



Ossoli Circle

Knoxville, Tennessee



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

November 2019 Newsletter

A Note from the President

As we make plans to celebrate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment, let's tell our story to others in the community as we create and cultivate new partnerships. We at GFWC Ossoli Circle have a lot to be proud of. Our members give this organization its strength and its purpose; you are the foundation. Let us all continue to echo the spirit of friendship. Please join me in making history and continuing the legacy.

With much appreciation,
Janie Bitner, President

Welcome Back Membership Coffee

Members attended a "Welcome Back" Opening Day Membership Coffee on Monday, September 9, 2019 at the Ossoli Clubhouse. The clubhouse was filled with beautiful flower arrangements, hugs and laughter, after summer vacations were coming to an end. Janie Bitner, President, welcomed everyone. Sarah Searle sang "Bless This House" as our tradition followed by Tona Turpin introducing all guests. Robin Goddard portrayed Lizzie Crozier French, our founder, and presented Lizzie's vision for Ossoli Circle in the future. A musical program was given by Joan Holladay, pianist, Sarah Searle and Linda Williams, vocalists, as they entertained everyone with a wonderful, happy selection of popular songs. Janie Bitner, President, had closing remarks and a delicious brunch was served in the dining room. The day was a huge success as Ossoli Circle now had nine prospective members attend - four of which have already joined our mission.

-Robin Goddard



Robin Goddard Portrays
Lizzie Crozier French at
September 9, 2019
Opening Membership
Coffee

Welcome New Members



Rebecca Bettis

East Tennessee has always been my home. My early years were spent in Oak Ridge, then I went "off to college" in Knoxville, later moved to Chattanooga, and I recently returned to Knoxville. My first "real" job was as a RN circulating in surgery and I loved working in the Operating Room so much that is where I spent my entire nursing career. After completing post graduate work I became a nurse anesthetist, married and (later) had four "stair-step" children (all four in less than five years). Needless to say, I stayed very busy but was fortunate to be able to work part-time. Now that my children are grown I have time to enjoy my favorite activities, including walking, hiking and just being outdoors. I also love to read, get together with family and friends, and attend church activities. I'm so excited about becoming a member is Ossoli!



Camila Fore

I grew up in Monticello, Georgia and after completing high school I became a registered nurse. Many of my nursing career years were spent in the operating room. Feeling the need for change I started a company and provided diabetic supplies and

education for the use of blood glucose monitors. My company was a pioneer in the area in the development of new lines of mastectomy products and the fitting of such in Knoxville.

My company was one of the first in the United States to provide the treatment of lymphedema and I assisted in obtaining the policies for reimbursement in the state of Tennessee. Later I worked as an RN in a mental health hospital. I am still employed as a volunteer coordinator there. Patient group education, the HABIT program and gardens for hospital units are some of the projects I have been responsible for.

I am married to Truitt Fore who is retired from TVA. After retirement he had assignments with FEMA providing assessment following natural disasters across the nation. We have 2 wonderful grown daughters. I enjoy listening and playing classical music, hiking, reading, cooking, entertaining, playing with my basset hound, etc. I look forward to my association with Ossoli.



Joy Kelly

An Oak Ridge native, I moved to Knoxville after graduation from college. I joined the Farragut Jaycettes during the St. Jude radio-thon at WIVK where I was employed. This sparked my interest in community service. I have served on numerous committees over the last 30 years to raise funds for the arts and charities. The last few years my focus has been high school students through TnPromise and as chair of the ORHS Class of '70 Scholarship Committee.

Married for 34 years to Chris, I have two children. (Plus 3 dogs, 3 cats and frogs in my ponds). As a retired state employee, I enjoy having time to paint, garden and spend time with my grandson, Jack.

Good Job Ossoli – You Really *Stepped Up!*

In September of 2018 we started our shoe drive for Soles 4 Souls with 166 pairs of shoes as part of the state of Tennessee GFWC president's project. We went on to collect more shoes with a final tally of 358 pairs in 2018. This initiative is now a national GFWC project. We have collected 222 pairs of shoes so far in 2019. This gives us a total of 580 pairs of shoes for Soles 4 Souls collected and delivered to the warehouse in Nashville. Thank you! We continue to collect shoes on this worthwhile initiative. Please place gently used or new shoes in the boxes on the back of the stage.



Fall Conference September 13 – 14, 2019

Three Ossoli members attended the annual GFWC Fall Conference. This year the event was held at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, Tennessee. Kim Overman, State Ways and Means Chair was busy preparing fun and innovative ways to fund raise. Ossoli President Janie Bitner, First Vice President/President Elect Wanda Taylor and Second Vice President Kim Overman were very fortunate to share the suite of State President Beth Smith. We were busy all three days helping Beth in many ways. Friday activities included the state board meeting in the conference room, Saturday morning, we were up early to run/walk in the Red, White & Blue Run the Bell 5K race sponsored by the GFWC Dickson County Women's Club. Saturday Lunch was an outside Bar-B-Que buffet and a ranger led talk about raptors. Dinner that night was a plated meal and that is where Kim Overman presented the gift bag giveaway. For just \$1, a chance to win a gift bag was possible. It was a fast moving fun time and Ossoli Circle members may participate in one of these events soon. Following the fun, a representative from "Sole for Soles" came to tell us about the progress of the project. Saturday night following dinner, we

drove (Following the Ranger) to an old cemetery on the other side of the park. We learned about the Legend of Hall Springs during the Night Walk & Campfire. Walking through the woods, the ranger told us historical facts about the property in the days when this area was formed by Montgomery Bell, who had one of the largest iron industries in Tennessee. Iron was once thought to be more valuable than gold and was a very lucrative industry at the time.

