



# Ossoli Circle

Knoxville, Tennessee



"The oldest Federated Women's Club in the South"  
Founded November 20, 1885  
Chartered April 11, 1932

April 2020  
Newsletter

## A Note from GFWC President

As we approach the centennials of the 19th Amendment and of GFWC's time in our historic mansion at 1734 N Street, Washington, DC, it is imperative that we bring the voices of the past to life. We are doing just that. With our efforts in tandem with our Community Partners Old Gray Cemetery, Artist Mary Ruden and Daughters of the Revolution, we will be dedicating a grave marker to our founder Lizzie Crozier French in the near future.

I commend each one of you ladies for giving GFWC Ossoli Circle its strength and its purpose: YOU are our foundation. Let's continue to echo the spirit of friendship.



With much appreciation,

*Janie*

**SAVE THE DATE: DEDICATION OF GRAVE MARKER** for Lizzie Crozier French on May 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Old Gray Cemetery, Knoxville, Tennessee.

After months of planning with Holly Matthews, Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Cavett Hill Chapter, Ruthie Kuhlman, Director of Old Gray Cemetery, GFWC Ossoli Circle is now helping to raise the funds needed to have the historical marker made and installed. Please note that donations can be made through GFWC Ossoli Circle. Make your check out to GFWC Ossoli Circle and put grave marker in the memo line. Please mail your check to Janie Bitner, 12905 Butterfield Lane, Knoxville, TN 37934. Thank you.

## New Member Orientation

Susie Kelley has done a wonderful job this year introducing our 9 new members we have gained since September 2019 to GFWC Ossoli Circle. Three New Membership Orientation meetings were held on January 27, 2020, February 3, 2020 and February 17, 2020.



## Ossoli in Action Party – Love is in the Air

Renee Hamilton did a beautiful job chairing the team that organized this lovely party on February 10, 2020. "Love Is in The Air" Ossoli In Action Benefit Party supported our President's Project: Knox Heritage and Historic Westwood. Ossoli In Action project plans are currently to establish a Level I Arboretum and install a handicap accessible sidewalk around the east side of Historic Westwood.



## Service Project

On January 22, 2020, Rebecca Shular (left) and President Janie Bitner (right) loaded and delivered our GFWC Ossoli Circle food donations to Second Harvest Share Food Bank along with a check for \$500 from Ossoli Circle. A wonderful day was had by all!



## Read Across America

In keeping with tradition, the GFWC Ossoli Circle collected and donated Dr. Seuss books to Ronald McDonald House at East Tennessee Childrens' Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee. This is one of the ways we are able to support our GFWC initiative "Read Across America Day". Pictured below is President Janie Bitner, Ronald McDonald House manager Carolyn Broscious and President-Elect Wanda Taylor.



## Passing of the Leash

GFWC Ossoli Circle supports and partners with Smoky Mountain Service Dogs as one of our many Community Service Projects. On February 8, 2020, Wanda Taylor, Kim Overman and Janie Bitner attended the passing of the Leash Ceremony at the Tellico Community Church in Loudon, Tennessee. The beautiful Golden Retriever named Sandy was given to its new owner in a touching ceremony. The Quilts of Valor ladies were in attendance with a quilt for Sandy as well as our honored Veteran.

GFWC Ossoli Circle is honored to have a kennel named after us at the new facility:

Smoky Mountain Service Dogs  
110 Tooweka Circle  
Loudon, TN 37774

Smoky Mountain Service Dogs now offer specialty license plates. For additional information on these license plates email:

[specialtyplate@smokymountainservicedogs.org](mailto:specialtyplate@smokymountainservicedogs.org)



Laurie Brit, Volunteer Coordinator

## George Washington Birthday Luncheon -DAR

The Annual George Washington Birthday Luncheon hosted by The Knox County Council of Regents was held this year at The Foundry in Knoxville and had 145 attendees including 12 from the Mary Blount Chapter. Our speaker was Robin Goddard, Historian and Interpreter, who appeared as Lizzie Crozier French, Knoxville pioneer and suffragette. Charlotte Reynolds, Honorary State Regent and NSDAR Vice President General, and TSDAR 2nd Vice Re-gent Carol Teeters were present. Robin Goddard was presented with a Community Service award and since Charlotte Miller submitted her name for the award, she was allowed to make the presentation. Shown in the

photo seated in front with speaker, Robin Goddard (center) are Regent Myrtle James and 2nd Vice Regent Pat Reilly. In back are Wanda Taylor, Jo Webb, Caroline Baxter, Charlotte Miller, Millie Peters, Mary Ballew, Florence Byrd, Janie Bitner, Linda Lee, and Martha Daugherty.

Robin Goddard joined GFWC Ossoli Circle in 2012. Robin has volunteered for Great Smoky Mountain National Park for 50 years. She portrays Ms. Elsie at the Little Greenbrier School in the Smokies. She was honored to win the DAR Community Service Award and pin.

