

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

June 2024

June Program:

Monday, June 24th, 2024, 5:30pm at 201 Café, Oak Ridge



Debbie Helsley, Knoxville City Council, will speak on Winning and Losing: What I Learned Running for Political Office (Key Tactics, That it's OK to Lose, How to Come Back From Defeat, and Lessons Learned). We will also hear from Anderson County Democratic candidates. This is in conjunction with Women in Politics group.

Future ACDWC Events

July 29th program at IBEW union hall – James Taylor and Derrick Guy will be speaking about the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) changes, its impact on organized labor and management and interesting cases or examples of labor disputes. Potluck - bring your favorite salad or dessert to share.

August 26th program – Miria Webb will speak on the State of the Anderson County Library Board and the Clinton Public Library at Clinton Community Center.

September 7th – Anderson County Democratic Party picnic

October 28th program – Marsha Livingston and Bob Smallridge speak on public education

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

City of Oak Ridge Council Seats

Jim Dodson
Derrick Hammond
Chuck Hope

CLINTON

Clinton board openings, appointed by Mayor Scott Burton:

Library Board -- Vickie Underwood term ends June 30-2024 – a three-year term.

AC Tourism Council Advisory Board - Jason Brown term up June 30, 2024 – one year term.

Clinton residents interested in applying should email Mayor Burton, Scott37716@yahoo.com, with a resume and a statement about why she would like to be considered for the appointment. *Applications should be sent as soon as possible.* He didn't specify a deadline.

City of Clinton City Council Seats

Rob Herrell Ward 1
Larry Gann Ward 2
Jim McBride Ward 3

NORRIS

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, June 10th 7pm, Municipal Building Courtroom
Board of Zoning Appeals, June 11th 6pm, Municipal Building Courtroom
City Council/Manager Work Session, May 21st 6pm, Municipal Building Courtroom
Municipal Planning Commission, June 13th 5:30pm, Oak Ridge Municipal Courtroom

Clinton

Clinton City Council, July 2nd 5:30pm, Clinton City Hall

Clinton Board of Zoning Appeals/Planning Commission, June 10th 6pm, Clinton City Hall

Anderson County

Anderson County Commission, June 17th 6:30pm, Anderson County Courthouse Rm 312

Anderson County Library Board, June 13th 5:30pm, Clinton Public Library

Anderson County Planning Commission, June 11 6:30pm, Courthouse Room 312

Anderson County Operations Committee, May 10th 6:00pm, 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 in the newsletter.

Legislative Update With Sam McKenzie

May 20th, 2024, 5:30pm at the Clinton Community Center

Rose Weaver told us about the upcoming Juneteenth/Freedom Day celebration happening on June 15th at the Old Scarboro School Site on Hampton Road from noon to 6:00pm.

We also welcomed Glenda Whitfield, the East TN Vice-President for the TFDW, and Edee Webb, the new President of the TFDW. Edee congratulated the ACDWC on our 75th anniversary.

Sam McKenzie, the Tennessee State Representative for District 15 in the Tennessee General Assembly and the Chairman of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators, spoke to a well-attended ACDWC group about the recent legislative session.

Sam attended Austin-East High School in Knoxville before graduating from Fisk University with a B.S. in Physics. After Fisk University, Rep. McKenzie graduated from the University of Memphis with a M.S. in Physics. Currently, Rep. McKenzie is retired from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory where he was the Environment, Safety, Health, and Quality Group Leader. He is currently a small business owner in Knoxville. He is on the Board of Directors at Tennova Healthcare, ORNL Federal Credit Union, and the Fisk University Board of Trustees. He is also the former District Representative for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Beta Theta Boulé. Prior to serving in the Tennessee General Assembly, Rep. McKenzie was on the Knox County Commission from 2008 until 2016.

Rep. McKenzie expressed his appreciation that Anne Backus is running against John Ragan. He related that Rep. Ragan repeatedly presents bills to cure a problem that doesn't exist. An example was the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) issue that resulted in the total defunding of the DEI program at UT. He also related that Ragan sponsored legislation that would forbid the discussion of any aspect of reparations for past slavery related issues, no one has requested reparations. Sam shared that stopping bad bills was a lot of what the progressive parts of the legislature spend time on, and John Ragan is one reason we're moving backward as a state in many statistics.

Despite the dismal legislative session, Rep. McKenzie was pleased with the watered-down red flag law, also called Jillian's Law, which does provide some limited protections in regard to mentally unbalanced folks who shouldn't have access to guns. Jillian's Law was named for a student shot and killed by a mentally ill person who was released before being adequately diagnosed. He expressed frustration that UT could work out how to solve dormitory shortage with purchased hotels; however, the state cannot do similar creative problem solving to address prison overcrowding.

Sam feels that the treatment of Tennessee State University was extremely harmful. The leadership was entirely removed based on allegations of fiscal irresponsibility. Nothing was said about the severe underfunding of the historically black institutions in Tennessee.

Contact the ACDWC

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