



GFWC Ossoli Circle Newsletter JANUARY 2014



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends and look forward to the New Year with anticipation. The first half of this club year has been exciting. We added 4 new members. I hope you will take the time to get to know these ladies and involve them in Ossoli Circle activities.

We completed so many great projects, such as volunteering for Second Harvest and the Mission of Hope, the Unicorn Fund donations for the resale shop and the 124 shoe boxes fill with Christmas gifts for children in Morgan and Scott Counties, and the Operation Smile dolls and collection to give toward the surgeries of children born with facial deformities. Remember back to the I Love Ossoli Tea last summer where we enjoyed tea at Downton Abby. Do you recall the level of excitement for the Opening Day and the Membership Coffee as we were so glad to be back together again to start a new year? How about the GFWC of TN meetings hosted by Ossoli Circle where so many of our members worked behind the scenes to make it such a success? Think about all the money we raised at the Replacement Benefit Bridge, the original play written to honor Lizzie Crozier French for our Founder's Day, and the very special Presidents' Day to honor all past presidents. Don't forget all the entertaining and instructive programs each Monday. And this is only the first half of the year! There is so much more to come.

It takes a lot of women working together to perpetuate this thing called Ossoli Circle. The hours and monies contributed by our members are monumental because of our generous hearts. But some things are not so easy to measure: the love we give, especially during difficult times; the camaraderie we share; the laughter we enjoy; the help we give to those in our community; and the comfort that we each receive from maintaining the traditions and being a member of Ossoli Circle. Come join us each Monday because you don't want to miss anything!

Roberta Pedigo

2014 OSSOLI REMINDERS

Leadership Day	Jan 27
OSSOLI IN ACTION Card Party/Lunch	Feb 7
White Linen Luncheon	Mar 24
Smokey Mtn District Spring Mtg	Apr
GFWC-TN Convention	Apr 10-12
No Meeting (Easter)	Apr 21
Memorial Service	Apr 28
Installation Day	May 12
GFWC International Convention	June 13-17

I LOVE OSSOLI TEA AUGUST 5TH

The Committee worked very hard to present a special event for the I Love Ossoli Tea. Since the TV show Downton Abbey is so popular, we thought it would be fun to use that theme for a high tea. There were 8 tables with an attendance of nearly 80. Eight committee members brought their china, silver, etc. to furnish the tables. There were lovely floral arrangements in the Victorian style and committee members dressed in vintage style outfits. Several members made tea sandwiches, cookies, and miniature cupcakes and Peggy Sood made the delicate tea. There should be a special thank you to Debbie Oden for the scones and accompaniments she contributed.

Committee members were: Janie Bitner, Pat Clendenen, Madge Day, Ann Durall, Terry Finnerty, Robin Goddard, Susie Kelley, Clara Meacham, Lorna Matheny, Lillian Jones, Peggy Sood, Stephanie Wayland, Debra Wilson, Sarah Wimberly, and Chair Sarah Searle. A special thanks to Roberta Pedigo who contributed a lovely table setting as well as other things.

Sarah Searle, Chair

OPENING DAY/MEMBERSHIP COFFEE

On September 9, 2013, GFWC Ossoli Circle celebrated the beginning of a new year with the Opening Day/Membership Coffee. President Roberta

Pedigo welcomed members and guests with her opening remarks. Janet Oakes helped start the new year with an inspiring invocation. Membership Chair, Debra Wilson introduced six potential new members. The program was presented by three of our members reflecting on their time with Ossoli Circle. Marion Bloomer (1991) began her speech by telling of her involvement with Ossoli as a child - her mother was a very active member of the Circle. Madeline Bilbrey (2000) told of her activities with the Unicorn Fund, White Linen Auction, etc. Linda Scothorn (2012) discussed the changes in her life after becoming a member. Everyone enjoyed tasty refreshments provided by Willene Chalmers and her committee. The auditorium, small and large dining rooms featured the lovely floral arrangements of Lillian Jones. It was great to get back to our clubhouse and enjoy our friends.

Terry Finnerty, Event Chair

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING

On October 26, 2013 we had our Fall District Meeting in Loudon, Tn. Our State President, Sandy Lindeman was in attendance as well as PSP, Johnnie Hill who addressed all the ladies attending. We had 8 club Presidents in attendance as well as a good representation from GFWC Ossoli Circle. As per the new State Bylaw change, Tona Turpin, District President was nominated and elected the Representative from this District for the election of the new 2014-2016 State Executive Committee. All were encouraged to Report their projects and hours for the past year of 2013. Questions? Contact me or Linda Hershey.

In Federation Love,
Tona Turpin
GFWC Smoky Mountain District President

UNICORN FUND BRUNCH & SHOE BOXES

On December 1st, five members of Ossoli traveled to Huntsville, TN for a brunch given by the Unicorn Fund. The members were: Roberta Pedigo, Minga Barnes, Linda Oliver, Jo Webb, and Madeline Bilbrey. The food was delicious and everyone had a great time.

This year Ossoli members made 124 shoe boxes. The church that I attend made 65. I have been told that since I contacted them re: shoe boxes, that the 65 boxes could be counted in with our total.