Charlotte Miller, Wanda Taylor, Jo Webb and Janie Bitner are also members of GFWC Ossoli Circle.



### Suffragist Event in Niota

Janie Bitner and Wanda Taylor in Niota, TN home of Harry Burns and his mother Febb Burns. A day of celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.



### Westwood Receives OIA Check

On March 4, 2020, Ossoli In Action Committee Chair Pat Clendenen presented a check to Todd Morgan, Executive Director of Knox Heritage at Historic Westwood, 3425 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. This donation was from proceeds from our annual Ossoli In Action party held on February February 10, 2020. Renee Hamilton with the help of the Ossoli In Action Committee members wowed the guest with delicious pasta dishes and a "Love Is in The Air" theme!

L to r: President-Elect Wanda Taylor, Ossoli In Action Chair Pat Clendenen, Todd Morgan, and President Janie Bitner



Hannah Rexrode from East Tennessee Historical Society giving the history leading up to that day when women got the right to vote.



The mayor of Niota- a former schoolteacher.



### Second Mission of Hope Project

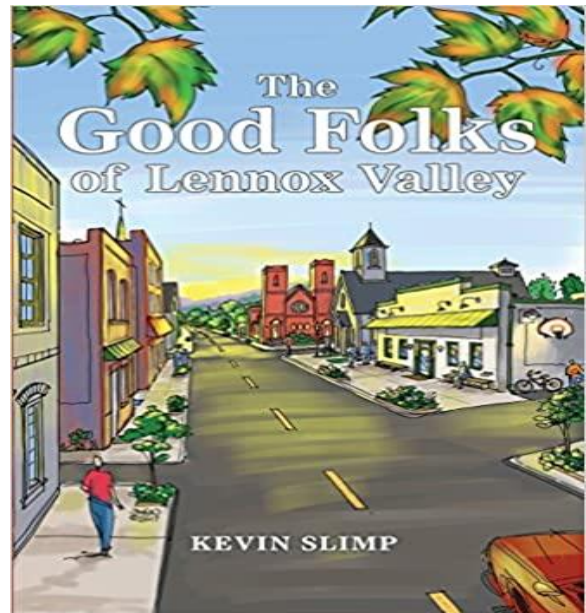
On March 10, 2020 a group of Ossoli Circle ladies volunteered at Mission of Hope. Clothes were sorted and fun was had by all!

Left to right: Joy Kelly, Mary Carroll Roberts, Judy Penry and Renee Hamilton.



### Book Study Committee presents two local Authors

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Author/Publisher Kevin Slimp delighted members with his fictional book, “The Good Folks of Lennox Valley”. He is followed by millions of readers in hundreds of newspapers across America since 2015. This is the story of growing up in a small farming town during the spring and summer of 1998. Readers soon learn that Lennox Valley was anything but quiet and peaceful in the spring and summer of 1998.



March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Esther L. Roberts spoke to members on her book " My Friend Sam", a book about her life with her horse Sam.



She also writes children's books: Gets Ready for School".



### Welcome New Member Cheri Van Aukin

Cheri is our 9<sup>th</sup> new member this year. Cheri enjoys dancing, hiking, camping, reading, traveling, and helping out wherever needed. Committees of interest to Cheri are: Religions, Hospitality, International Outreach, Ossoli in Action, Public Affairs and Conservation. She lives in Knoxville and was sponsored by Joy Kelly.

Pictured L to R: Janice Hixson (For Tona Turpin, Membership Chair), Cheri Van Aukin, Joy Kelly and Ossoli President Janie Bitner.



### GWFC Legislation Day on the Hill

March 10, 2020—GFWC of TN Day on the Hill-- Despite the rain, fog, and Nashville traffic President Janie, President Elect Wanda, and GFWC of TN 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nancy attended the GFWC Day on the Hill at the DoubleTree By Hilton in downtown Nashville. The program by Wanda Sobieski presented eight GFWC of TN members as models of suffragists. President Janie represented our founder, Lizzie Crozier French. President Elect Wanda stepped in and represented Abby Crawford Milton. Linda Hershey challenged members to continue the celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution with "Where do we go from here?". GFWC Ossoli Circle has great things planned for our celebration!



## New Suffragist Pin Offered by Ossoli Circle

These pins celebrating Women's Right to Vote have arrived! I know everyone will proudly wear this beautiful Suffrage pin with the 1920-2020 VOTES FOR WOMEN banner. The lavender center contains the three stars for the state of Tennessee where Harry Burn cast the deciding vote, and it is circled with yellow roses. That about says it all! Yeah for Lizzie and all the ladies who fought for women's vote. Thanks to Harry's mother for sending that important letter telling him "to do the right thing".

