



# Newsletter

# Montgomery County Republican Women

*"There's a Place for you at our Table"*

August 3, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 8

## Montgomery County Judges

**Hon. Jill Barte Ayers**

**Tennessee Court of  
Criminal Appeals**



Jill Barte Ayers is a judge on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals. She was appointed to the court by Gov.

Bill Lee (R) on January 12, 2021, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Thomas T. Woodall. Ayers was confirmed in April 2021.

Judge Ayers previously served as a Part IV judge on the Nineteenth Circuit Court in Montgomery County, Tennessee. She was appointed to the seat by Gov. Bill Haslam (R) on October 21, 2015. The Part IV seat was newly created in 2015, expanding the courts bench from three to four judges. Be-

**Hon. Kathryn Olita**

**Circuit Court Judge**



Katy grew up in Clarksville, Tennessee and after graduating from the University of Tennessee and the University of Memphis School

of Law, practiced law in Memphis for three years. In 2006, she had the opportunity to move home to Clarksville to join Batson Nolan law firm. In January 2013, she became a Member/Owner of the firm. While at Batson Nolan, her law practice was primarily in defense of civil suits, with an emphasis in governmental liability, employment law, and business litigation. Her clients included governmental officials and employees, law enforcement

**Hon. Sharon Massey Grimes**

**Montgomery County General  
Sessions and Juvenile Court**



Mrs. Massey Grimes is a General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judge in Montgomery County, Tennessee.

She was appointed to the bench by the Montgomery County Commission in January, 2021. She is completing the unexpired term of her late husband, Judge Ray Grimes.

Prior to being appointed, she was a practicing attorney for 23 years in domestic relations specializing in adoption.

Mrs. Massey Grimes was raised in Clarksville, Tennessee, and graduated from Clarksville Academy. She is the daughter

**Biographies are continued on Page 2**

### LUNCH RESERVATIONS

Luncheon Meetings are every first Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am at the [Tanglewood House](#) at 1601 Madison Street in Clarksville. Cost is \$20. Make check payable to MCRW. Make your reservation by email to [tina.englen@yahoo.com](mailto:tina.englen@yahoo.com) or phone Tina at 931-249-3605.

Reservations must be made before 10:00 am the Friday prior to our 11:30 am meeting the following Tuesday. Remember that *"a reservation made is a reservation paid."* If you know someone who does not have email, let her know to contact Tina by phone. [Click here](#) to do online payments.

Secure Payments by



**(Cont'd) Hon. Jill Bartee Ayers**

cause of this was a new seat creation, the initial appointment ran until an election was held in 2016. The election was for a six-year term that would bring the seat's election cycle into alignment with the next regular judicial election in 2022. Ayers won the Republican primary on March 1, 2016, advancing to an unopposed general election on August 4, 2016. She resigned when she was appointed to the appeals court.

Judge Ayers earned a B.A. from Belmont University in 1989 and a J.D. from University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 1992. Judge Ayers served as the school board attorney for Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. She previously worked as an attorney at Batson Nolan in Clarksville from 1997 to 2015.



**COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

*The Court of Criminal Appeals was created by the legislature in 1967 to hear trial court appeals in felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as post-conviction petitions. The Tennessee General Assembly increased the membership of the court from nine to 12 on Sept. 1, 1996. Learn [more here](#).*

**CIRCUIT COURT**

*Tennessee's 95 counties are divided into 31 judicial districts. Within each district are Circuit Courts and Chancery Courts, as provided by the state constitution. Some districts also have legislatively established Criminal Courts and Probate Courts. Judges of these courts are elected to 8-year terms. Learn [more here](#).*

**County General Sessions and Juvenile Court**

*General Sessions Court jurisdiction varies*

**(Cont'd) Hon Katy Olita**

officers, businesses, and the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System.

