

# The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

August 2025

## ***Immigration in 2025***

**Monday, August 25th 5:30-7:00 pm**

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

**Pot-luck supper:** Come at 5:30 for potluck supper and enjoy the camaraderie. The program will begin at 6:00pm.

**Program:** Michael Beehan and Lissie Meza Beehan will discuss the climate of fear and anxiety the present administration is causing our immigrant neighbors. "My concern for immigrants centers on the violation of basic human and constitutional rights under the extreme policies of the current administration," Lissie said. "These actions severely impact their ability to live without fear and anxiety, the very conditions they were trying to escape when they left their home countries."

The Beehans will comment on how Project 2025 set the stage for the increasing ICE raids and targeting of the immigrant community. You can find a downloadable copy of Project 2025 on the [club's home page](#).

Lissie, from Merida, Mexico, is a graduate of Universidad Modelo in Merida and taught English at a Piaget schools there for five years there before immigrating to the U.S. She served as the district translator for the Oak Ridge Schools for 11 years, welcoming immigrant families to Oak Ridge and helping them locate needed resources. She earned her master's degree in education with a concentration in special education in 2024, and now teaches fourth grade.

"I'm concerned that immigrants are being treated like less than second-class citizens, being subject to human rights abuses in a country that should be the world leader in protecting human rights. As the husband of an immigrant and the great-grandson of immigrants, I cannot be silent while this happens," Michael said.

Michael, a graduate of Centre College in Danville, KY, said his study abroad in Nicaragua inspired him to work in Latin America after graduation. He taught English at a college in Mexico, where he and Lissie met. An attorney with Fox, Farley, Willis & Burnette in Clinton, he received his law degree from Lincoln Memorial University-Duncan School of Law and served as president of the Immigration Law Society there. He also volunteered at legal clinics at Centro Hispano in Knoxville, where his fluency in Spanish assisted attorneys in providing legal advice.

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### **Future ACDWC Events**

**Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 – RSVP to this newsletter** to attend Campaigns 101. You will learn the basics of what is involved with being a campaign manager, treasurer, key volunteer, or candidate at federal/state/and local levels. Those with first-hand knowledge will share what they learned, where they got help, and how to get started. PLUS there will be a special speaker during the catered lunch!

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We believe having a well prepared Democrat running for every open seat in the 2026 election is possible when we all pull together and help one another.

**Mark Your Calendars!** On October 17th we will be hosting an evening with Derek Black, the author of Schoolhouse Burning. He will talk with us about how the full-scale assault on public education threatens not just public education but American democracy itself. Stay tuned for reservation details.

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### **Other Events**

#### **Upcoming Public Meetings:**

**Oak Ridge:** View meeting schedules and agendas for [Oak Ridge](#)

Please check the website for Oak Ridge meetings as some locations might be different due to on-going construction at the Municipal Building complex.

**City Council Regular Meeting**, 7 pm 2nd Monday of month, Municipal Building Courtroom

**Municipal Planning Commission**, 5:30 pm 3rd Thursday of month, Oak Ridge Municipal Courtroom

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

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

**Land Bank Board of Directors**, 8:30 am 3rd Tuesday of month, Municipal Building Courtroom

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

**Board of Education**, 5 pm 4th Monday of month, Board Room - School Admin Bldg (304 New York Ave.) <https://www.ortn.edu/central-office/board-of-education/members-schedule/>

**Anderson County:** View meeting schedules and agendas for [Anderson County](#).

**Anderson County Commission Meeting**, 6:30 pm 3rd Monday of month, Anderson County Courthouse Rm 312

**Anderson County Library Board**, 5:30 pm 2nd Thursday of month, location rotates between the four libraries (Aug 14<sup>th</sup> Norris Public Library; Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Rocky Top Public Library; Oct 9<sup>th</sup> Briceville Public Library; Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Clinton Public Library)

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

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### **Club Updates**

The club's focus this year will be identifying women who have the passion to run for the 2026 open positions, and then helping those women run a successful campaign. The open positions will be:

- Anderson County Mayor, Norris Mayor, Oliver Springs Mayor, Rocky Top Mayor
- Anderson County Commission (16 seats total)
- Clinton City Council (3 positions), Norris (5 seats), Oak Ridge (4 seats), Rocky Top (2 seats), Oliver Springs (3 seats)
- Anderson County Board of Education (4 seats), Clinton (2 seats), Oak Ridge (3 seats)
- Anderson County Trustee, Sheriff, Circuit Court Clerk, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, Road Superintendent

If you can imagine yourself in any of these positions, EMERGE training can help you get there. There are EMERGE training sessions coming up, both with the national and the state organizations, that will

teach you how to clarify your message, ask for money to fund the campaign, and manage the nuts & bolts of running a campaign.

