

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

February 2024

Monday, February 26th – 6:00 – 7:30pm

Gun Control with Glenda Whitfield

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

Come enjoy a delicious soup supper provided by your ACDWC Board

By early February, more people are killed with guns in the U.S. than during an entire calendar year in any other high-income country. In June, we honor victims and survivors on National Gun Violence Awareness Day. On that day orange is worn. Why orange? On January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya's friends commemorated her life by wearing orange. The color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.

Glenda Whitfield, resident of Oak Ridge, will share her story on how she became a voice for gun sense legislation. Her presentation will include what is currently happening and how you can become part of the solution.

Future ACDWC Events

The Program Committee has met and has a great 2024 lineup planned. They're targeting the 4th Mondays of the month for meetings – so pencil in the date and we'll fill in the details.

Other Events

Upcoming Public Meetings:

City Council Regular Meeting, 2/12/2024, 7pm, Municipal Building Courtroom

City Council/Board of Education Work Session 2/20/2024, 5pm, Board of Education Admin Building
304 New York Avenue

Municipal Planning Commission, 2/15/2024, 5:30pm, Oak Ridge Municipal Courtroom

Land Bank Board of Directors, 2/20/2024, 8:30am, Municipal Building Courtroom

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, 7pm 2nd Thursday of month, Civic Center Social Room

Traffic Safety Advisory Board, 7pm 3rd Monday of month, Central Services Complex Conf Room

Disability Advisory Board, 11am 3rd Monday of Month, Senior Center

Anderson County Commission Meeting, 6:30pm, 2/14/2024 3rd Monday of month, , Anderson
County Courthouse Rm 312

Anderson County Library Board, 5:30pm 2nd Thursday of month, Clinton Public Library

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

Anderson County Democratic Party:

The party is looking for volunteers ready to make the next 300+/- days until the election count. To volunteer go to: www.andersoncountymocraticparty.com/Volunteer2024

League of Women Voters:

Tuesday, 2/13/2024 10am – 12pm, Board meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, 2/20/2024 11:30am – 1pm, Lunch with the League, Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, Dr. Michelle Christian and Dr. Dorian L. McCoy, researchers from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, will present a program about Critical Race Theory and related topics.

Thursday, 2/24/2024 7:30am – 8:30am, Breakfast with the Legislators, Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room, The public is encouraged to attend this program featuring Anderson and Roane County Tennessee legislators. Members of the audience may ask questions of the legislators during this in-person event.

Our American Roots – An Exploration of Cultures Lecture Series:

A free lecture series on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. Presentation at 6:00pm – Consolidated Nuclear Services Y-12 New Hope Center (602 Scarboro Rd.) Abdurahim Oguz, a Uyghur physicist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, will give a talk on “Persecution of Uyghurs in China – A Uyghur’s Perspective.”

Club Updates

Make a Difference:

The **Hospitality Committee** is looking for those who want to make sure our meetings are fun to attend. Hospitality is in charge of the venue and the food/beverages for our monthly meetings. They are also the folks who do the decorations for the annual picnic and other events. The Hospitality Committee is a good way to make a difference with the Club, while accommodating a busy & variable personal schedule. Contact Ann Miller or Regina Guy.

The **Scholarship Committee** needs a chair. If you would like to help a young like-minded local woman further her education please step forward. The task involves setting the criteria for the scholarship, working with school counselors to get our scholarship information to the students, and then vetting the applications.

Please contact Regina Guy or Ann Miller if you would like to help with the Hospitality or Scholarship committees.

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.

Sad News:

Helen Jernigan, 98, of Oak Ridge, Retired Anderson County Clerk of Courts, Community and Political Activist, passed away January 18, 2024. Helen was honored by the club most recently at the holiday party. Helen was always involved in a variety of community activities and board positions. Her political activities included membership in the Anderson County Democratic Party, chairing its Rules Committee, serving as precinct chair for Highland View, and for several years co-chairing, with her friend Tom Burns, the party’s Platform

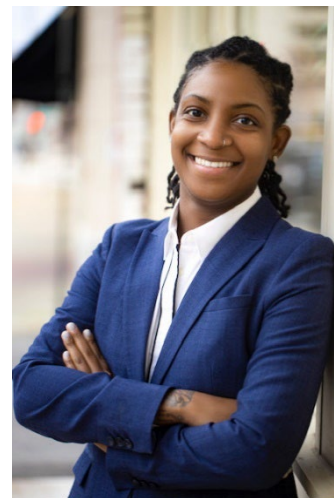
Committee. She worked in many campaigns, partisan and non-partisan, local and national. A memorial service will be held at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, 809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tennessee on Saturday, February 17, at 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM), P. O. Box 12667, Knoxville, TN 37912-0667, (865) 249-7488, <https://www.socm.org/> or to the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104, (334) 956-8408, <https://www.splcenter.org/>

