



GFWC Ossoli Circle Newsletter MAY 2014



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another Ossoli Circle year is almost finished. It is difficult to list all the really high points, but a few can't be omitted: the I Love Ossoli Tea, the Opening/Membership Coffee, the Replacement Benefit Bridge, Presidents' Day, the White Linen Luncheon, the election of new officers and chairs, and wonderful programs and lunches each Monday. So many members have worked hard to make this year a triumph. And we received the rewards to prove it! The Smoky Mountain District Spring Meeting was a big success. Out of 13 categories, Ossoli Circle won first place in ten, including Outstanding Club. Then it was on to the GFWC-TN Convention. Again, Ossoli Circle excelled with five first-place awards and three second-place awards.

We welcomed several new members, but we lost some long-time, very dear friends.

To serve as your president has been one of the most rewarding duties I have ever undertaken. Leading an organization with the history and traditions and the dedicated, generous members of Ossoli Circle has forever transformed me. Thank you for this opportunity. Soon this year will end, but be assured that plans are already being made for next year to take Ossoli Circle to greater levels. I ask your help for our new president, officers, and chairs, for the future of Ossoli Circle depends upon all of us.

Roberta Pedigo

LEADERSHIP DAY

On January 27, 2014, we were fortunate to have Mr. Dale Keasling, CEO of Home Federal Bank, speak on his views of the "Pillars of Effective Leadership". Mr. Keasling has many years of leadership experience, having served on boards of numerous non-profit organizations in the Knoxville area and chairing most of them. Mr. Keasling made several major points in his talk: leadership is built on honesty, integrity, fairness, humility, consistency, and open communications. He also emphasized that there is always room to improve your skills, an effective leader handles pressure and difficulty with composure, and the effective leader takes care of the organization by taking care of its people.

OSSOLI in ACTION CARD PARTY and LUNCHEON

Second Harvest was selected as the President's special project for the year. On February 7, 2014, at the Ossoli in Action Card Party and Luncheon, the guests enjoyed a style show presented by The Paris Apartment, owned by Ossoli member Debbie Oden, and a delicious lunch prepared by Kimmie's Kitchen. Second Harvest's Executive Director, Elaine Streno, spoke at the gathering. About one half of attendees played cards while others visited, catching up on their friendships. All had an opportunity to browse the selection of merchandise, for sale from The Paris Apartment. \$1000 was raised for Second Harvest.

Several Ossoli ladies volunteered for the two work sessions in Maryville at Second Harvest's warehouse re-packing food for distribution in East Tennessee. A grand total of \$2853 was donated to Second Harvest this year. Thank you all.

DONATION to REMOTE AREA MEDICAL

Peggy Sood and Marion Bloomer presented Billy Edmonds, the representative of RAM (Remote Area Medical) with a check to support the medical needs of children and elderly citizens of our community. The funds are from the Ravinda and Peggy Sood Charitable Trust, managed by the Board of Trustees of GFWC Ossoli Circle. This trust was announced at Presidents' Day, 2007, and has made several contributions to worthy organizations over the years.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING

On March 29, 2014, GFWC Smoky Mountain District held their Spring awards meeting. GFWC Ossoli Circle did very well in the Awards. We had great attendance: 53 ladies, 2 guests with a Lab Dog who helps the Veterans. This was my last meeting as your District President. I have enjoyed it very much. Thanks to all who attended and to all who helped me as your 2012-2014 District President.

In Federation Love, Tona Turpin, GFWC Smoky Mountain District President

YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

GFWC Ossoli Circle held their annual Youth Poetry Contest, March 10, 2014. There were 4 categories of entry: Category 1 for grades 1-3; Category 2 for grades 4-6; Category 3 for grades 7-9; Category 4 for grades 10-12. The winning poems were read by each budding poet with parents, teachers, and Ossoli Club members attending. Medallions on ribbons and certificates were presented to the students. Also, certificates were presented to each student's teacher. The poems were sent to the Smoky Mountain District to be judged with the winning poems from other women's clubs.



First row, L to R: Roberta Pedigo, Ossoli President, Selah Caldwell, Flora Clapham, Peach Taylor (all from Sequoyah Elementary), Dr. Faye Julian, Poetry Contest Chair; Second row, L to R: Eleni Christopoulous, Episcopal School of Knoxville; Liana Head, Christian Academy of Knoxville; Kate Mishu, St. John Neumann Catholic; Ben Gouffon, Episcopal School of Knoxville; Third row, L to R: Nicholas Parsly, St. John Neumann Catholic; Conor Metz, St. John Neumann Catholic; Luke Semann, St. John Neumann Catholic; Drew Dixson, Christian Academy of Knoxville.

OSSOLI CIRCLE MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service led by Pat Clendenen was held April 28, 2014, at the Clubhouse. It was dedicated to the loving memory of our Ossoli Circle members:

Nellie Dancer, Aug 13, 2013 (member since 2004)
Marion Farris, Mar 11, 2013 (Member since 1953)
Dorothy Hightower, Feb 26, 2014 (Past President, member since 1993)
Doris Horner, Mar 29, 2014 (member since 2000)
Kathy Kandilakis, Jul 5, 2013 (member since 1965)
Wanda Snyder, May 15, 2013 (member since 1950)
Verda Lee Swann, Nov 21, 2013 (member since 1994)

WHITE LINEN LUNCHEON

Thanks to all who helped make the luncheon and "Pass It Along" sale so successful. Our large crowd said they had a great time. Thanks to the following Ways & Means Committee members who did so much: Roberta Pedigo-Special Thank U!, Janet Oakes, Peggy Sood, Rebekah Chambers, Carol Proaps & Madeline Bilbrey, Betsy Gardner, Penny Keim, Bobbie Dearden, Linda Oliver & all the models, Sharon White, Caroline Rowe, Bonnie Ozdil, Paulette Corcoran, Tootie McCook, Susie Brown, Leta Cutler, Betty McKeegan, Bett Greene, Barbara Horton, Nancy Carmon, Frances Wooten, Jan Crawford.

