

Hamblen County Federation of Democratic Women – Annual Report

Over the past year, the Hamblen County Federation of Democratic Women has undergone significant changes and continued to strengthen its presence within the community.

At our meeting on September 10, 2025, Jen Lavin was installed as President. Following this transition, the remainder of the board stepped down, and we have relied on volunteers at each meeting to assist with taking minutes to ensure continuity and accurate record-keeping.

To encourage growth and increase accessibility, we voted to change our meeting time from the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. to the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Our goal is to expand beyond our core group of ten regular attendees and attract new and younger members. We are actively working to increase visibility and engagement throughout the community.

In October, we installed a new Treasurer, Diane Clamebone, and much of that month was dedicated to updating banking information and ensuring all financial records were in proper order. In February, we installed our new Secretary, Lyssa Jones. We continue to work toward filling the remaining board positions.

In July, we held our annual picnic, featuring speakers Pedro Reyes and Sheila Grooms McMahan. Approximately 80 people attended. The event raised around \$1,000 for the organization, and Sheila received an additional \$400 in donations. Our next picnic is scheduled for May 16th.

We have collaborated closely with the Hamblen County Democratic Party to organize all three “No Kings” protests, each of which saw record-breaking turnout. In addition, we participated in several other demonstrations, including the Women’s March and the Ice Out Protest.

Last April, and again this year, we sponsored a table at the GFWC Morristown Reading Circle. In November, we organized a food drive for families in Morristown, providing support to 24 households—44 adults and 47 children. In December, we held our annual Christmas Party jointly with the Democratic Party and collected additional food donations, which were delivered to Central Services.

We also assist with roadside cleanup along the section of Andrew Johnson Highway adopted by the Democratic Party.

Finally, we continue to encourage members to support Democratic candidates. This year, three of our members are running for County Commission in their respective districts.