Madeline Bilbrey, Appalachian Assistance Chair

PRESIDENT'S DAY

A wonderful celebration to honor all Ossoli Presidents, was held at the clubhouse, filled with Christmas decorations and music, and was organized by the Chair of the Day, Lee Patton. The amazing floral arrangements, throughout the house, were by Lillian Jones. Stephanie Wayland provided music before and after the program as well as during the tea. The presidents were escorted to their seats by Paul Kelley (Susie's husband), Jef Damewood (Roberta's son), and Tom Pedigo (Roberta's husband). An outstanding program of Christmas music was performed by Sarah Holloway and Beverly Kerr. Fete Day Chair, Willene Chalmers and her committee set a beautiful tea table loaded with good things to eat.

Email

If you acquire email or change your provider, please send an email to Susie Kelley (jsgkelley@comcast.net) to continue receiving Ossoli Circle news in the future.

Don't do Email?

If you don't have email or don't like email, contact the Ossoli Telephone Chair Lila Cate (690-3395) to sign up for the telephone notification list.

Ossoli Emergency Cards

Please fill out the yellow Emergency Card in the back of your yearbook. This is very important "just in case".

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

We collected \$1201.18 in checks and "loose change" and 89 pounds of peanut butter, and other items. This will be a great help to Second Harvest, and it is because of your generous giving that Ossoli is able to do this.

Peggy Tillery

A sincere heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generous contributions to Operation Smile between September & December 2013. Many, many hours and loving hand work went into the making of 34 "Smile Dolls". Imagine the joy you have brought to these precious young children when they clutch one of your dolls! Imagine the hope in their eyes! "Everyone smiles in the same language"! Your very, very generous monetary gift will go to two or more surgeries of infants and young children with facial deformities.

Operation Smile thanks you! I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart too!

Elizabeth Koester

ROUND TABLES

At the December 9, Business Meeting, a motion to purchase round tables for the clubhouse passed without descent. Everyone remembered the beautiful I Love Ossoli Tea when round tables were rented. Round tables better lend themselves to conversation, and create a warmer, more attractive setting for special events such as the I Love Ossoli Tea and the White Linen Luncheon. They could even offer a setting for some new ideas for the future.

In the motion was the provision for these tables to be purchased through donations from members. This would not affect Ossoli funds. So far, several members and one committee have agreed to purchase a table. The proposed tables are 60" in diameter and comfortably seat eight. We need at least eight tables. This would accommodate most functions for Ossoli. The tables are white (like the long tables we currently have) and are available at Sam's for \$100/each. No-iron table cloths are also available two for \$20.

We would suggest that those wishing to contribute toward this project make a check payable to Ossoli with a notation "round tables". If all the tables are purchased at once, we may be able to persuade Sam's to deliver them. Also, by allowing Ossoli to make the purchase, we can take advantage of the sales tax exemption.

One extra perk with this effort will be reporting it under Membership on our reports which go to State and GFWC.

President Pedigo appointed Jo Webb to head the committee to carry out this project. If you have any questions, you may contact Jo. Checks for contributions should be made to Ossoli Circle with the appropriate notation and given to Bobbie Dearden.

Thank you to those who have already offered to purchase a table, and thank you in advance to anyone who is willing to contribute to the effort. We will also welcome the purchase of the table cloths.

Jo Webb

REPLACEMENT BRIDGE

Replacement Bridge proceeds for Ways and Means amounted to \$2096.

Bobbie Dearden, Treasurer

I Love Ossoli Tea



Pictured are the committee members: (from L to R) seated Sarah Wimberly, Madge Day, Roberta Pedigo, President, and Ann Durall; second row Peggy Sood, Susie Kelley, Lorna Matheny, Clara Meacham, Chair Sarah Searle, Robin Goddard, Terry Finnerty, Janie Bitner, and Debra Wilson.

Presidents' Day 2013



Pictured from left: First row Barbara Horton (2006-07), Janet Oakes (2004-05), Ann Durall (1995-96), Roberta Pedigo (2013-14), Lee Patton, Chair of the Day (1996-97), Carolyn Nelson (1993-94), Jo Webb (2008-09); Second row: Edythe McNabb (2003-04), Susie Kelley (2009-10), Georgia Seagren (2001-02), Bett Greene (1989-90); Back row: Mary Carmichael (2007-08), Faye Julian (2011-12), Lexa Hooten (2012-13), Janice Hixson 2010-11), and Peggy Sood (2002-03).

Volunteering at Second Harvest



GFWC Ossoli Circle volunteered at the Second Harvest warehouse re-packaging food and labeling canned goods for distribution. Pictured from L to R are: 1st row, Terry Finnerty, Nancy Carmon, Leta Cutler, and Lexa Hooten; second row, Jeanie Watts, Minga Barnes, Charlotte Miller, Debra Wilson, Bobbie Dearden, Jo Webb, and Arleen Malcolm. Not pictured are: Linda Scothorn, Betsy Gardner, and Roberta Pedigo.

Founder's Recognition Day



A play to honor Lizzie Crozier French was written by Faye Julian and presented by her cast (from L) Stephanie Wayland, Madeline Bilbrey, Linda Oliver, Robin Goddard, Tootie McCook, and Faye Julian.

Replacement Benefit Bridge



Ossoli Circle held a fund raising Replacement Benefit at the clubhouse. The event included a luncheon, bridge, and a fashion show by Chico's at Turkey Creek. Pictured are the Ossoli members serving as models, left to right, first row: Robin Goddard, Cathy Phillips; second row: Linda Scothorn, Lexa Hooten, Terry Finnerty, Sarah Searle, Janie Bitner, Rebecca Scarlett, Lynn Barnes, and Layla Mishu.

Victor Ashe, Former Ambassador to Poland



Victor Ashe was a guest speaker at one of our programs. Here he is talking with Peggy Tillery and Betsy Gardner.