

ISSUE ONE
July 2020



Ossoli Circle
Knoxville, Tennessee



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



Greetings from Your President



Hello Ossoli Sisters,

I hope that you have been staying healthy and keeping busy during this unrepresented time in our history. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again soon – in our new way of “normal” life. Please be aware that we will make every effort to keep everyone safe and healthy as our new year begins. Our auditorium is large enough to safely seat everyone. There may be some adjustments to our regular schedules, but we will address those as they arise.

Our annual installation rescheduled for August 3rd at 10:30, once again had to be cancelled. The newly elected executive board officers for the 2020-21 administration were installed by our Parliamentarian Charlotte Miller at the July 29th Summer Board meeting.

A survey was taken by the members in July, and the decision was made to cancel the August 10th annual I Love Ossoli Tea. This is our Green's Tea. It is a fundraiser to support our Historic Ossoli Circle House. Due to the Virus, we missed our annual White Linen Luncheon in April, which was also a fundraiser. Even though we are not at the clubhouse, funds are still needed to update and sustain the treasure we own. Please consider contributing any amount that you are comfortable with for this purpose by sending your check to Treasurer Rebecca Shular.

Our Opening Coffee will be held on September 14th. Committee co-chairs Linda Williams and Jo Webb invite you to invite your friends to this annual event. To meet our goal of 10%-member increase, we need 15 new members this year. Contact your friends and let Tona Turpin know. She will be sending invitations to prospective members.

Ossoli Circle will be hosting the Fall Smoky Mountain District meeting on Saturday, September 26th. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend. Let's make Ossoli shine!!

The Centennial of the Suffragists has been extended through 2021 with many activities planned. The Reception for Artist Mary Ruden's Sculpture of Lizzie Crozier French was rescheduled for October 10th at Ossoli Circle.

Also, GFWC of TN Ossoli Circle joined with our Community Partners Old Gray Cemetery, Ruthie Kuhlman, Director; Artist Mary Ruden and Holly Matthews, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution Cavett Station Chapter. We will be dedicating an interpretative marker to our founder Lizzie Crozier French in the near future at Old Gray Cemetery. We are working to raise the funds for the manufacturing and installation of this historical marker. Ossoli members have contributed \$1000.00 and we hope to be able to send more. Donations can be given to Past President Janie Bitner. Please note that donations should 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.

My project this year is Smoky Mountain Service Dogs. Until you have attended a “passing of the leash” ceremony, you cannot imagine the joy these dogs bring to our Veterans. At the new facility off of highway 321, Ossoli Circle has a kennel with our name on it. My goal this term is to raise enough money to buy a puppy, and assist with vet costs, food/training treats and basic obedience training for six months -\$4000.00. It is my hope that we can accomplish this goal.

With the new 2020-2022 administration in place, our International President Marion St. Clair's theme is “Lighting the Future”. The future of Ossoli Circle depends on our members. Thank you for your faithful support, commitment to the GFWC goals and love of the federation.

In federation love,

Wanda

May 11 – Drive Thru at Ossoli. Installation Postponed to August 3rd.

This May, due to unexpected circumstances, our annual Installation Day was cancelled. However that did not stop the spirit of the day. Several Ossoli Board members met at the Clubhouse for a drive by – pay dues and pick up your yearbook event. About forty members participated by pulling up to our tables and chatting for a minute. Treasurer Rebecca Shular and Assistant Treasurer Judy Penry were ready to receive member's dues. Trustee Roberta Pedigo and First Vice President Kim Overman delivered yearbooks. Susie Kelley had the Club Suffragist Pin for sale. President Wanda Taylor and Past President Janie Bitner greeted members and helped where needed. Members were then directed to the back of the Clubhouse to drop off donations for Wartburg and the garage sale. Ways and Means Co-Chair Susan Calabrese and daughter Lily and Trustee Nancy Carmon were there to collect items. It was a gorgeous Spring day and it was great to see all of our Ossoli sisters again.



Pins are \$10.00 -send your Ossoli check to Rebecca Shular.



Judy Penry, Rebecca Shular, Susie Kelley and Roberta Pedigo

Smoky Mountains District Planning Meeting

President Janet Amburn Harpe, First VP Wanda Taylor and 2nd VP Janie Bitner met at Cheddars in Alcoa for a planning session for the upcoming term as District Board members. Janet's theme for the 2020-2022 term is "Shine YOUR Light: Volunteer". The symbol is a sun burst. More details to follow later.



May 18 Ossoli Circle Zoom Board Meeting

President Janie Bitner called a board meeting to review motions presented by Trustee Roberta Pedigo. The 2020-21 board members were invited to attend.



Appalachian Assistance -Wartburg Donations

Ossoli sisters who came to help load up the donations to the Unicorn Shop in Wartburg May 18th. We had a van full of donations that were loaded efficiently and cheerfully. It was so good to see some of our members after such a long time. Thanks to Janie Bitner, Nancy Christmas, Patricia Harris, Cherie Van Auken, Renee Hamilton, and Camilla Fore. Thanks to Cherie and Patricia for putting the donated clothing rack together also. And I wish you could have seen Janie vacuuming all the carpet downstairs. She was like a dervish on fire. It was a good time of fellowship with old and new sisters. Hope to see you all soon. Carol



Renee Hamilton, Janie Bitner, Cheri Van Auken, Patricia Harris and Carol Lovingood-Hiers

June 1st- Second Drive Through Day and Inventory

Treasurer Rebecca Shular and Assistant Treasurer Judy Penry held a second drive through day for yearbook pickup and dues. It was a gorgeous Spring day and several members took advantage of this opportunity. Inside the clubhouse, Lexa Hooten, Jan Coley and Camilla Fore inventoried the silver closet. Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner checked the President's Office and Kim Overman oversaw the counting of kitchen items. It was a very productive day.