Please contact Ebony Capshaw, the club's EMERGE liaison, for more information about EMERGE.

### **Make a Difference:**

The club needs help with meeting setup/cleanup. Please contact Ann Miller if you would like to pitch in on that monthly task.

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## **July Meeting Summary**

### **The Nitty Gritty of Recycling with Robin Graham**

7-25-2025 at the Clinton Community Center

Robin Graham got down and dirty with us on the subject of recycling in the City of Oak Ridge. She reported that 85-90% of the items placed in the brown curbside recycling bins are actually recycled. Oak Ridge is the only municipality in Anderson County to have curbside recycling. These are two facts we should be proud of! Her presentation slides can be found on the [ACDWC Events page](#).

Although there is a market for recycled glass, glass is not allowed in the curbside bins. The machines that separate the materials can't handle the glass, and broken glass is very hazardous for the workers handling the materials that come off the trucks. There is a good market for recycled glass however. Blount County has their own glass crusher – with the crushed glass used in road construction. There is also a good market in the glass and ceramics industry since glass is essentially silica, a basic compound they use in their products.

Aluminum cans are very valuable, but the aluminum pie pans and foil are not recyclable at this time. There is also a booming market for cardboard and paper. Paper and cartons with staples, envelope windows, milk cartons, Starbucks cups, and even slightly dirty pizza boxes are OK.

Plastics are a bit tricky. There is a great market for #1 and #2 plastics; however, the remaining plastics do not have a market and are sent to the landfill. Recycling that is placed in a plastic bag is not opened – the entire bag goes to the landfill. Plastic bags, bubble wrap, and plastic films (dry cleaner bags & shrink wrap) can be taken to bins in some of the local grocery stores where they will be bundled with the store's own packaging waste and sent to commercial recyclers.

The Staples store accepts the types of items that they normally sell for recycling, such as devices (printers, chargers, hard drives, mobile phones, etc.), printer cartridges, monitors (for a fee), batteries, luggage and cases, and school supplies.

Robin visited the impressive operation of the sorting plant. The materials are spread on conveyor belts, and the ferrous metals are picked up using magnets. The plastic is separated out with blowers. And the aluminum, cardboard, and paper is manually pulled out. Items like ropes and bags with rope handles can really cause problems as they get caught in so much moving machinery.



The TN Waste to Jobs Act was introduced in the last TN Legislature's session, but was pulled for a lack of support. The forward thinking members will reintroduce the bill in 2026. The bill requires manufacturers to share the responsibility for their products, including the packaging. It shifts the costs away from cities that must support landfills back to the manufactures – encouraging them to produce packaging that can be recycled or minimized. It should not be a surprise that there is lobbying against the bill from landfill operators and Tennessee bottlers who already pay a 3% tax to fund litter collection.

There are things we can do to increase recycling. We can select products with recyclable (or minimal) packaging, make good use of our curbside bins, take what is not allowed to the grocery store, a glass collection station, or other collection facility. And encourage others, especially those living in buildings where there are not curbside bins, to make the time to go to a recycling center. And, please do not put curbside recycling in a plastic bag!

Robin Graham is currently the Chairperson of the Oak Ridge City Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB), which she was appointed to in January 2023. In late 2024, EQAB decided to look into recycling in Oak Ridge, and is now working to increase adoption.

Robin has her doctorate in Forest Ecosystem Science from Oregon State University. She worked at ORNL in the Environmental Sciences Division as a scientist and a manager for many years, and then at Argonne National Lab outside of Chicago – retiring from ANL in 2019. In 2022, Robin and her husband, Jack Graham, moved back to Oak Ridge. Robin raised two daughters who are now living in Washington D.C. and Madison WI. She is also on the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters Board and is President of the Oak Ridge Chorus.

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### **Contact the ACDWC**

**President:** Ann Miller [amiller.ixd@gmail.com](mailto:amiller.ixd@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Ann Mostoller [amostoller@msw-law.com](mailto:amostoller@msw-law.com)

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**Nominating:** Tiffany Malone [tiffanymalone09@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanymalone09@gmail.com)

**Scholarship and EMERGE Liaison:** Ebony Capshaw [ebonymcapshaw@hotmail.com](mailto:ebonymcapshaw@hotmail.com)

**Hospitality:** Open position

**Club Website:** [acdwc.org](http://acdwc.org)