



Ossoli Circle

Knoxville, Tennessee



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

August, 2019
Newsletter

A Note from GFWC President

The summer of 2019 has been a busy and exciting one for me and I hope for you as well.

As a result of a visit to Washington, DC with the Daughters of the American Revolution 128th Congressional Congress, President-elect Wanda Taylor and I visited GFWC National Headquarters at 1734 N Street NW. It was quite a thrill for us to see furnishings and archives that we have been hearing about since we joined GFWC Ossoli Circle.

While living the theme "Honoring Our Heritage While Embracing The Future, let us continue to advise and coach others who want to create and cultivate partnerships. Let's use our network and look around at the other organizations with similar missions and have a discussion with them about how we both might benefit if we work together. Please join Ossoli Circle in making our year a memorable and productive one.

- Janie Bitner



Janie Bitner

Grand Initiatives Challenge

Please be thinking how GFWC Ossoli Circle can support these grand initiatives:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service: 789/1,000
- Women in the Military: 799/1,000
- Million Dollar Club: 99/1,000
- Legislative Action Center: **1,594/1,000**
NEW GOAL: 2,500 members will join the LAC.
- Arbor Day: **17,811/1,000**
NEW GOAL: 20,000 trees will be planted on Federation and/or Arbor Day.
- Donating Used Shoes: **36,763/1,000**
NEW GOAL: 40,000 pairs of shoes will be donated to Souls4Soles and Nike Reuse-a-Shoe program.
- Dr. Seuss: **50,716/1,000**
NEW GOAL: 55,000 books will be donated to local city schools and day care centers.

GFWC International President Mary Ellen Brock has also announced the "Three Brand Initiatives," designed to increase GFWC's visibility through legislative action.

- Brand Initiative #1: Make 1,000 calls or emails to United States Representatives on **September 23, 2019** urging passage of Miranda's Law HR 2793.
- Brand Initiative #2: Make 1,000 calls or emails to United States Senators and Representatives on **October 23, 2019**, urging passage of the 3D Printed Gun Safety ACT of 2019.
- Brand Initiative #3: Put in place 1,000 club/state projects to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women winning the right to vote on **August 26, 2020**.

Everly Brothers Park Dedication Ossoli Recognized by City of Knoxville

On June 17, 2019, Ossoli Circle received Special Acknowledgement by the City of Knoxville and Bearden Village Council at the Everly Brothers Park Dedication. This was a previous Ossoli In Action project.



Rebecca Scarlett, Elaine Ralston, Pat Clendenen, Wanda Taylor, and Janie Bitner



Janie Bitner, Pat Clendenen, and Wanda Taylor

WAKE UP LITTLE SUSIE...IT'S FINALLY HERE!

Even a summer afternoon rain could not keep people away from the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Everly Brothers pocket park. Located at the corner of Kingston Pike and Forest Park Boulevard, the park is a beautiful addition to the Bearden Village Greenway area. There is even a stage which will be used in the future as a venue for small concerts.

The legendary duo, Don and Phil Everly, attended West High School in the 50s, finally moving to Nashville so they could continue their music career at the Grand Ole Opry. Along with Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, and others, they were at the forefront of the rock and roll craze sweeping the nation.

Their music influenced such greats as the Beatles and Simon and Garfunkel. Under the visionary leadership of Ossoli in Action Chair Minga Barnes, Ossoli Circle was a major contributor to the development of the park. In attendance for the celebration were President Janie Bitner, Wanda Taylor, Elaine Ralston, Rebecca Scarlett, and Pat Clendenen. Stop by someday and sit for a spell on the Ossoli bench. Who knows what memories might surface as you begin to remember some of their greatest hits - . Bird Dog, Wake Up Little Susie, All I Have To Do Is Dream, Cathy's Clown, When Will I Be Loved, Till I Kissed You!

Unicorn Fund

On June 1, 2019, our Appalachian Assistance Committee attended a Scholarship Luncheon presented by the Unicorn Fund Committee in Wartburg, Tennessee. Ossoli Circle attendees were Jo Webb, Elaine Ralston, Janice Hixson, Janie Bitner and Sharon White.



Wildlife Habitat Certified

On May 31, 2019, our Ossoli In Action Grant project at Historic Westwood was completed. Adelia's Shade Garden was planted and certified as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Foundation.