Westwood weeding and Arboretum

June 6th, members Renee Hamilton, Janie Bitner and Wanda Taylor met at Westwood to weed in Adelia's Shade Garden. There is lots to be done before the tea, so please stop by and pull a few weeds. Following lunch, Janie Bitner and Wanda Taylor met with Knox Heritage Executive Director Todd Morgan and retired Urban Forestry Inspector Tom Simpson to walk the property and identify trees for a level 1 arboretum.



Remembering Sula Jane Inklebarger



Knoxville - Sula Jane Hensley Inklebarger, age 94, went dancing into the light of God's perfect love and grace and into the waiting arms of her parents, W.S. Hensley and Goldie Blanche Shaffer Hensley, her husband, William (Bill) Ledgerwood Inklebarger, her son, Captain William Steven (Steve) Inklebarger, who was killed in an Army rescue helicopter crash in 1982, and her brother, Carl Hensley early in the morning on June 03, 2020 of heart failure.

She was born on September 9, 1925 in Haysi, VA. During the Depression, her father was fortunate to get a job with the Clinchfield Railroad because he had learned the Morse Code from his brother-in-law. They moved from one small railroad town to another, finally settling in Erwin, TN. Sula was named by her grandmother and never learned where the name originated. She recalls her mother ran a restaurant in the small railroad town, always keeping a pot of beans cooking for anyone who was hungry. She also recalls trading an egg for a piece of candy at the local general store. Shoes were also rationed at the time to only one new pair of shoes a year. When Sula left for college, her mother gave her a shoe coupon for a new pair of shoes so that her daughter would have two new pairs of shoes, one casual pair and one dressy pair. These examples contributed to Sula's empathy and compassion for the least, the last, and the lost, and lead eventually to her career as a Social Worker.

Sula attended high school at Unicoi County High School in Erwin, TN and her first year of college at ETSU in Johnson City, TN. She transferred to the University of Tennessee receiving a Degree in Business in 1946, being the first in her family to graduate from college. Later she received a Master's Degree from the College of Social Work at UT.

A member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, she met her future husband while he was visiting his sister at the sorority house. He had just returned from the Army-Air Corps after WWII, and it was love at first sight, as he was dashing handsome, and she was classy, smart, and beautiful.

During college Sula became a lifelong Vol Football fan, attending games from 1943 until the age of 90 in 2015. She also enjoyed playing bridge, travel, house boating on Norris Lake, camping, reading, including novels, Time Magazine, and the newspaper from cover to cover. Blessed with an excellent memory, she could defend her positions with facts, logic, and experiences. Family gatherings were fun, frequent, and often filled with music.

However, her first love was dancing! She first began dancing to her Grandmother's Victrola as a child in Benhams, VA near Bristol, VA. She recalled dancing the "Hootchie Kootchie" to the record, "California Here I Come." She and her husband, who was an excellent dancer also, continued dancing through the Big Band Era, the Jitterbug, Rock and Roll, especially Elvis, the Twist at Deane Hill Country Club, clogging, and line dancing. After retirement from the Department of Human Services after 30 years, she attended dancing and other activities at her winter home at Mariner's Cove in Southwest Florida. She also enjoyed the beach and "shelling."

Sula was a member of numerous social welfare organizations, the Ossoli Circle, and Centenary United Methodist Church in Erwin, TN. She founded an endowment at UT College of Social Work in memory of her son, Captain William Steven Inklebarger, U.S. Army Helicopter Pilot.

Always classy and in style, Sula loved shopping, especially at Rich's Department Store's the French Room. She loved getting a good bargain and going to the beauty shop every week. As a child, she loved listening to Soap Operas (her pieces) on the radio and later watching them on television with her Grandmother and Mother. Sula continued to watch her pieces for the rest of her life.

She leaves behind her daughter, Elizabeth Lynn Inklebarger Barnes; grandchildren, USAF SMSgt. Steven Barnes and wife Meghan, Heather Barnes Wisniowski and husband John of Dallas, TX; great-grandchildren Coltman Joseph, Sula Elizabeth, and Jackson Steven Wisniowski. She also leaves her younger sister, Merle Lynn Hensley Woodruff of Erwin, TN; sister-in-law, Charlotte Jean Tipton Hensley; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Sula's parents were descended from country music musicians and the banjo, guitar, fiddle, and mandolin are still part of a family Bluegrass Band. Sula was known for her skill of playing the spoons which has been passed down three generations.

All her loved ones are smiling and rejoicing that she is dancing and playing the spoons in Heaven's Bluegrass Band.

Summer Board Meeting

Our Summer Board Meeting was held on July 29th at our Clubhouse with President Wanda Taylor presiding. Your Board was sworn in and is excited for the upcoming year and we will navigate these COVID-19 challenges as best we can. Be well, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Remember—dues are currently being collected as well as handing out the 2020-2021 Yearbook. If you haven't sent your dues in, please do. Ossoli Circle appreciates you!



Front L>R: Susan Calabrese, Linda Scothorn, Judy Penry, Tona Turpin, Nancy Christmas, Wanda Taylor, Janie Bitner
Back L>R: Joyce Condry, Renee Hamilton, Charlotte Miller, Susie Kelley, Lexa Hooten



COVID-19 Mask photo