

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

March 2023

Please renew your 2023 Club Membership! Your dues are used to support Democratic candidates, scholarship for future Democratic women leaders, and our monthly programs.

Monday, March 27th

Club Planning and Get Acquainted

Apple Blossom Cafe (409 Cullom St., Clinton, TN 37716)

6:00 to 7:30 pm

Come to our meeting on March 27 to get into all the exciting things your club is doing!

At this meeting we are going to ask you, if possible, to invite a potential new member. We want to involve everyone in at least one activity that the club is doing. We are going to go over our activism (especially on Women's Rights), our recruitment of female candidates, legislative updates from Tennessee representatives and from Anderson County, our scholarship fund for HS girls in Anderson County, and all the issues we are exploring in our programs: homelessness, the de-funding of TennCare, banned books in our public libraries, factual information about the financial status of Social Security, the Anderson County Rescue Squad, and more.

We also want input from you as to other issues or projects our club may be able to do. There is something everyone can do to support the club, get involved, and make us a democratic force in Anderson County.

Wrapping up the evening will be a fun Trivia contest on recent news stories—let's see how well we keep up with the news!

Future ACDWC Events

April 17th -- 6:00 pm –
Labor Organizing in
Anderson County

May 22 – TBA

Other Events

Bi-annual convention: Anderson County Democratic Party – March 25th – The party will elect new party officers and leaders for our many districts in Anderson County. Given this is the year before a Presidential election, it is critical we have all hands on deck and a common game plan.

www.andersoncountymunicipalparty.com

“Roots of America” Lecture Series: Roots of Hate Crimes in America – Martha Manuel, FBI Special Agent. on ethnic and religious persecution. Thursday, April 20, 2023, 5:00 p.m., Pollard Auditorium, ORAU, 210 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge. Following the talk there will be Periodic Tables small group discussions and light meal (see <https://www.oakridgeperiodictables.com/about>).

“Roots of America” Lecture Series: Roots of Immigration – Panel discussion moderated by Madeline Rogero, former Mayor of Knoxville, focused on current Latino immigration issues locally and nationally. Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 5:00 p.m., Pollard Auditorium, ORAU, 210 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for a reception for the speakers. Light food will be served. Presentations begin at 5:30 p.m.

TN Equality Project: Actions against the Slate of Hate <https://www.tnep.org/blog>

Club Updates

Membership Drive and 2023 Dues: If you haven’t already, please renew your ACDWC membership. The dues have increased to \$25/year to cover increased costs. The 2023 membership form is attached to this email – please mail the form with your check.

Open Committee Positions: Please contact Ann Mostoller if you can help with the Scholarship Committee, the Membership Committee, or the Program Committee.

Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women: The TFDW Annual Convention will be held in Greenville TN, April 14th-16th. Please contact Jan Newsome if you’d like to participate.

January 10th – People’s Party in Nashville

Affordable Health Care for Tennessee: Policy Solutions to Cover the Uninsured, Protect Tennessee Hospitals and Reduce Medical Debt

Monday, February 27th 2023 – 6:00 to 7:30pm – Clinton Community Center

Judy Roitman, Executive Director of the Tennessee Health Care Campaign, a grassroots non-profit health justice organization talked to the Club about the state of affordable health care in Tennessee and some of the challenges faced by many TN residents.

Currently 10-13% of Tennessee residents are uninsured. The biggest barrier to receiving health care is the lack of health insurance. The Affordable Care Act provides deep subsidies to people in the program; however, the ACA is only available to those above the poverty line. The State of Tennessee limits TennCare Medicaid coverage, for those not covered by the ACA, to low income families in certain narrow categories, for instance people with one type of cancer but not another. On April 1st the laws will change and many people currently with TennCare Medicaid will be disenrolled. The Tennessee Health Care Campaign has staff that can help people navigate the hurdles of TennCare Medicaid and getting coverage. Their contact info is: 844-644-5443 and [InsureAllTN.com](https://www.insurealltn.com).



People with insurance typically pay negotiated rates for care and prescriptions. For those without insurance, they are charged the full price for care and prescriptions which can be many times the negotiated price. The lack of insurance directly leads to those without insurance to pay more for their care than those covered (and their insurance companies) to pay for the same care. Currently, Tennessee has the highest personal bankruptcy rate in the nation, and is in the top 10% for medical debt.

TennCare Medicare could be expanded with Federal funding for Medicaid expansion. However, the Tennessee Legislature, led by Randy McNally, has refused the money as it will give the federal government too much visibility into and control of the TN budget. Tennessee is currently one of just 11 states to reject the expansion money. If Tennessee were to accept the Medicaid expansion, an additional 12,000 Anderson County residents would have coverage.

Compounding the insurance issues, Tennessee is experiencing the highest rate of hospital closures in the nation. This leads to increased ambulance trips and additional emergency care in route to the hospital. In rural areas, hospitals are also a major employer – so when hospitals close it creates a cascade effect on the entire community.

Prior to the talk, we enjoyed good conversation over a variety of soups, bread, and desserts.

Contact the ACDWC

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Treasurer: Jan Newsome claiborneplanner@live.com

Secretary: Ann Miller amiller.ixd@gmail.com

Membership: Open

Scholarship: Open

Nominating: Regina Guy reginakguy@gmail.com