In 2018, Katy was selected by Governor Bill Haslam to serve as Circuit Court Judge for the 19th Judicial District, which is comprised of Robertson and Montgomery Counties. Since being sworn in on November 1, 2018, she has been presiding over civil cases primarily consisting of family law issues such as adoption, divorce and child custody. On August 6, 2020, she was elected to finish out the judicial term that ends September 1, 2022. Katy currently serves as Presiding Judge for the 19th Judicial District, is Treasurer of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, and is a member of the Tennessee Trial Court Judges' Executive and Domestic Relations Committees.

Outside of her professional life, Katy is very active in the community and her church. She and her husband Aaron have two great kids who keep them very busy.

*from county to county based on state laws and private acts. Every county is served by this court of limited jurisdiction, which hears both civil and criminal cases.*

*Civil jurisdiction is restricted to specific monetary limits and types of actions. Criminal jurisdiction is limited to preliminary hearings in felony cases and misdemeanor trials in which a defendant waives the right to a grand jury investigation and trial by jury in Circuit or Criminal Court.*

*General Sessions judges also serve as juvenile judges except in counties in which the legislature has established separate Juvenile Courts.*

<https://www.tncourts.gov/courts/general-sessions-courts/about>

**(Cont'd) Hon Sharon Massey Grimes**

of a retired military first sergeant. She attended the University of Kentucky and Austin Peay State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. She received her Juris Doctor from Nashville School of Law in 1998. After earning her law degree she worked as an associate in a local law firm and then in March, 2000, opened her own general practice focusing on domestic and criminal law. In 2009, she started Massey Title & Escrow and eventually her daughter became a partner and they provide title services to the Middle Tennessee area.

Mrs. Massey Grimes is a lifelong Republican, and served 5 years as the chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party. Under her direction the Montgomery County Republican Party was able to have a permanent headquarters, one of only 5 in the State of Tennessee. In 2019, she was elected and served as the Tennessee Republican State Executive Committeewoman, until her appointment to the bench. She is a past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Clarksville Academy. She is a lifetime member of the VFW Post 11160 Women's Auxiliary.

She has served on numerous boards and Commissions including the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth for 9 years, having been appointed by both Republican and Democratic Governors. She was appointed by former Speaker of the House of Representatives Beth Harwell to serve on the Post Conviction Oversight Commission, a committee with oversight to persons on death row in Tennessee. She is a fellow with the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and has tried more contested adoptions in Montgomery County than any other attorney in recent years.

**2020 –2021 Officers**

**President,** Teresa Tuttle  
**1st VP –Programs,** Valerie Throckmorton  
**2nd VP—Membership,** Kyong Dawson  
**Corresponding Secretary,** Willi Frank  
**Recording Secretary,** Nancy Adkison  
**Treasurer,** Juanita Golson  
**Assistant Treasurer,** Syndi Carlson  
**Immediate Past President,** Brenda Graham

**2020 –2021 Committee Chairs**

**Americanism,** Willi Frank  
**Armed Forces/ Homeland Security,** Kyong Dawson  
**Budget & Finance,** Cheryl Chapin  
**By-Laws,** Rachel Massey  
**Campaign Hours,** Brenda Graham  
**Caring for America,** Gail Longton  
**Chaplain,** Gail Longton  
**Club Achievement Awards,** Pat Allen  
**Communications,** Teresa Tuttle  
**Decorations,** Kyong Dawson  
**Facebook,** Cheryl Hood  
**Fundraising -** Marie Tillman  
**Historian,** Juanita Golson  
**Iris Fund,** Brenda Graham  
**Leadership,** Pat Allen  
**Legislative,** Myra Simons  
**Literacy/Education,** Ellen Twombly  
**Luncheon Reservations,** Tina Englen  
**Newsletter Editor,** Marie Tillman  
**Parliamentarian,** Opal Kennedy  
**Publicity,** Kathleen Smith  
**Volunteer Hours,** Brenda Graham  
**Voter Registration,** Peggy Vaughn  
**Website,** Marie Tillman  
**Women in Business/Free Enterprise,** Neisha Wolfe