At the time of the iron industry, the land was stripped of all timber. In the early 1930's three New Deal agencies under the supervision of the National Park Service assisted in the construction of the park: the Public Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The park remained under the National Park Service jurisdiction until 1943, when the original tract of land was deeded to the Tennessee Department of Conservation. At the end of our walk, we were greeted by another Ranger who had prepared a campfire for us complete with some-mores and cold drinks. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Spring meeting in March of 2020.

- Wanda Taylor



Left to right: Janie Bitner, Kim Overman, Stefanie Harriman, Wanda Taylor and Nancy Carmon.

Mission of Hope Project

On November 6, 2019 twelve Ossoli ladies volunteered at Mission of Hope! I heard the staff saying as we were leaving that we had set a new speed record on how many toiletry bags we stuffed and how many pallets we completed! Please notice the blue Mission of Hope barrel in the clubhouse

auditorium. This is for us to collect new Christmas toys for the less fortunate children in Appalachia.



L to r : Sharon White, Nancy Christmas, Linda Scothorn, Susie Kelley, Mary Carroll Roberts, Janie Bitner, Rebecca Shular, Christine Henry, Lorna Matheny, Janet Oakes, Lexa Hooten and Joy Kelly

- Janie Bitner

Donation of Dr. Seuss Books

October 21, 2019



Ossoli Circle, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs recently received a donation of fifty Dr. Seuss books. The donation came as a project of General William Lenior Daughters of American Revolution member Janet Lukaszewicz. She heard that Ossoli Circle was working to fulfill one of the goals of the seven grand initiatives of the International Society GFWC. The goal is to collect and distribute Dr. Seuss books back to schools, Head Start programs, and other places that give children in need the opportunity to read. To date, 50,716 books have been collected nationally. The goal by June 2020 is 55,000 books. Janet's donation will be added to Ossoli member donations and books will be presented on Read Across America Day on March 2, 2020. This is the birthday of acclaimed children's

book author Dr. Seuss. Many thanks to Mrs. Lukaszewicz and the General William Lenoir DAR Chapter.

- Nancy Carmon

- Wanda Taylor



left to right: Wanda Taylor, Renee Hamilton, Janet Lukaszewicz and Janie Bitner

“I Love Ossoli” Tea

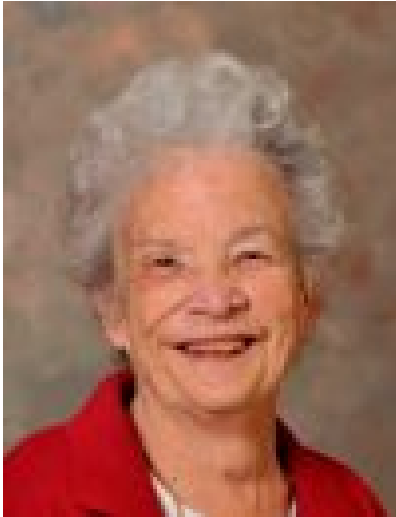
The “I Love Ossoli” Tea was held August 12 at Historic Westwood. Members and guests were greeted by President Janie Bitner, President Elect Wanda Taylor, and Adelia Armstrong Lutz (really Linda Williams in gorgeous period dress). It was a great day!

The setting of an historic Knoxville home, a “wedding promise” built by John for Adelia...beautiful hats and summer frocks photographed by VIP Knoxville and the Farragut Press...amazing delectables and champagne provided by Wanda Taylor and her food committee...graceful arrangements of summer flowers from the decorations committee: Rebecca Shular, Carol Lovingood-Hiers, Janie Bitner, Lorna Matheny...lilting music from a harp played by Anne Jackson, and our own Ossoli entertainers: Sarah Searle, Stephanie Wayland, Peggy Sood, Joan Holladay...many mother-daughter and mother granddaughter attendees...and the gorgeous guys, Cade Rogers, friend, and Scott Morrell to assist ladies with parking and all those steps...an historic way to begin our 2019-2020 year!



Death of Members

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”
- Pericles



Bette Greene
Ossoli Member Since 1976
Died July 14, 2019



Adeyn Mays
Ossoli Member Since 1976
Died May 29, 2019



Libby Pruitt
Ossoli Member Since 1988
Died April 27, 2019



Peachy Wallace
Ossoli Member Since 1965
Died May 4, 2019

“If you’re going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the work that can’t be erased.”

- Maya Angelou