Left to Right: Wanda Taylor, Melanie Goldstine, Patricia Harris, Nancy Christmas, Janie Bitner, Susan Fowlkes, Elaine Ralston and Linda Oliver

New Member Project Mission of Hope

A new member project was initiated in June, 2019. Members met at Ossoli Circle on June 5th to carpool to the Mission of Hope headquarters. Ossoli members volunteered their time from 9 a.m. until noon packing hygiene bags for school children. Each bag contained a package of toothpaste with a toothbrush, a container of soap, shampoo, 2 extra toothbrushes for family members, and deodorant. New members, Joan Holladay, Diane Davidson, Carol Mohny, and Renee Hamilton were present for this new project. Plans are being made to volunteer again for the back to school session. Volunteer spots are limited, but when spots are available, an email will be sent to Ossoli members. We filled 2 1/2 pallets (45 boxes each) for a total of 112 boxes. Each box held 10 packages for a total of 1,120 packages. Each package held 5 items for a total of 5600 items packaged. Seven people worked for 3 hours each plus travel. Also, members Corresponding Secretary Carol Lovingood-Hiers, President Janie Bitner and President - Elect Wanda Taylor were present for the event. - Wanda Taylor



Left to right -Carol Mohny, Renee Hamilton, Joan Holladay, President Janie Bitner



Joan Holladay, President Janie Bitner, Diane Davidson, Carol Mohny, President-Elect Wanda Taylor, and Corresponding Secretary Carol Lovingood-Hiers

Conservation Committee Field Trip

Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse

On April 30, 2019, Conservation Chairman Elaine Ralston and her Committee joined Janie Bitner on a field trip to hear long time Great Smoky Mountain National Park Volunteer Robin Goddard (Ms. Elsie) at Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse. A picnic was enjoyed after our school lesson was completed.



Left to Right- Susan Fowlkes, Nancy Christmas, Wanda Taylor, Robin Goddard (Ms. Elsie), Janie Bitner, Elaine Ralston, Sharon White and Christine Henry

Upcoming Events

August 12, 2019 – I Love Ossoli Tea at Historic Westwood, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

September 9, 2019 – “Fete Day”, Opening Membership Coffee 10:30am – 1:30pm

September 13 -14, 2019 – GFWC Fall Conference, Montgomery Bell State Park, Dickson, TN

September 26 – 29, 2019 – GFWC Southeastern Region Annual Conference (SER), Richmond, VA

Details on Upcoming

August 12, 2019 – I Love Ossoli Tea at Historic Westwood, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

The fabulous and ever delicious “I Love Ossoli” Tea is August 12 from 1 until 3 at Historic Westwood, 3425 Kingston Pike. Be greeted by Adelia Armstrong Lutz herself. Tour this amazing home and learn about its families, including our own Lorna Matheny. Enjoy delightful entertainment by Sarah Searle, Anne Jackson, Stephanie Wayland, and Joan Holladay, and as always be served delicious tea treats and champagne to celebrate the day! Remember this event is a “greens tea” and all donations collected in the silver punch bowl go toward GFWC Ossoli Circle. Hats are requested, too!

Directions to Tea:

If coming east turn left at the light at Laurel Church of Christ, and if driving west turn right into the parking lot. Walk the sidewalk enjoying Adelia’s Shade Garden as you approach Westwood. There will be gentlemen at each entrance to assist you with the steps. A handicapped lift is available if you turn into the driveway of the home and pull toward the porte cochere. A valet will be there to park your vehicle for you!

September 9, 2019 – “Fete Day”, Opening Membership Coffee 10:30 – 1:30

Make plans now to attend the Opening Day/Membership Coffee on Monday, September 9, 2019, at 10:30am. There will be plenty of fun and fellowship for you to enjoy and time to visit and hear what our friends did during their summer adventures. Entertainment will be provided by Sarah Searle and Linda Williams and our new President, Janie Bitner, will share her bits of wisdom. Delicious refreshments will be provided by Bettye McKeehan and Janet Oakes' committee and Tona Turpin, Membership chair, will invite prospective members to become part of Ossoli Circle. This is a Fete Day, so make plans now to attend and bring a friend to enjoy the day.

- Robin Goddard