



ROANE COUNTY “BLUES” QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September, 2021

MEETINGS:

- Second Thursday at 7 pm at Greenwood School, Kingston, TN

TO BECOME ACTIVE IN OUR CHAPTER, please contact Susan Garrott at susangarrott1525@gmail.com. **WE WELCOME YOU!**

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT.....

Energetic and exuberant, Vickey Shubert Beard is a positive life force to be reckoned with! The Roane County Democrats are lucky she retired from her work and chose to focus on growing our “blue dot in a red county!” Her important contributions include igniting our Roane County Democrats’ image and raising the awareness of citizens to our work. She puts together outreach events for festivals, teaches us how to be more effective in our fundraising and edits our newsletter!

Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Vickey is the daughter of a United Methodist minister, active in the Civil Rights Movement. She remembers meeting Martin Luther King Jr. and having to walk to school accompanied by FBI agents. Her dad’s serious commitment to justice attracted danger for his family, but Vickey learned –from an early age – how to take a stand and assume responsibility for her beliefs. “If I don’t take a stand, I can’t put my head down at night.”

After graduating from University of Alabama in Business, Vickey soon learned how to marry her personal interest in fitness and good health with both the corporate as well as the non-profit worlds. Most recently, she retired from twenty-three years with the Knoxville YMCA where she was Vice-President of Healthy Living program. She has 2 grown daughters and two grand-daughters.

Come join us at our meetings – you’ll feel her energy and be inspired!!

CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Matt Adams, candidate for the Third District US House of Representatives:

Matt has been engaged in public service all of his life. In elementary and middle school, Matt was deeply involved in church mission work, the Beta Club and 4-H activities. At Walker High School in Cleveland, TN, he was actively involved on a city-wide leadership board working with the Parks and Recreation committee for Calhoun, raising money and offering ideas to improve its services.

Matt joined the United States Army where he served nearly seven years in active duty, first in Hawaii and then in Germany as a senior paralegal. During the Covid year of 2020, his office worked closely with the State Department, crafting new protocols with no real playbook for managing a pandemic. He continues to be an Army reservist.

Considering his incumbent, Adams knows that he votes along Party lines, following Party leadership, so that even though there is bipartisan support for improving America's aging infrastructure, there is no indication that the Third District can benefit from the incumbent's lack of leadership. Matt says, "Our waterways, roads, bridges, dams, and renewable energy infrastructure are nearly forty-five years behind in repairs. We need this legislation now."

Considering his strong platform in Climate Change, Matt is a realist, indicating that "We can manage some issues and some are irreversible. We must take proactive steps by investing in storage." He says that high-speed electric rail and large-scale vehicle manufacturing will create jobs because when you invest in energy, new jobs develop. Matt says that Climate Change legislation will have a good impact on the environment as well as job creation for the American worker.

As a twenty-five year old, Matt Adams feels that the US Congress would benefit from his fresh ideas and new perspectives. He has a long history in the Third District community and wants to work for the people here, nor for those who fund campaigns. "I am willing to put in the time and energy!"

ROANE COUNTY CONVENTION NEWS

The bi-annual convention for our local party was held on August 21 at Kingston Community Center. It was well attended and we have posted the detailed notes on the website roanecountydemocrats.org. The topics covered were:

Committee Notes

Election of Officers

Election of District Representatives

Oath of Office

Thanks so much to Susan Garrett and Mary Ellen Blencoe for their expertise in making this event so successful!

COMING UP.....

- Kingston Fall Street Fest – Saturday, October 23 on the streets adjacent to the Roane County Courthouse, 200 E. Race St. Cumberland, Third and Court streets 11 am – 5 pm To volunteer to work the event, please contact Vickey Beard at vbeard@ymcaknoxville.org

GREENWOOD SCHOOLS RECEIVES RECOGNITION

The Kingston Colored School

By Mary Ellen Blencoe

In 1934, the Roane County School Board authorized the purchase of materials to build the two classroom elementary school on Greenwood Street for Black children. Members of the community provided the labor. One classroom was for first through fourth graders, and the second for fifth through eighth graders. A cafeteria and office were added in 1959.

The school continued to be known as the Kingston Colored School until early 1962. According to the School Board minutes, commodities had been delivered to the Kingston Negro School, and not to the Kingston Elementary School the white children attended. The name was then changed to the Greenwood Elementary School since it was located on Greenwood Street.

It wasn't until the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, tying federal grant funding to the schools' desegregation that integration began in earnest. The Roane County Board of Education passed a Resolution for Desegregation of the Roane County Public Schools on August 20, 1964. On June 5, 1965, the Board of Education passed a revised plan for desegregation of the Roane County Schools. Since Greenwood School had only two classrooms, it was permanently closed and the students integrated into other Kingston schools.

In October 2020, the Greenwood School Education Foundation applied for a Tennessee Historic Marker for the school building. The Tennessee Historical Commission approved the marker in March 2021, and it arrived at the school in May. So the name was then changed.

