input from 110 conservative groups. The document is a ready-made plan for the next conservative President to implement on day-one and comes with a recruited and trained army of replacement government agency leaders. Trump spoke in 2022 that the Heritage Foundation was taking on the plan, and that it aligned with his vision.

Page 3 of the document lays out four promises:

1. Restore the family as the centerpiece of American life and protect our children.
2. Dismantle the administrative state and return self-governance to the American people.
3. Defend our nation’s sovereignty, borders, and bounty against global threats.
4. Secure our God-given individual rights to live freely—what our Constitution calls “the Blessings of Liberty.” “

The 920 pages of the document include specific plans on how to accomplish those promises. The speakers at the picnic summarized specific chapters of the Project 2025 document.

Education: The Federal Department of Education should be eliminated. The plan indicates the job would be better done via charter schools as a competitive business. The speaker relayed that in Michigan, charter schools accept state funding; however, they don’t follow the same requirements (including teacher certification) as public schools. Those charter schools also tend to be in poor and immigrant neighborhoods – and few are found in affluent neighborhoods.

Healthcare: The document describes how only families comprised of a married mother and father have validity. It pushes ideas that would make abortion virtually illegal in all states and would end all Federal funding (e.g. Medicaid) to any medical facility that provides abortion care. The goal is to move back to a time when women can’t control their own bodies. The speaker noted that the vast majority of Americans, across all political views, are concerned about restrictive healthcare and abortion rights.

Worklife: Chapter 18 describes their desire to restore the family as a center of American life. They would do this through a variety of policy changes, such as letting companies stop paying overtime, banning unions for civil service workers, eliminating child labor laws, cutting retirement for federal workers, eliminating OSHA, and cutting or eliminating Medicare/Medicaid coverage.

Dept. of Justice: The current mission of the DOJ is to uphold the rule of law. The plan indicates that the DOJ is currently too political, corrupt, and is not to be trusted. It plans to dismantle the current DOJ and remake the organization so that everyone in the agency would report to the President. Some of the policy changes would be to end DACA, conduct mass deportations using the military and local law enforcement (and punish local officials who do not comply), and push capital punishment and speedy executions.

Environment: The Project 2025 authors want to eliminate all programs related to climate change, including NOAA and all spending related to climate change and sustainable energy. The plan would reduce food assistance and shrink economic support to farmers.

Summary: The document describes how 20,000 agency leaders will be replaced with Project 2025 loyalists. The Heritage Foundation is already recruiting and training those loyalists, so they are ready to go on day one. The goal is to reshape America into a yesteryear vision of a working father and a stay-at-home mother, where there is no climate change, no no-fault divorce, no LGBTQ in the public view, no women's rights, no Black rights, and where the Bible is an official textbook in schools.

You can find the Project 2025 document on the [ACDWC.org](https://acdwc.org) site, the TFDW.org site, or on the [BBC site](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-67444444). Please take the time to download the document and begin educating yourself on what might be the next American Revolution if we are not successful in November.

Recap of the National Labor Relations Board – How the NLRB Affects the Labor Environment Program on Monday, July 29th 2024 – IBEW Local 270

We had a lively and informative evening with Derek Guy (IBEW) and James Taylor (Martenson-Hasbrook & Simon, LLP) talking about the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB was established to administer the National Labor Relations Act, passed in 1935, to provide both union and non-union employees at private-sector workplaces with better working conditions. The National Labor Relations Act covers all non-governmental employers, even if they are "at will" companies. Employees working in any private sector companies can file unfair labor practice complaints with the NLRB at no cost to themselves. The NLRB also has rules for union organizing (on both sides) and rules once a union is voted into a company.

The Board consists of five people appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and usually consists of a 3/2 split in favor of the President's political leanings. The General Counsel (also appointed by POTUS) is independent from the Board and holds surprisingly outsized influence over the priorities and policies of the Board. When President Biden was inaugurated, the sitting NLRB General Counsel was so anti-labor he was asked to resign – making him the first General Counsel ever fired. There are also regional offices that handle routine unfair labor practices and union elections. As a sidenote, the Secretary of Labor is also appointed by the President; however, is not tied to the NLRB in any way.



During the presentations we learned that both the corporations opposing unions and the unions themselves were guilty of “sticking it to other guy” in the past. Now, employers know that the labor force working at the company is important for the company to thrive, and it is better to have a stable workforce than angry employees. Mr. Taylor told us that once labor organizing begins it is just a matter of time before some union is voted in, and the company can injure itself by doing dirty tricks with that process.

Mr. Guy told us that unions were also guilty of dirty tricks in the past, with slow downs, abandoning machinery, damaging property, etc. Those dirty tricks of the past still haunt the reputations of unions in ways they are still working to repair. In modern times, both the unions

and the companies know that having union rules makes for a more stable workforce and a level playing field for bidding jobs.

However, even with the benefits of cooperation, our speakers shared examples of conflict. Mr Taylor told the story of a steel plant here in Tennessee that was being organized, and the population had not been in a union previously. The company thwarted the union effort by telling the workers that the wage gains the union was promising would be eaten up (and more) by their dues and higher costs. Mr. Guy related the situation at McKay’s Books – the workers voted in a union at one store, but the company is dragging its feet on negotiating the contract. Perfectly legal under NLRB rules. Meanwhile, the store that did not unionize got wage increases.



There are sticky problems the NLRB is currently working to resolve, such as issues around “joint employer.” A joint employer is where an employee is paid by one entity but works under the rules, supervision, and disciplinary actions of another entity. A common example is a staffing agency that directly employs workers they then assign to work for their clients.

James Taylor, is a law partner at the Atlanta firm of Martenson-Hasbrook & Simon, LLP. James’s practice focuses on regulatory issues related to federal contractors, and state and municipal affirmative action cases. James has extensive knowledge as to regulatory practices of the National Labor Relations Board. His work involves assisting companies with wage and hour disputes, general employment law, contract negotiations, the preparation of collective bargaining agreements, and negotiations with unions.





Derek Guy is a Union Organizer for the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) and knows first-hand the pivotal role unions play in today's labor environment. Derek has been in Washington D.C. as part of a very productive labor delegation meeting with President Biden.

In addition to his work with IBEW, Mr. Guy is a long-term and active member of the Oak Ridge community. With his wife, Regina, they have three school aged children, are active community volunteers, and attend ORUUC.

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 reginakguy@gmail.com

Website: acdwc.org

Club Newsletter Editor: ac-democratic-women@outlook.com