



Ossoli Circle Newsletter

May 2013



President's Message

Dear Ossoli Friends,

As GFWC Ossoli Circle approaches the closing weeks of the 2012-2013 year, I am amazed in so many ways as I reflect over my year as the club's 118th president. I am amazed at the organization's many outstanding accomplishments---the memorable events, profitable fundraisers, inspirational programs, meaningful volunteer activities, and beneficial committee projects. I am also amazed at the active participation by great numbers of members who have made this a busy and productive year!

Because of convincing and effective reporting and because of the enthusiastic participation and involvement of its membership, Ossoli Circle was recognized at the 2013 spring GFWC Smoky Mountain District Meeting as the Outstanding Large Club of the district! This is supported by ten first place awards for large clubs in the following categories: conservation, domestic violence prevention awareness, education, fundraising, home life, international outreach, leadership, membership, mountain division, and support of Women's History and Resource Center in Washington, D.C. In addition, two second place awards for large clubs were received for arts and public issues. Ossoli Circle district poetry contest winners also made club members proud by taking first place in Division I, honorable mention in Division II, and third place and honorable mention in Division III.

GFWC Ossoli Circle takes pride in the fact that a number of its members are demonstrating dedication and support for the GFWC organization at large by accepting leadership roles beyond the local club level. From 2012-2014, Tona Turpin will serve as president of the GFWC Smoky Mountain District. Linda Oliver will be treasurer, and Ann Durall will be chaplain. Terry Finnerty (Home Life), Sue Whittle (International Outreach), Madeline Bilbrey (Mountain Division), and Kathy Phillips (Scrapbook)

are serving as chairs of district committees. At the state level, four of our members serve as chairs: Janice Hixson (Arts Partnership); Terry Finnerty (Art Contest); Janet Oakes (Home Life); and Sue Whittle (Public Issues).

Incredibly proud moments came at the 2013 spring GFWC-TN State Conference in Nashville when it was announced that Ossoli Circle's Rookie of the Year, Paulette Corcoran, tied for Tennessee's Rookie of the Year; when Ossoli's poetry winner, Harmony Taylor, third grader from Sequoyah Elementary placed first in the statewide poetry contest; and when both Ossoli Circle's Conservation and Membership programs took first place in statewide competition! Several Ossoli members received certificates for meeting the reading requirements in the Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) program: Marion Bloomer, Charlotte Dorsey, Eleanor Nichols, and Elizabeth Shirley. Carol Proaps received five certificates for her voracious reading!

Congratulations to these well-deserved winners!

One cannot help but be amazed when members of any group have accomplished so much in just one year! I am grateful to Ossoli members for their willingness to share their time, their energy, their expertise to support community improvement and to enhance the lives of others through this dedicated, historic organization. I thank each member for the strength, support, and encouragement you have given me during my tenure, and I so appreciate the fact that GFWC Ossoli Circle is composed of exceptional women who will assure continued success in the years to come.

Lexa Hooten

President's Project

At Installation, on May 6, The Next Door, which was the President's Project this year, will receive a \$2100 check from Ossoli Circle.

**Leadership Day
GFWC Ossoli Circle
by Lexa Hooten**

GFWC Ossoli Circle observed Leadership Day on January 28 by inviting two accomplished leaders--- University of Tennessee President Emeritus, Dr. Joe Johnson, and Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero---to share their thoughts on the topic. In a very natural way, both speakers developed the central theme through their personal stories and vignettes about their years in public service. Their messages were completely on target! Each captivated the audience and complimented the other perfectly.

Dr. Johnson, who served as UT president from 1991 to 1999 and as interim president from 2003 to 2004, often referred to the former UT President, Andy Holt, who became Dr. Johnson's mentor in his early career. From Dr. Holt he learned that leaders surround themselves with capable people and leaders are those who make good things happen. He also said that a sense of humor is important. It can smooth "ruffled feathers and make life more fun."

