

The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

May 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, May 22nd

The Future of Social Security: Facts and Myths

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

6:00 to 7:30 pm

Pot-luck supper: Come share in a pot-luck dinner before the program. Bring a dish to share (with serving utensil please) and enjoy the good company.

Following dinner there will be a talk by Milly Taylor about the Future of Social Security,

Are you worried that Congress may actually completely privatize Social Security? It is important that everyone understand the history of the system, why it was created and how it is financed. We can then arm ourselves with knowledge and facts to counter the ideas some of our lawmakers have.

Millicent Taylor has studied the US Social Security system since 1983, when a special commission convinced Congress to raise the SS payroll tax dramatically to "save up" for the retirement of the baby boom generation. Obviously, it did not work, in spite of Social Security generating huge surpluses which have been "invested" in the Social Security Trust Fund administered by the US Treasury. So what's going on?

Taylor will challenge some of the rhetoric going around such as Social Security is wrecking the US government's budget. She will explain how the Trust Fund has been handled, why the higher taxes have been unfair to younger workers, and a sane way to keep Social Security and to strengthen it financially.

Millicent Taylor is a retired Professor of Economics, and currently teaches part-time at the University of Tennessee.

Future ACDWC Events

June 10th – 11:00-2:00 pm

The ACDWC Summer Picnic! See you at the Norris Commons picnic area (in the heart of Norris) for good food and possibly some good music.

July – How is the local government using our money. Date and place will be announced.

Other Events

MARK YOUR CALENDERS to Support Regina Guy for County Commissioner at the County Commission

Meeting: Monday **May 15th** 6:30 pm in the Courthouse (Room 312). She is vying to fill Catherine Denenberg's old appointment. Please contact your County Commissioner ahead of the meeting to ask them to support her.

"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.

Anderson County Dems Present: Unpacking the Tennessee Redistricting Lawsuit: Insights from Gary Wygant Thursday **May 25th** at 7:30. The meeting will be done via Zoom – please refer to [the Anderson County Democratic Party website](#) for the Zoom link when it becomes available.

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.

Sad News: Please see the <https://acdwc.org/> In Memoriam page for their obituaries.

Bill Campbell passed away Feb 4th 2022 and **Shelby Campbell** followed him on March 29th 2023. Shelby and Bill moved back to her hometown after Bill retired and got involved in Democratic politics. Shelby joined the Anderson County Democratic Women's Club where she became a board member and shared her knowledge and experience to help the Club be successful. Shelby served on the Hospitality Committee for many years as a member and Chair. Shelby and Bill were active with the Anderson County Democratic Party, worked at headquarters, and helped Democratic candidates with their campaigns.

Marge Swenson passed away April 17th 2023. Margie was active in the Democratic party. She did a great deal of volunteer work with organizations to help the underprivileged and preserve the environment. She was most proud of the work she did with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). in the early 1960's, to help integrate housing in Oak Ridge. Margie asked that memorial gifts in her honor be made to TORCH (Tennessee Out-Reach Center for the Homeless) or Friends of the Smokies. Her **memorial service** will be held at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church on **May 20th at 2:00 pm**.

Sharon Hubbard passed away March 28th 2023. Sharon was active in the Anderson County Democratic Party and was a frequent and reliable canvasser and poll watcher. Sharon was also a master weaver & fiber artist, and active with the Appalachian Arts Craft Center in Clinton. Donations can be made to SARGE in Sharon's honor. Her **celebration of life** will be held at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church on **June 3rd at 2:00 pm**.

Other member news:

Laura Carrington was appointed to the Oak Ridge Planning Commission. Congratulations Laura!

Promotion? Marriage? New baby? Move? ??? If you have news to share with your sister Democrats please let me know and I will include it in the newsletter.

Last Month's Meeting

Why Are Unions Important in 2023: Union Organizing in the IBEW

April 17th 2023 – IBEW Local 270 Oak Ridge

Derek Guy shared his work as a Union Organizer for the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), the importance of unions as a bulwark in today's generally anti-labor environment, and the differences in the experiences (and benefits) of working as an IBEW wireman vs. the non-union experience. Derek was joined by Daniel Smith, the elected head of the IBEW Local 270.



The IBEW is run as a democracy, with the head of the Local elected from the membership. The Local runs with a limited staff in the office, an organizer, and two people to run the apprenticeship program.

There are quite a few benefits of union membership; some of which were new to many of the attendees. The Union values the individual workers as people who want to be safe in their jobs, earn a good wage, have security, and be treated as intelligent people who have value. The Union provides tools for their members (unlike non-union workers who have to provide their own tools), and they have the specialized tools and safety gear that allows their members to be safe in dangerous situations.

The Local organizes approximately 100 people a year. After passing competency testing and proving they have the required number of hours, they are brought in as full Journeyman Wireman. Union members are nearly guaranteed employment as the Union works with contractors directly to staff those Union jobs. There are three local contractors who are union shops, and they get outbid often by non-Union companies. However, the Union contractors that work with Local 270 have about 15 years of work currently in the pipeline. When the Legislature accepts the Federal funding, the Union contractors will be able to get to work installing EV charging stations all across the state – and the IBEW members are trained and ready for the work. The stipulation of Union contractors for Federal projects depends, however, on the party controlling the White House. Our current administration asks for, and listens to, input from IBEW and other Unions.

If a person wants to try out a different part of the country they can simply go to the Local in their new town and fold into that workforce. They take their seniority, wages, and benefits with them to the new Local. They also take their health insurance and their retirement accounts with them. The IBEW retirement vests after 5 years, and for those who begin with the Apprenticeship Program that clock starts on the first day of their apprenticeship.

Apprentices are paid to work as they amass the required hands-on hours (\$13.50 to start with increases each year to \$25.50 in the 5th year), they have nearly free classroom training, come out of the program with a life-long profession, and have approximately \$100,000 in their retirement account immediately on graduating from the program. And no student debt. There are currently 163 people in

the Apprenticeship Program at Local 270 – with 30-35 starting each year. The Union has some difficulty presenting at the local high schools during their career days, with the schools being afraid of backlash in this East Tennessee non-Union environment. If you know a sharp hard-working high schooler please let them know to check out this option.

Around 10% of the people in the Apprenticeship Program are women. Regina Guy went through the program and worked as a Journeyman Wireman before transitioning to a work planning position (also with the Union). She confirms that women can physically do the work, the other Union workers steer clear of the harassment so often found in the trades, and it is a great profession for young women to enter. The Union fully embraces equal pay for equal work.

Contact the ACDWC

President: Ann Mostoller amostoller@msw-law.com

Vice President: Millicent Taylor millicentmtaylor@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jan Newsome claiborneplanner@live.com

Secretary: Ann Miller amiller.ixd@gmail.com

Membership: Open

Scholarship: Open

Nominating: Regina Guy reginakguy@gmail.com

Club Website: acdwc.org