



# The Anderson County Democrat

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party June 2016 Issue 20

*Only nine more issues of The Democrat until the election!*

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

**Thursday, June 23rd:** Party meeting, Clinton Community Center 6-8 PM. Pot luck style dinner meeting.

**Saturday, June 25th:** Democratic Women's Picnic at Gibbs Ferry Park starting at 11:30 AM. See Page Two for details.

**July Meeting:** Party meeting, Day/time to be announced. We hope it will be at the new party headquarters in Oak Ridge.

many people came by to tell us they support us and thank us for what we do. Surprisingly, a few people manning the booth had been approached by Republicans who told us they would be voting for the Democratic nominee as they can't stand Donald Trump! Talk about encouraging! Maybe they'll someday see the error of their ways by realizing the hazard of voting for ANY Republican. We had a man who just moved here from Washington State come by the booth who was surprised and happy to find Democrats exist down here. Party secretary Scott Julius told him "You bet we exist. We're here, we work hard, and we aren't going to shut up". He was so happy to see us that he made a donation to the party for our new headquarters!

We also had a couple of candidates for elected office stop by. On June 10th, Herman Collins, write in candidate for State House of Representatives, came by to greet voters and pass out his newly made cards. On June 11th, Melody Shekari, candidate for US House of Representatives Third District stopped by. She and a staffer spent a lot of time greeting voters and passing out information about her campaign, and seeking volunteers in our area.

We all had a great time, despite the heat! The Anderson County Democratic Party thanks everyone who took the time out of their day to volunteer at our booth, those who stopped by to show their support, as well as Herman Collins and Melody Shekari for campaigning at our booth!

## *Secret City Festival a success!*



Oak Ridge held the annual "Secret City Festival" on June 10th and 11th in front of the Civic Center. Among the various booths representing all sorts of organizations was the Anderson County Democratic Party. We have had a presence at Secret City for many years now, so this year continues the tradition. Being an election year, the stakes are high so the importance of having a presence here is imperative.

Our booth was staffed both days by local Democrats who volunteered their time to help in shifts throughout the day. The job of those manning the booth was to answer questions about party happenings, candidates, sell Democratic Party memorabilia, and show that we're here.

Overall, the reception we had was very positive. I lost count of how

*"I'm willing to throw my body in front of the bus to stop bad ideas."*

*Senator Elizabeth Warren*

Past issues can be found at:  
[www.andersoncountymocrat.com](http://www.andersoncountymocrat.com)

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*Anderson County Democratic Party: Respect...Inclusion...Equality*

## *ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY OR THE ROLE OF UNIONS IN AMERICA*

### **Unions in the 21st Century by Pat Fain**

Throughout human history there has been dynamic tension between the have's and the have-nothing's. There have always been struggles for survival and supremacy between people and the balance has always been in flux. There have been many movements trying to reach stasis, but it has proven to be an illusory goal at best. There have always been interest/family groups, formed and failed, to protect common interests and for simple survival. A history of the trade union movement can be found [here](#) on the internet, as can many analyses of the modern union history, begun about 1830 and reaching its apex about 1970.

The most important part is the role unions played in creating the American middle class and how the decline of union membership and political activism has paralleled the portending death of the middle class. The story is inextricably intertwined with the role of modern media and communications and the upset of the balance of wealth (and thus power) in this country. Before WWII the term "middle class" was hardly even a concept. We had the rulers and the ruled. We had revolutions throughout the western world to get free of the European version of serfs and masters.

The history of America is the history of how the capitalists and the National Association of Manufacturers launched a coordinated effort to deny unions a legitimate role in the future or the growth of the country. Corporations were supporting candidates in 1880 the same way they supported them in 1980. Legislation was introduced to control, thwart and eventually destroy the unions. In the 1800's and into the twentieth century there was open warfare between Union members and corporations supported by legislation favorable to the corporations and by troops and hired government security forces. Moderate business leaders, such as the Rockefellers would briefly create ways to work with the unions in the best interests of both and collective bargaining was born, but these efforts never lasted long. Laws were passed; individuals were appointed to key labor boards that were often openly hostile to the rights of labor.

The unions could be said to have contributed strongly to anti-union sentiment of the nineteenth century when they led riots in the streets. People died and more oppressive laws written. The US Constitution was written by the landed gentry of the eighteenth century and the rights of workers were not even imagined. They never had little more than the commerce clause and equal protection amendments to rely on. There were some pro-labor presidents over the more than 150 years of the labor movement, but not many. Only at odd times was there a majority of individuals in Congress that supported working people.