**Our Club Objectives**

- To promote and inform public through political education and activity.
- To increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.
- To facilitate cooperation among the National and State Federation.
- To foster loyalty to the Republican Party and promote its principles and candidates in all elections, including non-partisan elections.
- To support the objectives and policies of the Republican National and Tennessee Executive Committees and to work for the election of Republican Party nominees.
- To attain Diamond Award in 2020-2021

**PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2021 . . . OUR DUES ARE \$35.00 PER YEAR!**

Men may join as Associate Members for \$20.00 per year. Make all checks payable to MCRW and send to: **Kyong Dawson, 1262 Carnation Court; Clarks-ville, TN 37042; 931-249-9443-- email:**

[ksdawson.mcrw@gmail.com](mailto:ksdawson.mcrw@gmail.com)

[Click here](#) to go to the website and download a membership form, pay your membership online, or [fill in and pay by online form](#).

You may also pay your dues at the Luncheon meeting.



**CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS**

If you know of a current or former member who has been or is ill, has suffered a loss or could just use a little cheer, please give their names and addresses to **Willi Frank** or email them to her at [sfwilli@aol.com](mailto:sfwilli@aol.com) so she can send



The **Area 5A Convention** was held on July 17, 2021, at Demos in Hendersonville. Those attending from MCRW were Pat Allen, Teresa Tuttle, Brenda Graham, Faye Hobson, Erin Yow, and Kyong Dawson. Pat served as the President of the Convention and Brenda recorded the minutes.

**Anne Hildebrand**, from Sumner County Republican Women is the newly elected Area 5A Vice President, (the lady between Faye and Erin in the back) and was unopposed. She has not been in the Tennessee Federation for long but was active in her Republican Women's group in West Virginia and is very excited to be serving. We look forward to having her visit us after she takes the oath at the State Convention in October.





**NFRW Biennial Convention - September 23-26, 2021, Orlando, FL**

This national convention is the time when thousands of Republican women from Federated Clubs all over the U.S. come together for several days of fellowship, education, inspiration, and business to celebrate their achievements. It's important for your club to complete all the award forms and then to submit them for recognition at this convention.

**Club Delegates** - Bylaws state that "one delegate and one alternate shall be elected by each club."

**State Delegates** and delegates-at-large "shall be elected by the TFRW Board of Directors." Our TFRW delegates-at-large are based on the membership count by June 25, 2021. Delegates-at-large were elected at the May 22 TFRW Board of Directors Meeting.

**TFRW 33rd Biennial Convention - October 22-23, 2021, Franklin, TN**

**Delegates at Large** - Statewide elected officers and the Area Vice Presidents of the TFRW

**Club Delegates** - each club shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for every ten (10) memberships paid to the State Federation no later than sixty (60) days before the Convention. Delegates and alternates are to be elected by each club after due notice to the membership. Delegates and alternates must have been members at least (60) days before their election.

**Room reservations** - Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, \$129/night, Tennessee Federation Republican Women's block of rooms. Reservations 615-261-6100. More to will be coming on this soon.

Montgomery County Republican Women club will be responsible for the Silent Auction and provide the workers at the Biennial Convention. If you would be willing to help with that, please let Willi Frank, the Biennial Convention Silent Auction Chairman, know as soon as possible.



The Montgomery County GOP Headquarters is open on Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. You can check the website at [www.montgomerycountytngop.org](http://www.montgomerycountytngop.org) for updates.

THANK YOU to all of the Montgomery County Republican Women who volunteer to work at the headquarters. We could not open it without you. We hope that you will continue to volunteer. For those who have not volunteered to work but would like to do so, contact Willi Frank to get on the schedule. Phone her at 931-551-5733 or email [sfwilli@aol.com](mailto:sfwilli@aol.com).

John Dawson, Montgomery Co. Republican Party chair, encourages everyone to get more involved in the community as Republicans by working in community Cleanups, Block parties, and voter registration.