Mayor Rogero has distinguished herself as the first female mayor of Knoxville. Although her early years were a profile of leadership, the mayor concentrated primarily on her experiences since moving to Knoxville in 1980. She reflected on the extensive public service record she accrued as an urban and regional planner, community development director, non-profit executive, and her two-terms as county commissioner. She recounted how she was encouraged to run for public office; how she was patronized during the campaign; and how she was surprised when she won! She concluded with advice to other women, "If you can't run, encourage others to run."

The first goal of the national GFWC Strategic Plan for 2010-2014 states that all GFWC clubs will have dedicated, energetic, and well-informed leaders on all levels to guide and govern the organization effectively. In keeping with this goal, members of GFWC Ossoli Circle were honored to have two iconic leaders with high ideals agree to serve as featured speakers for 2013 Leadership Day.

FUTURE OSSOLI DATES

Inventory Day	Monday June 24, 10-12
Board Meeting	Wednesday July 24, 10:00
I Love Ossoli Tea	Monday Aug. 5, 1pm

**Opening /Membership Sept 9, 11- 2
GFWC of Tennessee**

GFWC of Tennessee Smoky Mountain District Meeting was held on March 2 with the Host Club being the GFWC Valamont Woman's Club. Awards were given at this meeting for all the projects that were done in 2012. All clubs that submitted reports were awarded. There were 6 of the 8 clubs represented. Our speaker was on the slave trade of children and women in Tennessee and all across the world. A donation was given from the District to help in the rescue and education of this growing problem. Ossoli Circle won for the district Outstanding Club. Congrats to all who participated and came. We celebrated All Women and their achievements.

Tona Turpin, Smoky Mountain District President



Ann Durall, Roberta Pedigo, Paulette Corcoran, Lexa Hooten, Tona Turpin Terry Finnerty and Janice Hixson with the National President-Elect, Babs Condon

Pictorial Directory

Thank you very much for allowing me to photograph the new pictorial directory. Shutterfly has published a beautiful book that I know you will be proud to own. You may pick up your book at Installation.

Loose Change Project

Peggy Tillery wishes to thank Ossoli members for their generous support for the Loose Change Project. You have helped to provide meals for many people through Second Harvest. Your penny's make a big difference.

Robin Goddard receives National Award



February 22, 2013-Robin Goddard Receives National Volunteer Award

Robin Goddard has been honored with the National George B. Hartzog Jr. award. From April through October, rain or shine, Robin conducts a weekly program at the Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse.

The George B. Hartzog award is presented annually to a select few National Park Service volunteers across the country who provide outstanding contributions.

Since 1969 Goddard has contributed over 12,000 hours to the park. During that time she has taught outdoor classes, assisted scientists with data collecting, developed first-person historical programs, and served as a formal Great Smoky Mountains Ambassador through outreach programs in the community.

Ossoli In Action Committee

When Knox County Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin called on the community for support of his stuffed animal project, The Ossoli in Action Committee wanted to help. Eight members of the committee delivered 119 stuffed animals to the Juvenile Court Building on March 5, 2013. Judge Irwin met us in his office to welcome us and he expressed his thanks to Ossoli Circle members.

Georgia Seagren, Chairman

Thank you letter from Judge Irwin

Dear Club Members:

I sincerely appreciate your support of the Knox County Juvenile Court Stuff Animal Drive. Your gift will continue to comfort the children who come before this Court. I am overwhelmed by the community response. Rest assured that the stuffed animals we have received, and purchased will be put to good use. Thank you for responding to our call for help.

Timothy E. Irwin, Judge
Knox County Juvenile Court

Email

If you acquire email or change your provider please send an email to jsgkelley@comcast.net to continue receiving Ossoli Circle news this summer.

Newsletter Committee

Jenny White, Susie Kelley, Dee Lines and June Young



Ossoli in Action Committee in Judge Irwin's office



Poetry Contest Winners