2024 Elections: A Pivotal Moment for Our Future

Monday, January 22nd 2024 – 201 Café and Wine Bar

A small, but engaged, group braved the icy roads to hear Tamara Bates speak on the 2024 Elections: A Pivotal Moment for Our Future. The throughline was that each of us can make a difference in 2024 – be it large or small.

Tamara Bates is the Director of Community Engagement for the Tennessee Democratic Party. Her wealth of experience on the groundbreaking Senate elections for Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossof, as well as her significant involvement with Hillary Clinton’s campaign was obvious. Tamara understands the issues and people here as she grew up in rural middle Tennessee.



The key takeaways were:

Many people are in survivor mode. They’re not thinking about lofty aspirations or societal change – they’re thinking about paying rent and putting food on the table. For people to be able to listen to why democracy or equity or injustice is important they must be in a place where they are not scared about their immediate future. And in small cities and rural counties the issues are magnified. As Democrats we should make it a daily habit to befriend someone, especially someone who is not already in our social circles. We need to get in the habit of learning what people are concerned about and listening to those answers. Her favorite questions, to ask just one person a day, are “what do you see for yourself in the future?” and “what would you like more of and what would you like to keep the same?”. Really listening to what the checkout person, or the mail carrier, or the garage mechanic, or the receptionist is concerned about is very powerful.

With youth it’s important to let them know that voting does make a difference and democracy is important. We won’t reach the youth with the same methods we use with adults. With youth, they are motivated by activities and events that are not political – issues are appealing but politics is not. However, once we can engage their attention they will listen to a political message. Tamara refers to this type of outreach as “party with a purpose.”

We also need to do a good job with our homework. People pull misinformation from many sources, and if we can give them the right information, in a non-judgmental way, we are doing a huge service. Tamara recommended a DNC sponsored smartphone app “Reach” as a source for reliable information and talking points. Information gives us armor to be fierce and not back down to the bullies.

We also need more people running for office, and more people supporting those running. Tamara encouraged us to step up and get in the ring – and to remember that “if you always do what you’ve always done, you always get what you’ve always gotten.” (Jessie Potter)

December 15th Holiday Party

Friday, December 15th

The Lodge (424 Goans Ave. Clinton)

The Holiday Party was attended by approximately 90 people – a wonderful turnout! People really brought their best, and we enjoyed overflowing tables of great potluck dishes and lively conversation. There was a brain-teaser trivia game and we enjoyed a mini-concert from our own Liz&Tim.

There were three ways to share the holiday spirit: The [Child Advocacy Center of Anderson County](#) provides a safe haven and access to professionals for children who are abused, neglected, or trafficked. At the party, we passed the hat in support of the CAC. The CAC works with numerous local



agencies, such as the DA’s office, the juvenile court, Children’s Hospital, and the local police departments, to provide services and interventions for the child and the non-offending caregivers.

Attendees were also asked to bring contributions for the Briceville Friendship Center’s food bank. We outdid ourselves with our generosity! The director of the Friendship Center was very happy for the donations. They had just given out their last box of food and our contribution will get the shelves restocked and ready for those in need. There are many in the Briceville area in need, especially grandparents raising grandchildren and those coping with the outcome of addiction.

We also had a mystery gift silent auction to support the work of the ACDP and the ACDWC. We were able to offset some of the cost of the party with the bids. Congratulations to all who got a fun surprise via the silent auction. The ACDWC also sold the poinsettias that were used for table decorations.



During the party, the attendees were able to honor Helen Jernigan for her many years of leadership and hard work supporting the ACDWC and the Democratic cause in East Tennessee. Helen supports the ACDWC Scholarship Fund with a monthly donation – for which we are immensely grateful. We were honored to have Helen and her family attend the party!

And in the final bit of housekeeping, the ACDWC 2024 officers were sworn in by Liz Ibbotson.

A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers who helped transform the space from plain to festive, who helped wrangle the many dishes on too few tables, who helped people find parking, and those who helped get the word out.

Contact the ACDWC

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