The Montgomery County GOP meets on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the GOP headquarters at 1817A Madison Street, Suite 1, Clarksville, TN 37043. Red River Republican Women is our Sister club that meets the 3rd Saturday morning of each month at 9:45am at the Montgomery County headquarters.

Montgomery County  
★Republican  
*Women*  
**News,  
Notes &  
Reminders**

- Get your copy of "**Camilla Can Vote**" by Mary Morgan Ketchel with Marsha Blackburn for only \$18.00. See Teresa Tuttle.
- Bring your loose change to the meeting for the "**Loose Change Cups**". This is a great way for us to build our funds.
- Bring cleaning products both for health and personal use and can goods and other non-perishable foods, especially handy take-out, like juice boxes and snacks. This is our **Caring for America project**. Items will be given to Urban ministries.
- We need to get our old members back along with new ones in order to build our **membership**. Even if members are unable to be at meetings for health reasons, their financial support is still important. There are also ways to support the club by doing things from home, making phone calls to recruit new members and to support candidates.
- Watch for information on our seminar featuring **Jonathan Dunne** on **September 18, 2021**. Check out his [podcasts](#).

# Representative Mary Littleton Addresses Human Trafficking

As she began her presentation regarding the issue of Human Trafficking, Representative Littleton explained that her first bill when she entered the Tennessee Legislature was to terminate parents' rights in regard to this issue. She wished that everyone understands that trafficking happens everywhere, not only in Tennessee.



Representative Littleton shared that the website, [End Slavery Tennessee](#), provides information that will enable all citizens to start looking for signs of trafficking and encouraged everyone to join and be part of the endeavors to fix this problem.

She reported that as many as 94 children a month are trafficked online and 85% of the counties in Tennessee report some sort of human trafficking.

Representative Littleton wanted us to know that the [Tennessee Budget](#) has included \$5 million in this budget year to various organizations working with victims of human trafficking. Among those organizations are [Thistle Farms](#), a two-year residential community that offers women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction a place to heal and thrive; [End Slavery Tennessee](#), [Tennessee Anti-Slavery Alliance](#) and the [Tim Tebow Foundation](#) will

be used to build "safe homes" in Chattanooga.


Tennessee has some of the toughest laws and has become a model for other states for the support of victims and holding traffickers responsible.

Representative Littleton briefly shared her work



with the [Red Sand Project](#). Awareness is raised for those affected by modern day slavery by filling sidewalk cracks with red sand. She said that she would come back and share that experience with us and show us how it is done.

You can download handouts from our meetings by [clicking here](#). Among those available are Critical Race theory, Human Trafficking, What the NFRW Stands For and the TFRW Resolution to Preserve the Supreme Court.



Here are some recently published stories of undercover trafficking stings from all over the State of Tennessee

**18 Men Arrested in Tennessee Undercover Trafficking Sting**

SPRING HILL, TN — The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation arrested 18 men after a joint two-day undercover operation into human trafficking in that state. All 18 were charged with seeking illicit sex from minors.

<https://orlandoadvocate.com/2021/07/18-men-arrested-in-tennessee-undercover-trafficking-sting/>

**5 men arrested in western Tennessee human trafficking sting**

UNION CITY, Tenn. — An undercover human trafficking investigation led to the recent arrests of five men in western Tennessee.

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/trending/5-men-arrested-western-tennessee-human-trafficking-sting/5XNENJFLYRGZBHMMRRIIV62RRU/>

**TBI: 7 men arrested after Northeast Tennessee joint human trafficking investigation**

ERWIN, Tenn. (WJHL) – Seven men have been arrested and accused of attempting to solicit sex from minors after a joint Northeast Tennessee investigation.

According to a release from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, agents with the bureau's Human Trafficking Unit conducted a two-day undercover operation.

<https://www.wjhl.com/news/local/tbi-7-men-arrested-after-northeast-tennessee-joint-human-trafficking-investigation/>