



# The Anderson County Democrat

September 2015 Issue 2

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party

## Welcome to Fall!

### From the Editor:

There was a time when the Democratic Party thought of itself as the “big-tent party.” We believed and behaved, both through our words and our actions, as welcoming to anyone and everyone who also espoused the tenants of respect, equality and inclusion. We represented the best of America in that we believed in supporting each other and in advancing the growth of the middle class. We understood that we are all Americans, native born and immigrants alike. The prosperity of the middle class drove the prosperity of the nation.

We did not always agree with each other, but we agreed to respect each other and that the inclusion of all who felt the same would surpass the strength of each struggling alone. This became for many years *a civil contract* among Democrats and resulted in the growth of a strong dynamic political party. Our public policy reflected this belief. But somewhere along the way, divisiveness set in and we began to emulate those whose whole purpose was to disenfranchise the middle class, as well as, the poor and to usurp the influence, the power and the wealth of the nation for their own personal and exclusive ends.

What happened during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that has left the civil contract and the tenants of inclusion, equality and respect in the dust? When did we begin tearing apart the Democratic party; vilifying anyone who was “different” and allowing the bastardization of our legal and monetary systems to let the few control the many. Most importantly, how can we recreate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the civil contract that made the middle class possible and brought prosperity to America under Democratic governance? How do we create a country that supports and advances the good of all the people through inclusion, equality and respect?

We urge you to continue this conversation through Letters to the Editor in this publication. Pat Fain, Editor



Welcome to the Green McAdoo Center, Clinton

### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

September 24<sup>th</sup> is the date for our next meeting. The place is Green McAdoo Cultural Center, 101 School Street, Clinton and the time is set for 6:30 p.m. If you have never visited the center now is a prime opportunity to do so. For those of you who lived through this historical time, it will be a walk down memory lane. And for those of us who did not, well you will learn more about your community and some very brave young people who put their lives on the line to help move our community and country forward.

A decision was made to divert from our usual covered dish. Box sandwiches will be available from Rasselberry’s. My understanding at this time is there will be a choice of ham, turkey and possibly sausage. As soon as Jean Hiser has more information she will pass it along. You will email or call her with your selection. The cost will be \$10. [316hiser@comcast.net](mailto:316hiser@comcast.net) or 865-272-3077

Join us and be sure to bring a friend or other family members.....especially the younger ones...in particular teens. Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., Green McAdoo Cultural Center, 101 School Street, Clinton, 37716

Catherine Denenberg



## ACDP State Committee Members

Richard Dawson and Beth Hickman

### STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

State committee men and women are elected in the August primaries of even numbered years for a term of four years to represent each senatorial district in the state. Richard Dawson and Beth Hickman, represent the 5<sup>th</sup> district that includes Anderson, Loudon, and part of Knox counties. Their objective is to promote the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, and to assist in the election of Democratic nominees. In this capacity, they perform a variety of duties, such as choosing the state party chair, overseeing the selection of delegates to the Democratic National Convention, and implementing fundraising and candidate recruitment strategies.

One of the primary functions is serving as the liaison between county parties and the state party. They act as sources of information and support for the county parties, and coordinate cooperation between counties in our districts. They often attend events throughout our district and assist with county party reorganizations and special projects.

Committee members also serve on standing committees. Beth is a member of the state executive committee that develops the state budget and fund raising strategy and Richard is a member of the Anderson County Development Committee. Both serve as an institutional resource to help county parties grow and prosper and assist in the development of a minimum set of requirements that a state sanctioned County Democratic Party must observe to be certified as a County Party and to monitor local compliance with those minimum standards.

Richard finds that serving as an elected committeeman to the State Democratic Party is a time consuming, demanding and rewarding job that allows a political junkie to see the political "sausage making" up close. Beth says that perhaps the most rewarding aspect of serving as a State Executive Committee member is getting to meet Democrats throughout Senate District 5 and across the state that believe so passionately in our party and have such energy and vision for doing what is right and making government work in a positive manner.



## Labor Day Picnic a success!

On Monday, September 7th the Roane County Democratic Party help their annual Labor Day Picnic and Visibility Campaign at Roane County Park in Harriman.

We had great turnout with good food to serve and drinks to keep us cool on that hot Labor Day. In addition to live music, we had two guest speakers: Tennessee Democratic Party Chair Mary Mancini and Attorney Terry Adams.