In the modern era, there is a lot of vituperation of labor in the media, very little of which recognizes the value of a healthy middle

class. Then there are all the laws that encourage and financially reward corporations that move their operations overseas. The corporate propaganda since the 1970's has worked to convince the working class, the borderline poverty people, that they would be wasting their money to join a union. There has, for 100 years also been antipathy from labor toward new immigrants that they believed would take their jobs.

The forty hours work week, vacations, overtime pay, safe working environment, protection from toxic and hazardous products and waste, workman's comp, disability insurance, health care: all have been brought to you with the influence and support of unions. Corporate America rejects and delegitimizes the role of labor in participation and recognition of their contributions. Lists of employers unfriendly to work for and abusive to their workers are easily found on the internet today. The shift of wealth from the 98% to the 2% did not just happen recently. It has been underway for more than 150 years. It has simply accelerated since 1970 so that today we have an oligarchy with a head-lock on public policy and the well-being of workers, indeed on all of America. No one has yet explained how we can have a successful economy when over half the population cannot afford our current cost of living.

### *Democratic Women Host Annual Summer Picnic June 25*



The Anderson County Democratic Women's Club will host a summer picnic Saturday, June 25, at Gibbs Ferry Park on Highway 61 between Oak Ridge and Clinton. All Democrats and families are invited to attend the picnic, an annual Democratic tradition, which begins at 11:30 a.m.

Hot dogs, accompaniments, and drinks will be provided, and those attending are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

Gibbs Ferry Park has a covered pavilion with picnic tables, a boat ramp and fishing pier. For more information, please e-mail Ann Mostoller at [amostoller@msw-law.com](mailto:amostoller@msw-law.com) or call Mary Matheny at 483-8937.

## Light reading for the political junkie

1. Tragically, as we went to press 50 people were gunned down in the worst mass shooting in US history and worst terrorist attack on US soil since September 11th. What's more tragic is that this could've been prevented. [Common sense gun control legislation meant to stop terrorists from obtaining guns was considered after the San Bernardino massacre](#). Of course, our members of Congress, being spineless and in the back pocket of the NRA, shot it down. They should have to face the victims personally, but of course they're cowards so they won't.
2. Every time I think Donald Trump can't sink any lower I get proved wrong. [Take a look at his sick reaction to the Orlando shootings](#). Someone of this mentality cannot be trusted with leading this country.
3. Tennessee Democratic Party Chairwoman Mary Mancini has spoken about the Republican's "[Red to the roots](#)" campaign. Republicans seem to think we'd be better off if our state was totally run by the far right. We've seen first hand how much of a disaster that is. As the TNDP Chairwoman would put it, are the roots beginning to rot? Given the state of affairs in Nashville, it would seem so.
4. The blind hatred towards President Obama continues. Sadly, it will no doubt follow how out of the White House. [It's a sad day when a member of Congress prays for the death of the president](#). As much as I detested George W. Bush, I would never do such a thing. People like this are why it's so hard to do anything in Congress these days.
5. I want to end this sad line of news stories on a funnier note. [Check out this video](#) of Jimmy Fallon and President Obama! Nice how our President can keep a sense of humor in the face of the horrible hatred he faces.

## Some motivation to vote BLUE ...



## The illusion of freedom By Scott Julius

As I was walking through the car park at the "mall" in Oak Ridge en-route to help out at the Secret City Festival I chanced upon this vehicle. Not much needs to be said about it as what's on this truck speaks for itself. However, there're some issues poor, misguided people such as the owner of the above truck that one may not have considered.

First off is the sticker that says "This is why we are still free". This person is under the impression that he or she is "free" and the gun ensures this "freedom". The irony is that the owner isn't really free, they're serving a life sentence in a prison of their own making. In their mind, everything and everyone unfamiliar is a threat. Something they don't understand or don't have experience with is to be feared. Fear is their master, leader, and jailer. Around every corner they see threats that aren't there. People such as that will continue to be locked up until they realize that different or unfamiliar isn't to be feared. Only then will they really be free.

Second, they claim guns are the key to their so called "freedom". Back when the Second Amendment was written, the balance of firepower between citizen and government was more/less equal. That isn't the case anymore. As we see in authoritarian governments today, if the government really wants to take over your shotgun won't protect you.

Third, the Confederate flag doesn't belong on the same truck as the American flag. The "terrorists" they were fighting starting in 1861 were United States soldiers. How **DARE** this person call him/herself patriotic.

Fourthly, this truck was parked crooked in parts of two spaces.

