

# The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club News

April 2025

## ***Climate and Energy and Policy, Oh My!***

**Monday, April 28th 5:30-7:30 pm**

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

Climate change, energy use, and policy are inextricably entwined and rapidly evolving.

Dan will draw from his mildly obsessive attention to these issues to explore where we've come from in the recent past, where we are now, and what we can do both locally and nationally as we move forward on these issues.

Dan Terpstra is a retired computer scientist who spent the last dozen years of his career working with supercomputers in the Innovative Computing Lab at the University of Tennessee. He has long been concerned about climate change and its impacts on society. He taught several ORICL courses on climate and energy and related issues, and has been facilitating an adult Sunday School class on climate and related justice issues for the past five years. He is a founding member of Third Act Tennessee, part of a national organization defending democracy and climate action. Dan and Peggy have raised their three children in Oak Ridge, living at the same address for 40 years.

Come at 5:30 for pizza (\$5.00 suggested donation). The talk will begin at 6:00 pm.

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### **Future ACDWC Events**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> 2025** – Sam McKenzie and the State of the State Legislature – Clinton Community Center

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### **Other Events**

**Upcoming Public Meetings:** View meeting schedules for [Oak Ridge](#) and [Anderson County](#).

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

#### **Oak Ridge:**

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.orn.edu/central-office/board-of-education/members-schedule/>

**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, 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****Make a Difference:**

The club has many tasks – some small and some more involved. Please contact Ann Miller if you would like to pitch in on a task that fits your schedule and available time.

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**March Meeting Summary: *Learnings From the Trenches***

3-31-2025 at the 201 Café and Wine Bar

Six of our local Democrats ran in the November 2024 election for School Boards, County Commission, and TN State House. They agreed to share what they learned from running in their respective races. The questions were prepared by members of the club.



**David Miller** – David defeated a 3-term incumbent Republican to get elected to the Anderson County School Board for District 8. David is a retired educator with over 35 years of experience in a variety of settings. He also announced he will be running for the TN Senate District 5 in the November 2026 election. Please check out the event write-up on the club's website to learn more about David and why he will soon be back on the campaign trail.

<https://acdwc.org/events>

**Theresa Venable** – Theresa ran for the Anderson County School Board District 5. She ran with 30 years of experience as a teacher in elementary and middle schools and involvement in two nationally known libraries. After retiring in 2006, Theresa volunteered with the Children's Defense Fund at Alex Haley Farm in Clinton. She next became librarian at the Langston Hughes Library, and then was the Programs Coordinator for the Children's Defense Fund for the next 17 years. She now serves on the Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

**Ashley Craven** – Ashley was elected to one of the two open positions on the Oak Ridge Board of Education. She comes from a long line of educators, although currently in her professional life she is a Project Manager and Integrations Specialist in the veterinary industry. She's a mom and stepmom to three kids – two youths in Knoxville public schools and a preschooler. Ashley also serves on the Oak

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Ridge Traffic Safety Advisory Board and volunteers with the Anderson County Community Mediation Services.

**Tiffany Malone** -- Tiffany ran an extremely competitive race for Oak Ridge Board of Education – coming in a close third. She has two children currently in Oak Ridge Schools: one at Linden Elementary and one at Robertsville Middle School, and one who graduated from Tennessee State University in 2024. In Tiffany’s professional life she is an Electrical Engineer with degrees in both electrical and industrial engineering. She also is active in leadership roles with the Boys and Girls Club Oak Ridge, the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and the Knoxville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc. Tiffany is also currently serving on the board of the Anderson County Democratic Women’s Club.

**Ebony Capshaw** – Ebony was elected Anderson County Commissioner for District 6. She previously served as 5th Senatorial District executive committeewoman and ran in 2018 for Anderson County trustee. She has over 23 years of work experience problem solving and implementing process improvements in pharmacy, quality auditing, customer service, and higher education. Ebony serves as a member of Roane State Community College pharmacy technician program advisory board, East Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps, AME Zion Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society and Christian Education Department. She also has served on the boards of numerous local and statewide organizations.

**Anne Backus** -- Anne ran for the TN State House for District 33. She was elected as the TNDP Executive Committee woman for District 5 in January of 2020. She ran for the TN State House district 33 in 2024 and is running again in 2026. She has a degree in Industrial Engineering and worked a Project Manager for 33 years. Anne serves her community as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the Anderson County Juvenile court, and volunteers as a math tutor. She is the founder/co-chair of PFLAG’s Oak Ridge Chapter and is a member of the Anderson County NAACP.

**Karen George** – Karen was the evening’s emcee. One of Karen’s numerous accomplishments is being the first black woman to own a real estate brokerage firm in our area (Walton George Realty Group). Karen is an active leader in her profession and in many organizations in the greater Knoxville area.

Each panel member was asked:

**“Please identify your proudest accomplishment?”**

- David said his students were his.
- Theresa also said her impact on her students.
- Ashley was most proud of her success in the recent election.
- Tiffany that she was able to use her connective “superpowers” to help folks.
- Ebony uses her skills and her networking ability to solve problems and help others.
- Anne is most proud of founding PFLAG and Youth Pride.

**“Today, what advice would give your 2023 self before you ran for office?”**

- Anne said “not to worry.”
- Ashley found that “people want to believe in you.”
- David said to “get an early start.”
- Theresa also said to “relax.”

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- Tiffany said to “start early and not be afraid to ask for help.”
  - Ebony said “not to be afraid to ask for money.”

**“What support would you need to run again for office?”**

- Ebony said “enough money.”
- Tiffany said need “plenty of volunteers.”
- Theresa said “people power.”
- David said to “ask for help.”
- Ashley would need “child care.”
- Anne said “money and volunteers.”

**“What surprised you most about running for office?”**

- Anne - “I didn’t get it.”
- Ashley – “The amount of stats needed to efficiently run a campaign.”
- David – How many people were surprised, and happy, when he knocked on their doors.
- Theresa – “How receptive people were.”
- Tiffany – Realized she didn’t need to be afraid to knock on doors.
- Ebony – “That I could have good conversations with folks who are not Democrats.”

**“What can you say to encourage others to run for office?”**

- Ebony – “Rely on close friends.”
- Tiffany – “Talk to others who have run before.”
- Theresa – “Use all the volunteers.”
- Ashley – “Become subject matter knowledgeable.”
- Anne – “Everyone is capable.”
- David used his time to announce his run for TN Senate District 5 in Nov 2026.

Each panel member also mentioned that running for office was surprisingly fun – hard work but fun and gratifying. The women candidates discussed the importance of being safe and canvassing with one or two others.

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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)

**Treasurer:** Amanda Mantooth [mantoothaj@gmail.com](mailto:mantoothaj@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Sissy Byram [sissybee52@gmail.com](mailto:sissybee52@gmail.com)

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

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

**Hospitality:** Amanda Mantooth [mantoothaj@gmail.com](mailto:mantoothaj@gmail.com)

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