



# Ossoli Circle Newsletter



January 2013

P.O. Box 10892, Knoxville, TN 37939

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Lexa Hooten

Dear Ossoli Friends:

During this very special time of the year, I hope each of you has had a meaningful holiday season, surrounded by friends and family. Regretfully, a number of our members have suffered from the flu or other illnesses. We can only hope that flu season is short lived!

As we reflect back over the first half of the 2012-2013 year, Ossoli has experienced success in many ways. We have witnessed strong teamwork and collaboration with each of the major commemorations---the *I Love Ossoli* Tea, the Opening Day / Membership Coffee, and the Replacement Benefit Bridge / Silent Auction. Both Founders' Day and Presidents' Day, times dedicated by the club to honor former members and leaders, were truly significant events!

The organization achieved important goals through amazing, inspirational programs, fund-raising endeavors, volunteer activities, conferences, and service projects. During the last half of the year, work in all these areas will continue. In fact January and February hold promising experiences for Ossoli members.

During this time, in addition to some of the most intriguing program topics yet, on January 14 the Public Issues Committee has invited County Mayor Tim Burchett back to speak to Ossoli; and on January 28, Ossoli Circle observes Leadership Day by bringing its members two outstandingly strong leaders from the Knoxville community---Dr. Joe Johnson, President Emeritus, University of Tennessee and City Mayor Madeline Rogero, the first female mayor of a large city in the state of Tennessee.

Ossoli in Action members are putting the final touches on the Ossoli in Action Card Party and Luncheon, the committee's annual fund-raiser, scheduled for Friday, February 8. Please invite all your friends---especially card-playing friends---to experience fun, fellowship, fashion, and food on this very special day!

Although our club is officially on Christmas break as I write this message, a significant restoration project, focused primarily on the dining rooms, has occurred at the clubhouse. Under the direction of House Chair, Connie Graham, the final phase of repairs needed from April, 2011 storm damage, has taken place. Daily, Connie opened and closed the building for the construction workers and maintained constant communication with the contractors.

Also, during Christmas break, installation of the new wireless security system as well as the installation of three new thermostats has taken place at the clubhouse. We received a check to cover the costs of the new thermostats from one of our long term members whose generosity has helped Ossoli so very much in the past. Unfortunately, she now resides in a nursing home and is not able to attend on a regular basis, but we greatly appreciate her. Both the security system and the thermostats represent two major upgrades and should result in savings for the organization.

Thus far, it has been a busy and productive year! I thank each of you for your active participation. Your many accomplishments are appreciated! I have felt your support, your strength, and your encouragement from the beginning. May we all have a healthy, happy new year!

## **MISSION OF HOPE VOLUNTEERS**

**by Nancy Carmon, Literacy Chair**

November 26, six Ossoli members (plus three husbands) volunteered to help fill Christmas boxes at Mission of Hope. Linda Oliver and Nancy Carmon were assigned to the food boxes. They loaded each box with 70 pounds of food, which helps sustain the receiving family over Christmas and into the New Year. Valerie Bieberdorf, Roberta Pedigo and her husband, Connie Graham and her husband, and Lexa Hooten and her husband loaded large boxes with a variety of toys to be delivered to elementary schools in rural Appalachia. Children were allowed to choose three toys as a special Christmas gift.

There were more than thirty volunteers working that morning. One volunteer asked, "Ossoli? I have never heard of that church before!" We had the opportunity to share our organization and its mission.

Perhaps you might want to join us next year?

## **ALERT!! NEW OSSOLI WEBSITE MEMBER WEBSITE CLASS JANUARY 21 by Roberta Pedigo**

The Ossoli website [www.discoveret.org/ossoli](http://www.discoveret.org/ossoli) will shut down mid-January, 2013. It will work up to that time. The official NEW WEBSITE is now [www.gfwcossolicircle.org](http://www.gfwcossolicircle.org). Use the same password to access the members area.

If anyone is interested in working on our website, connect with Roberta Pedigo. Roberta is offering a 'how to' class about this website and its use Monday, January 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Instruction sheets will be handed out. There is no test!!! Come and see what you can learn.

Questions? Contact Roberta

## **MEMBERSHIP**

If you have not invited a friend to visit Ossoli this year please make that your New Year Resolution. We love making new friends and sharing our wonderful club with the community.

## **SPANISH CLASS by Ruth Heizer**

Want to brush up on your school Spanish or learn conversational Spanish? Come and join us in the library, each Monday after lunch for about an hour. This is a fun time for singing and conversing in Spanish. NO tests. NO grades. Just fun!

Questions? Ask Ruth Heizer, Patsy Ellis, Sarah Wimberly, Caroline Rowe or Charlotte Walden.

## **EMAIL**

If you are not receiving email from Susie Kelley concerning Ossoli Circle news you need to send her your email address so she can add you to her address book. If you know of a member who is ill or has had a death in the family please notify Susie and the club President.

## **INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE by Janice Hixson**

January 21 Special Program

Anita Henderlight will bring us up to date on the school in South Sudan, a new African country. This exciting and entertaining speaker has spoken to Ossoli before. We look forward to hearing the update on the school and country.