For Orders, please send a check for \$10.00 to Ossoli Circle, P.O Box 10892, Knoxville, TN 37939-0892 to hold your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Pin. Include your current mailing address and number of pins needed in your order.  
Susie Kelly



GFWC of Tennessee Smoky Mountain  
District  
2020 Spring Meeting  
Official Call

May 2, 2020

GFWC Ossoli Circle Clubhouse  
2511 Kingston Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37919



Embrace Your Journey –  
2018-2020 theme

Hostess Club: GFWC Ossoli Circle

Time: 9:00am-2:00pm

Registration: 9:00am-9:45am

Board of Directors Meeting: 9:15am

General Meeting: 10:00am

Registration: Mail to- Wanda Taylor  
PO Box 23  
Rockford, TN

37853

[mommawanda@aol.com](mailto:mommawanda@aol.com)

865-719-9744

Cost: \$25 (Make checks payable to GFWC  
Ossoli Circle)

Registration Deadline: April 24, 2020

A light breakfast will be served.

Lunch Menu:

Ham

Sweet Potato Casserole

Green Beans

Copper Pennies

Cole Slaw style salad

Roll

Lemon Sheet Cake

\*A Gluten Free Dessert available

The nominating committee has selected the following individuals to serve as your 2020-2022 GFWC Smoky Mountain District

Officers:  
President- Janet Amburn Harpe  
(Chilhowee)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President- Wanda Taylor (Ossoli  
Circle)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Janie Bitner (Ossoli  
Circle)  
Recording Secretary- Linda Karaba (Loudon)  
Co-Recording Secretary- Nancy Benn  
(Tellico Village)  
Treasurer- Marge Bogert (Chilhowee)

We will be voting on these officers at the  
Spring Meeting. Nominations will also be  
taken from the floor.

Please bring any Art Contest projects to the  
meeting. We will have them on display and  
may also have ribbons for the winners.

Each club member attending (or those who  
would like to participate but can not attend)  
is asked to bring a card with a personal  
message to be given to Veterans on the next  
Honor Air Flight. These notes are handed  
out on the flight home and are very special  
to those receiving them.

**Each club is asked to bring at least two  
surprise gift bags (worth \$10 or more)** with a  
hint on the bag as to what the gift is. Be  
creative, this fundraiser is a lot of fun!

**The district will also be selling tickets for a  
50/50 drawing.**

I hope all of you will join us at Ossoli Circle's  
Clubhouse May 2nd. We will be installing  
officers for the 2020-2022 term and giving  
awards. I look forward to seeing you then.

Jan Johnson, GFWC Smoky Mountain District  
President

GFWC Smoky Mountain District  
2020 Spring Meeting  
May 2, 2020

### Registration Form

Registration Deadline: Friday April 24, 2020

Name:

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Address:

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Phone:

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Email:

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Club Represented:

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Attendees Names: (Please indicate any  
dietary restrictions beside name.)

### **Important Updates**

Our GFWC of Tennessee Smoky Mountain District  
2020 Spring Meeting is scheduled to be held at  
GFWC Ossoli Circle clubhouse on Saturday, May  
2, 2020.

The Executive Board has voted and passed that  
Ossoli Circle cancel all meetings and programs in  
April 2020 and **that we resume our meetings on  
Monday, May 4, 2020**. We have Appalachian  
Assistance Scholarships at 10:30 a.m. The



Memorial Service and our Business Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

May 8, 2020 is our scheduled Elkmont retreat, and

**White Linen Luncheon on May 11<sup>th</sup>. 10:00 -2:00**

**May 18, 2020 is Installation Day.**

Extreme situations call for extreme measures. This is a very tough decision and with your support and leadership we will carry on.

### **Adelia's Shade Garden Workday**

Friday, March 20 was a bit rainy, but Elaine Ralston and Janie Bitner met at Adelia's Shade Garden at Historic Westwood to spruce up the beds. The gardens look very nice and is a great place to walk around this Spring.



### **Remembering Marion Bloomer**

Marion loved Ossoli Circle. Her mother was a member of Ossoli and Marion inherited this love at an early age. She served as Ossoli President in 1998-99 and served as Finance Chair and Chair of the Appalachian Assistance Committee for many years taking good care of the club's money.

Marion had an original Ossoli pin and she made sure it was preserved in a shadow box to be hung in the office for future generations.

Marion liked to cook, and she shared her recipes and talents at many Ossoli functions. When she was in charge everything was done beautifully. Marion organized several wonderful Ossoli trips. One to Natchez, MS was most memorable. Marion loved plants and flower designing. Her talent of flower arranging was often shared with beautiful arrangements at Ossoli Circle. She was past president and treasurer of many state and local garden club organizations, and she was a flower show judge.

Marion Bloomer will be missed by many friends and organizations