Special thanks to Debbie Oden and The Paris Apartment for the fashion show. It was really fun! Income from this event was \$3,683.95, and after expenses, it will greatly help our budget.

Thanks for supporting all efforts of the Ways & Means Committee, those donating, and those coming to our events.

Janice Hixson, Chair, Ways & Means



Shopping at the "Pass it Along Sale" are Cheryl Smith, Penny Keim, Charlotte Miller and Nancy Carmon.

Email

If you acquire email or change your email address, please, notify Susie Kelley (jsgkelley@comcast.net) to continue receiving the Ossoli Circle newsletter and other announcements in the future.

2014-2015 Dues

Dues are \$125. If you want your Ossoli book sent via mail, add \$3.50. A table will be set up in rear of auditorium to collect. Inserts are handed out on Installation Day.

IMPORTANT DATES

Installation Day May 12
GFWC International Convention June 21-24

Ossoli in Action Benefit



Welcoming guest are Janet Oakes and Ossoli in Action Chair Minga Barnes.

Models for the White Linen Luncheon



Reclining on first row: Linda Oliver; seated on second row: Jan Crawford, Sarah Searle; Rebecca Scarlett, Jeanette Williams, and Sharon Cottrell; back row: Robin Goddard, Angie Campbell-Schultz, Tootie McCook, and Nancy Carmon.

Ossoli in Action Benefit



Enjoying a foursome of bridge are (L to R): Carolyn Comer, Barbara McCoin, Charlotte Miller, and Katharine Greer.

Smoky Mountain District Meeting



GFWC Ossoli Members holding the district awards received: L to R, Linda Oliver, Paulette Corcoran, Janice Hixson, Betsy Gardner, Janet Oakes, Roberta Pedigo, Nancy Carmon, Minga Barnes, Tona Turpin, Terry Finnerty, and Jo Webb.

Second Harvest



Preparing to work in the Second Harvest warehouse: Roberta Pedigo, Jo Webb, Linda Scothorn, Susie Brown, and Lexa Hooten.

Serving Lunch at Ossoli Circle



Remember all the wonderful lunches. On this Monday, Janice Sauter, Terry Finnerty (her back), Jo Webb, and Susie Brown are dishing up the food.

REPORTING

It would be great if awards would just flow down from heaven like rain. They won't! GFWC Ossoli Circle can be recognized for all the great things we do. But you must turn in those reports!

Each chair needs to report:

1. The name of the event
2. A short description explaining why the event was valuable to the membership/others
3. The total number of hours involved. Remember to multiply number of members working times the hours worked.
4. Any in-kind donations given. In-kind are things donated and not reimbursed.
5. Money raised.

It's really easy if you do it right after the event and send it to the Reporting Chair by email or snail mail.

Ossoli Awards from GFWC-TN Convention

For 2013, GFWC Ossoli Circle received 5 First Place Awards from GFWC Tennessee at the 2014 Spring Convention held in Johnson City, TN.

- **Leadership**--Lexa and Roberta did a great job of record keeping and many members attended district and state GFWC meetings.
- **GFWC International Outreach Partnerships**—Members supported Operation Smile, Heifer, and UNICEF.
- **GFWC Public Issues Partnerships**—You donated 120 multiple occasion cards to the USO "Cards for Troops" project.
- **GFWC Women's History and Resource Center**—Supporting our Historic clubhouse requires much fundraising and hard work. Other Projects reported were the play on Founder's Day and donations to WHRC, the 1734 Society, and Old Gray Cemetery, where Lizzie Crozier French is buried.
- **GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Projects**—The Ossoli In Action party garnered \$2243.21 and in-kind donations of \$1000 for Lexa's signature project, The Next Door. A moving play directed by Jo Webb about domestic violence was presented to the members.

GFWC Ossoli Circle was awarded 3 Second Place Awards.

- **Fundraising**—In 15 projects, we raised \$22,534.79 with 2362.5 hours of work.
- **Membership**—Nine different membership activities (orientation, hospitality, courtesy, programs, luncheons, yearbook, newsletter, publicity, contact, webmaster, membership coffee, our pictorial directory, trips, memorial service, Presidents' Day, and duties of our membership chairman) were reported.
- **GFWC International Outreach**—Projects included our donations to African ELI and Dream Home as well as programs about Russia, Poland, Israel, and Alaska.

Submitted by Ossoli Circle, Conor Metz won First Place in the State Contest for his poem "Chubby". Six Ossoli members were awarded certificates for their achievements in ESO for reading books. Janice Hixson was our Outstanding Club Woman nominee and Nancy Carmon our Rookie of the Year nominee.

Even with all these wonderful awards and achievements, we can do more!. Next year let's win Outstanding Club because we are!

Nancy Carmon



Kilted Ron Jones, a local historian spoke at Ossoli Circle on "The Scots Irish". See what you missed!