## **2012 REPLACEMENT BENEFIT CARD PARTY by Marion Bloomer**

Ossoli Circle's annual Replacement Card Party was a festive affair again this year on Monday October 29, 2012. The silent auction, chaired by Carol Proaps and Madeline Bilbrey was especially successful this year due to the many high quality items donated by several of our members and their families and the many hours of work by these two super-dedicated ladies. Ossoli really owes them a huge THANK YOU!! The auditorium was filled with our member and their guests playing bridge, canasta, dominoes, or maybe just chatting and enjoying the day. Our style show, arranged by Linda Oliver, who does everything so well, featured good looking casual clothes from Chico's in Turkey Creek. We were especially glad to see our very own members and their friends modeling the clothes! They did a fine job.

After the style show, lunch was served to us at our tables by more willing Ossoli members. Our luncheon was delicious featuring Pork Roast Florentine, Cinnamon Apples, Green Beans Amandine, homemade rolls and Frost the Pumpkin Pie. The real star of the luncheon was Paulette Corcoran, who took charge to the kitchen, the cooks and the servers in her admirably efficient way.

More time was allowed following lunch to visit the silent auction, and then we returned to card playing until the lucky winners of the auction were announced. Bobbie Dearden, Ossoli Treasurer and Reservations Chair for the day, worked tirelessly for days helping to determine the number of reservations for lunch. We had 118 reservations plus several monetary donations that realized a profit of \$3,140 for the Ossoli Circle Replacement Fund. This is the fund that provides the many repairs and replacement items necessary for the upkeep of our lovely historic building. Thanks so much to all of you who helped make this day a success, including those who came, brought guests, made purchases, and enjoyed the day. We see once again that "Ossoli is You".

## **PRESIDENT'S DAY**

**by Linda Oliver**

In a beautifully decorated auditorium, presidents of Ossoli Circle were honored with music and celebration.

The December 10<sup>th</sup> program began with a musical prelude by Stephanie Wayland, followed by the Flag Ceremony by the Volunteer State Veterans Honor Guard and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. The Rev. Pat Clendenen gave the invocation, followed by a musical program of classical and seasonal music. The performers included members: Stephanie Wayland, Peggy Sood, and Sarah Searle. Also performing was Anne Jackson, harpist.

The following presidents were present: Mary Hodge, Bett Greene, Carolyn Nelson, Ann Durall, Lee Patton, Marion Bloomer, Peggy Sood, Jo Webb, Susie Kelley, Janice Hixson, Fay Julian, and Lexa Hooten.

The current president, Lexa Hooten, was presented with a monetary gift from the membership by Roberta

Pedigo and she gave her gift to the Next Door which is her special project for 2012-2013.

After a group sing of "Ossoli We Love You" attendees were invited to tea and fellowship in the dining room by Lexa Hooten.



Presidents of Ossoli Circle



Fete Day Refreshment Committee

## **APPALACHIAN ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**by Marion Bloomer and Madeline Bilbrey**

All the wonderful shoe boxes, made by Ossoli ladies and displayed in the back of the auditorium added to the President's Day festivities. There were 135 boxes this year! Tim and Gerald from the Unicorn Fund picked up the boxes and with donated items for the Second Time Around Boutique filled their van to the brim. Thanks to all who made shoe boxes – It is greatly appreciated.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Roberta, Minga, Linda, Glenda, Janice and Madeline went to Huntsville to attend the Unicorn Brunch. This is always a special time for the Unicorn volunteers and clubs that support them. There was a delicious lunch, great desserts, and a Christmas ornament for each person.

## **REPLACEMENT BENEFIT BRIDGE AUCTION**

by **Madeline Bilbrey and Carol Ann Proaps**

The Silent Auction was a great success taking in \$2,490. This was due to the super items donated and the useful help from many Ossoli ladies. As you know, it takes the cooperation of the whole club to make any fund raising activity a success. Thanks to all.

## **FALL SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING**

by **Tona Turpin, District President**

We had a great Fall District meeting. GFWC Chilhowee Woman's Club was the host. I asked all clubs to save pink yogurt lids to send to Breast Cancer Research. We had a Christmas Party with Elaine Steronos of Second Harvest as our guest. Money was collected for her to offset the cost of food for children during the Christmas break. A large amount of money was raised from auction items. One cake raised \$75.00!

I asked the President of the host club to answer some questions: What have you done for the community as a club? Would the community miss you if you were not there? What are your goals for the future?

Our President, Sandy Lindeman, will be at our next meeting.

## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

January 14 – 2<sup>nd</sup> New Member Orientation  
January 21 – Website class @ 1:00  
January 28 – Leadership Day  
February 8 – Ossoli in Action Card Party  
March 25 – White Linen Luncheon  
April 4 – **NO MEETING MONDAY AFTER EASTER**  
April – Smoky Mountain District Meeting TBA  
April 18-20 – GFWC-TN Spring Convention  
April 22 – Memorial Service  
May 13 – Installation Day

## **CREATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS**

If you are interested in being a part of a Creative Arts Group that would meet once or twice a month please contact Susie Kelley. This could include art classes, sewing, quilting, knitting, jewelry making or whatever the group decides to do.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Mary Lou Ault  
Lynn Barnes  
Elaine Mueller  
Penny Sampson  
Cheryl Smith

## **IN LOVING MEMORY**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Norma Kelley in the loss of her husband Paul Kelley, December 16, 2012.

## **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Jenny White, Susie Kelley, Dee Lines, June Young