

February Meeting Summary: *Educate, Empower, and Engage*

2-24-2025 at the Clinton Community Center.

The ACDWC welcomed Sylvia Woods as our dinner speaker for the February monthly meeting.



Sylvia is the President of the Democratic Women of Knoxville and is a Board Member of the Tennessee Democratic Party.

Sylvia Woods has a long history of participation in local union activities. She has worked for the AFL-CIO for thirty years and is a forty five year union member. However, Sylvia came to not only warn us and remind us, but also to inform us of the profound impact of Project 2025. Labor issues are only a small part of what workers/ordinary citizens have to contend with. Project 2025 is an assault not only on worker's rights but also on all aspects of their lives.

She spoke of some of these impacts: taking away our right to birth control, the elimination of Title 7 and sex discrimination, changing overtime rules and elimination of half-time pay, removing workers right to organize, weaponize civil rights laws, undermine workplace safety, eliminate EOC and data collection (so we don't know what's going on), her message is clear: Democrats have to stand up for working people because Democrats are on the side of the worker.

Labor is the last line of defense in preserving our way of life. Thus the AFL-CIO also has a plan to impact Project 2025 which includes building coalitions. They have done this in the past by cooperating with neighboring county union organizations.

The enactment of the Conservative movement's Project 2025 is to change life as we know it. It is their idea of how to put America back on track. Project 2025 is a playbook to relieve the suffering of Americans from our democratic and leftist policies and it is to be complete in 180 days! It is a wish list of right-wing policies that wants the nuclear family at the center with a mother that stays at home and a father that is in charge.

It is not a well-known fact, and Sylvia pointed this out, that the concepts of today's Project 2025 began in the early Reagan years. She referenced firing the air traffic controllers for example, the

historic desire to take down the “deep state,” trickle-down economics, and hollowing out the priorities of the New Deal including radical cuts in education.

Thus, there is a long and persistent push that has resulted in our current situation. It may seem demoralizing for that is what the conservatives want, but it is not inevitable. We must join together and stop the coup.

You can download the full 900+ page Project 2025 from the Home page of [club's website](#).