Bob Cowan, chair of the Roane County Democratic Party, introduced the speakers and stressed the importance of making the Party more visible in Tennessee. Mr. Cowan said "People need to know we exist, many people don't know we're here."

Well we are here and working to make Tennessee a state that works for ALL Tennesseans. Keep up the good work!

### September Events

Sept. 24th, 6pm

ANDERSON COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY MTG  
Green McAdoo Cultural  
Center 101 School St.  
Clinton

Sept. 26th 10am to 3pm

TNDP Regional Training Day  
For: All county officers and leaders  
Steelworkers Union Hall Local 1155  
180 Arch Cope Rd, Morrison, TN37357  
Includes lunch: email Catherine  
for more Info cate.denenberg@gmail.com

Sept. 28 6 p m

Anderson County Democratic Women's Club  
Shoney's Oak Ridge (No Reservations)  
Speaker: Al Chambles discusses his autobiographical novel  
*Climbing the Colored Side*  
A southern black child's struggles to become a scientist in the  
white world of the 1940's

## Executive Committee:

<b>Chair:</b> Catherine Denenberg	cate.denenberg@gmail.com
<b>Immediate Past Chair:</b> Ann Mostoller	amostoller@msw-law.com
<b>Vice Chair:</b> Herman Collins	hcollins05@comcast.net
<b>Secretary:</b> Hillary Kershaw	hkershaw@msw-law.com
<b>Treasurer:</b> Jean Hiser	316hiser@comcast.net
<b>State Committeewoman:</b> Beth Hickman	bethhickman301@gmail.com
<b>State Committeeman:</b> Richard Dawson	DC9Dawson@bellsouth.net

## Standing Committees

**Chair of Publicity Committee:** (Pat Fain)

patfain1@gmail.com

**Chair: Anderson County Dem Women**

(Ann Mostoller)

amostoller@msw-law.com

**Chair of Membership com.**

( Ann Mostoller)

## Learn About Us

**Anderson County Democratic Party:**

[www.andersoncountymdemocrat.com](http://www.andersoncountymdemocrat.com)

**Tennessee Democratic Party:**

[www.tndp.org](http://www.tndp.org)

**National Democratic Party:**

[www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)

## Democratic Debate Schedule

**October 10th, 2015:** Hosted by CNN in Nevada.

**November 14th, 2015:** Hosted by CBS, KCCI, and *The Des Moines Register* in Iowa.

**December 19th, 2015:** Hosted by ABC and WMUR in New Hampshire.

**January 17th, 2016:** Hosted by NBC and the Congressional Black Caucus in Charleston, SC.

**Two more in either February or March**

**2016:** One hosted by Univision and the *Washington Post* in Miami and one hosted by PBS in Wisconsin.

All archived Issues of *The Anderson County Democrat* on our website  
[www.andersoncountymdemocrat.com](http://www.andersoncountymdemocrat.com)

Send the editor your thoughts, comments, and opinions for publication here.  
Please keep comments to 300 words

## Letter to the Editor:

President Obama made a heartfelt speech in Selma, Alabama marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" back in March. During his speech, the President mentioned the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He said "*The Voting Rights Act was one of the crowning achievements of our democracy, the result of Republican and Democratic effort. President Reagan signed its renewal when he was in office. President Bush signed its renewal when he was in office.*" In an era of partisan bickering, seeing both parties come together to ensure all have access to the polls is a breath of fresh air.

Sadly, two years ago the Supreme Court struck down a key portion of the Voting Rights Act in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*. How on Earth can this be justified? Since its inception, the VRA has kept the road clear for all to access the polls on Election Day. However, upon this horrible decision Republican leaders went to work for once in their lives, though not to help their entire constituency. In Tennessee, Republicans

in Nashville passed some of the most restrictive voter suppression laws in the country. Conveniently, the victims of the strict voter ID laws almost uniformly fall upon minorities, the poor, and the elderly. What do our elected officials fear from this demographic? To add insult to injury, now they try to limit early voting and polling locations.

Voter fraud is an extremely rare issue, hardly even a problem. What the Republicans are doing is creating a solution in search of a problem. There is a problem alright and it starts with our elected officials supporting VRA free voter suppression. Thankfully, this is one problem that can easily be solved. That solution is putting officials who support voter suppression in the un-employment line after Election Day.

Scott Julius

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