



GFWC

Ossoli Circle Newsletter

May 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GFWC Ossoli Circle has had an exciting year as members practiced the theme for this term of *Build for the Future with the Traditions of the Past*. The many awards that were received at the Smoky Mountain District Meeting and at the Spring GFWC of Tennessee Convention highlighted the accomplishments of 2014. All of the awards are listed in the newsletter, but the GFWC of Tennessee Award for Outstanding club of the Year was earned by the accomplishments of each member for 2014. This award covers the last half of the term of President Roberta Pedigo and the first half of

the current term. Reporting chairs for that period, Nancy Carmon and Elaine Mueller, are to be commended for their excellent organization of the vast amount of material essential to the writing of the reports. In addition, Janice Hixson was honored as GFWC of Tennessee Club Woman of the Year for 2014, and Phyllis Eldridge was named Rookie of the Year for the Smoky Mountain District!

Leadership day in January featured two outstanding women speakers, State Senator Becky Massey and Wendy Pitts Reeves, the Chairman of the East Tennessee Leadership Council. The Ossoli in Action Card Party and Luncheon in February set records for funds raised to benefit two projects, the Second Harvest Backpack Program and the Beardsley Community Farm. Chairman Minga Barnes and her hardworking committee did an excellent job in planning this special and fun event. February will also be remembered as the time when two meetings and a board meeting had to be cancelled because of inclement weather!

As hostess of the Smoky Mountain District Meeting in March, Ossoli Circle members welcomed club women from across the district to the club house. Many of these ladies had not visited Ossoli before, and our members were proud to show them around our beautiful home. Janice Hixson coordinated the event and Leta Cutler organized the delicious luncheon that was enjoyed by all. The Annual White Linen Luncheon, chaired by Ways and Means Chairman Jan Crawford, was an elegant occasion that benefited the Ossoli budget for the year! All enjoyed buying the treasures that were featured in the "Pass Along Sale"

coordinated by Janice Hixson. The entire Ways and Means Committee is to be commended for all of the hard work that enables Ossoli to support our many projects during the year.

The presentation of the Unicorn scholarships to deserving students in May is always a special occasion. The remarkable students and their stories make what we do to assist them in furthering their education a very worthwhile endeavor. Installation Day on May 11 will be a special fete day. Serving as Ossoli President for 2014-2015 has been an exciting time for me, and I would like to thank all of the Ossoli members for their support in accomplishing our goals for this year. It will be a favorite memory of a very special time in my life. Remember however, that Ossoli is You!

Charlotte J. Miller
President 2014-2015

Smoky Mountain District Awards

First Place Large Clubs

GFWC Smoky Mountain District Outstanding Club
Phyllis Eldridge – Rookie of the Year
Arts Department
Communication/PR
Conservation
GFWC Junior Special Project – Honored for Outstanding volunteer Service
GFWC Signature Project Domestic Violence Fund Raising
Home Life
Leadership
Legislative Policy
Membership
Mountain Division
Public Issues
Women's History and Resource Center

GFWC of Tennessee Awards

First Place

Division IV – **Outstanding Club of the Year**
Division IV – Outstanding Club Woman of the Year – **Janice Hixson**
Division IV Advancement Area – Communications and Public Relations
Division IV Advancement Area – Legislation and Public Policy
Division IV Advancement Area – Women's History and Resource Center
Division IV GFWC Signature Project – Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention
Division IV – Juniors' Special Project – Advocates for Children

Second Place

Division IV Advancement Area – Leadership
Division IV Advancement Area - Fundraising and Development
Division IV community Service Program – Arts
Division IV GFWC Community Service Program Education



2014 President Roberta Pedigo and 2015 President Charlotte Miller with the awards Ossoli Circle received for GFWC of Tennessee Outstanding Club of the Year.



GFWC of Tennessee Outstanding Club Woman of the Year Janice Hixson and 2015 President Charlotte Miller.

Ossoli Circle Members Displaying the Club's Awards



OSSOLI IN ACTION

Ossoli in Action has had a busy, fruitful year. In the fall, we donated \$1,000 to our president's signature project, Second Harvest's Back Pack program. This was financed primarily by the sale of decorated chairs. Both the chairs and the decorating were donated by members and friends.

We are continuing to support Beardsley Community Farm by financing their permanent signs. This has been a two-year project and will be completed this spring. Our Valentine Benefit raised the money needed to complete this project and add a little to the Back Pack program.

Ossoli Circle Members Attending State Convention



L-R: Phyllis Eldridge, Paulette Corcoran, Janice Hixson, Charlotte Miller, Joyce Condry, Patsy Ellis, Debra Wilson.

Ossol in Action's Decorated Chairs



Thanks to the generosity of GFWC Ossoli members, we collected 88 stuffed animals to donate to Judge Irwin for the children who must visit his courtroom.

Ossoli in Action Members Present Judge Irwin with 88 Stuffed Animals for his Court



L-R: Nancy Carmon, Linda Oliver, Janice Hixson, Charlotte Miller, Minga Barnes, Roberta Pedigo.

We have GFWC Ossoli Circle cling-ons for your vehicle at \$10 each. It is a great way to get our name out into the community. We hope to see one on your car soon.

Minga Barnes
Chair, Ossoli in Action

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Inventory Day | June 8 |
| GFWC International Convention, Memphis, TN | June 12-16 |
| Executive Board Meeting | July 22 |
| Summer Board Meeting | July 29 |
| I Love Ossoli Tea | August 3 |
| Opening Day Coffee | Sept. 14 |

OUR NEW MEMBERS



Judy Penry

Judy is a native Knoxville who grew up in South Knoxville and graduated from Young High School. She has a BA from Maryville College and an MBA from the University of Tennessee. She recently retired from the Department of Energy. Her last position was the CFO of the Oak Ridge Office.

Judy is a member of Church Street UMC and is on the board of Maryville College. Her other interests are tennis, bridge, spending time at the beach, and now enjoying retirement.

In Ossoli Judy has particular interests in Book Study, Education, Literacy and Public Issues.

OUR NEW MEMBERS



Carol Lovingood-Hiers

Carol is a native Knoxville who lived away for forty years. But the mountains kept calling and she was able to return after retiring as the RN Administrator of Hospice and Private Duty for a county hospital in Georgia. For the last twenty years Carol has been married to Glenn Hiers. She has four sons and six grandchildren who live in this area.

Carol has had a long love of antiques, mainly primitive pieces. For several years in Georgia she bought, traded and sold “good old stuff,” and made many good friends in the business. She still enjoys the thrill of the hunt for a special piece to upcycle into something new and interesting.

“Ossoli has enabled me to find new friends in Knoxville and enjoy the interactions with all of the members. I feel there is a lot of energy from the women that translates into good work. I look forward to becoming a contributing member of Ossoli.”



Jeanette Cox

Jeanette is married to Steve Cox, an attorney who practiced in Nashville until they moved to Knoxville in 2014. They have one daughter, Stephanie, who attends UT. Jeanette also has a stepson, Steve Cox, Jr., who is an attorney in Nashville.

Jeanette was a legal secretary until she attended court reporting classes. In 1987 she started her own firm of Cooper Court Reporting. She changed careers in 1993 and became a mom.

At age 50 Jeanette returned to college and graduated with an Associate of Science degree. She then became the administrative assistant to her husband’s law office. Her hobbies include scrapbooking, card making, knitting/crocheting, cooking, playing the piano and reading.

“I enjoy very much the programs and opportunities that Ossoli offers to give back to the community and am looking forward to being involved in them.”

