



# The Anderson County Democrat

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party Feb 2016 Issue 13

*Vote today in the primary for a Democratic candidate!*

## *Please don't vote for torture By Virginia Jones*

The Republicans are scary and their approval of torture is terribly scary for those of us who remember Hitler and the SS.

Democrats have got to get out and vote this year, if for no other reason than to keep someone with a barbaric and sadistic fondness for water boarding as well as other torture. None of the Republican candidates have come out against torture during this campaign, although many have earlier. The fact that Donald Trump promised to "bring back waterboarding and much, much worse" and other candidates seem to be supporting this should make us very scared.

To learn more see <http://humanrightsfirst.org>

I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that not voting for a Democratic President in the General Election is the same as voting for torture along with voting to support attacks on Social Security, Medicare, the ACA, women's rights, in favor of unequal pay for women, and not having a living wage for everyone. The list is virtually endless.

Whether you turn a dial in a voting booth, or not, you will vote in November. Just, please, don't make it a vote for torture.

Virginia Jones

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## *South Carolina by Pat Fain*

What Just Happened in South Carolina?

This Republican primary has just strengthened my belief that the message and its consequences are finally coming home to roost with Republican voters. For years Republican leaders have sowed a message of hate side-by-side with a message of smaller government. Voters have bought into the cynicism of this post desegregation strategy and it has worked well for the last 50 years. *Preach to their hate and they will not notice while we steal their jobs and paychecks.* Until they did. Talk about buyers' remorse! Well, the downfall of the Bushes and the advent of Trump is the what-you-get. The only ones still in denial are the Republican candidates still standing.

Bernie recognized it first and has been articulating and exposing the road not taken. Hillary understands the politics of disillusionment and the opportunity provided for her to return to her early roots and beliefs. Both owe a great debt to President Obama for his vision and tireless leadership toward achieving the American Dream of equal opportunity. IT IS A GREAT TIME TO BE A DEMOCRAT! The goal line is in sight for us, but we cannot rely on the Republican implosion to get us there. The hardest part is ours to make it happen.



Past issues can be found at:  
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*Anderson County Democratic Party: Respect...Inclusion...Equality*

## *E Pluribus Unum and the party By Scott Julius      TNDP Day of Training a success!*

"E Pluribus Unum" or, out of many, one. While not the official motto of our country or party it's an accurate description of who we are. We as Democrats, celebrate our diversity of opinions, views, and ways of life. Out of many ethnicities, religious beliefs, financial backgrounds, and occupations come a collection of Americans who believe there is a better way of government. A form of government that represents all, rich and poor alike, that can function even if you don't get your way all the time. A form of government that can work to make this country a more perfect union. A government we can be proud to pass onto the next generation.

The work to leave a more prosperous country for those who shall follow in our footsteps starts now. We must hit the ground running to make sure Democratic values prevail. This will be a team effort for us all and all hands on deck will be required to sail this ship. After all, this ship won't sail itself. It's a well oiled machine with many running parts working in harmony to propel itself towards its destination. Our destination is a country that's not threatened with government shutdowns every year. It's a place where we have a Congress that does its job, a country where action on climate change isn't called a hoax by an Oklahoma Senator holding a snowball. Our destination is simply common sense.

For us to arrive at this destination, we must be united. I cannot stress this enough. As the old saying goes "*United we stand, divided we fall*". A united party will have many active participants putting all the time and effort they can into winning this election. Members of such a united and successful party will actively support and/or volunteer for a candidate for office of their choice. They will realize what's at stake, that it's Democratic control of the White House and possibly the Senate. People who are in a party like this put aside their differences to make sure Democratic values prevail. These people know the meaning of E Pluribus Unum. For out of many Democrats with diverse views, they spoke in one voice. It was a voice that carried them to the White House.

On the flip side of this coin is the divided party. A divided and unsuccessful party will struggle to get people involved. "*Oh I'm too busy*" or "*Oh, maybe next time*" will be the order of the day. People of such a divided party will see the catastrophic results of Republican rule on TV each day, yet be lukewarm in doing anything about it. Oh they may get involved for a while with a candidate that they like, but the second they don't get the nomination will be the minute they end their involvement in the election. *(Continued on Page Three)*



The Tennessee Democratic Party held their day of training on February 20th at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Our training was led by TNDP Chairwoman Mary Mancin, Senior Political Director Kris Murphy, and Outreach Director Maria Brewer (pictured above). This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about how to get organized and effectively run a campaign. We covered everything from the difference between good and bad party meetings to how to write a press release.

It was thrilling to see such a large turnout as well, with people coming from as distant as Johnson City and Chattanooga to participate. Kris Murphy echoed this sentiment when he said "*I'm really excited about the big turnout*". Mary Mancin mentioned that "*It's so exciting to see so many Democrats fired up in Anderson County!*" The need to have everyone on the same page is critical so it was heartwarming to find that so many other Democrats felt the same way.

Toward the end of the training, we got to meet the woman who will be running against Representative Chuck Fleishmann. As a Chattanooga attorney, Melody Shekari has expressed both her excitement and willingness to represent all Tennesseans in the Third House District. During her statement, she mentioned how urgent it is to not only win the White House, but to win Congressional and State elections. To this effect Melody Shekari said "*I'm really excited to get this done. Just having the White House isn't enough as we've seen in the State House*". It's nice to know we have someone so energized and enthusiastic running!

## *E Pluribus Unum and the Party continued from Page Two*

(Continued from previous page) Or in the political process. After all "My candidate didn't make it so I'm not helping anymore" or worse yet "My candidate didn't make it so I'm not voting" will be the attitudes of people in that party. For the members of that party do not know the meaning of E Pluribus Unum. There are as many diverse views in a divided party as there are in a united party. Only in the divided party, the diverse views cause infighting and contempt among each other. It's a disabled ship run aground and a garbled, incoherent voice. Such a voice carries the likes of Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, or Marco Rubio to the White House.

Events of the past several weeks have highlighted the importance of why its imperative the Republicans are kept out of the White House and kicked out of control of the Senate. The next president will most likely appoint a new Supreme Court justice, even if President Obama gets his appointment through a hostile Senate. Can you picture who a President Cruz (I shudder

at saying that) would pick to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg? Especially if he pushes it through a GOP friendly Senate? That's just the tip of the rapidly melting iceberg of what's at stake here!

So with that said I hope to see everyone here involved this election season and beyond. We have the potential to do alot this year. Indeed, we've already come a long way and accomplished much this past year. Yet, we have a long way to go. Whoever you choose to support in the 2016 election, keep supporting him or her! Stay involved with us and rally behind whoever gets the Democratic nomination. Tell your friends about us! On Election Day (or early voting) go vote for the Democratic nominee for President and the Democrats who are running for other offices. Give a friend who can't make it to the polls a lift. With your help and unity we can sail this ship all the way in. Remember, E Pluribus Unum is all about many being one and one is what we need to be here. Thank you.

## *Upcoming Events...From the Anderson County Democratic Party Chair*

**March 5th:** County Convention for Delegate Selection— Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room— registration will begin at 11:30 AM— DOORS CLOSE AT 1:00 PM EST. Call to order promptly at 1:05 PM EST. Anyone in line to register may complete registration. NO ONE ALLOWED IN AFTER DOORS CLOSE!!!

**March 24th:** Party meeting at ATLC in Oak Ridge, 109 Viking Road, 6 PM. Chief Akagi will be our guest speaker.

**April 21st:** Party meeting, 3rd Floor of Clinton Courthouse, Judge Elledge's courtroom at 6 PM

**May 26th:** Party meeting at ATLC in Oak Ridge, 109 Viking Road at 6 PM.

## *Light Reading for the Political Junkie*

1. Got friends and/or family that support Donald Trump? You might want to have them [read this](#).
2. A little bit of GOP debate satire can be found in [this article by the Washington Post](#).
3. There are also many cases facing the Supreme Court after Justice Scalia's death. Hence the high stakes in being sure a new justice is sworn in soon. [Read about it here](#).
4. President Obama said that the next president will be a Democrat. [Here is why](#).
5. [Here is a good article](#) explaining why the recent CNN Republican debate was an embarrassment to the United States.

## *Important Primary Date Information*

Pat Fain has put together an Excel chart that has been saved as a PDF file of the primary dates across the country. It also shows how many delegates are up for grabs in both parties and if President Obama won that state in the 2008 election. This is a good resource for keeping track of who the various candidates are doing so you may wish to hang on to this. We apologize for being unable to post this as its own page, but were unable due to the long length of the chart. [Click Here](#) for the primary information.

*"The English alphabet has 26 letters. My alphabet has 25...It doesn't have the letter "r" Scott Julius*