



# GFWC

## Ossoli Circle Newsletter

### July 2021



#### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Kim Overman**  
**President 2021-2022**

Greeting my friends.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and are staying healthy. As you know, we continued to meet last season, following all the CDC guidelines. We will continue to do so. If you haven't had your vaccine, please considering doing that for the health and safety of your family and all of us. We have a busy, busy year planned!

I love Ossoli Tea is Monday, August from 1-3 pm at the GFWC Ossoli Circle Clubhouse. Sherry Hillis has planned a beautiful Victorian High Tea. You should have received an invitation card in the mail so plan to come and enjoy wonderful treats and of course tea! This

is a perfect opportunity to get dressed up and wear your fancy party hats and fascinators. This is our "greens" tea, so be as generous as you can.

The next event is our Opening Coffee on September 13, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to come to Ossoli and see what we are all about. If you know someone who might enjoy an invitation, please send their name and address to Janice Hixson. She is our Membership Chair this year. I am sure she would like the contact information as soon as possible so she can send out a special invitation to prospective members.

My President's project is East TN Children's Hospital Pain and Palliative Care Program. Dealing with a child's medical condition is tough, which is why the pain and palliative care helps relieve the symptoms of a condition, rather than the condition itself. The pain and palliative care team help patients improve the quality of life during their battle with their illness. This program has a very special place in my heart. My hope is that we can be generous to assist this program with their mission. You will find out more at our first regular meeting in September.

It is my honor and privilege to be your President this year. Thank you for this opportunity to serve our community.

#### I LOVE OSSOLI TEA

Monday, August 9, from 1-3 pm is the date for our annual I Love Ossoli Tea at the Ossoli Circle Clubhouse. This Greens Tea was started by Past President Florence Hillis 37 years ago.

Tea will be served along with punch, champagne and scrumptious treats prepared by the Committee Chair Sherry Hillis and her committee members. Entertainment provided by Anne Jackson playing her harp and vocals by our own Linda Williams. Invitations will be mailed to all. But if you can't attend, donations would be appreciated, mailed to Rebecca Shular, 2917 Deanvue Dr., Knoxville, 37920.

### **OPENING DAY AND MEMBERSHIP COFFEE**

We are looking forward to our Ossoli Membership Coffee on September 12. As you know, new members are the lifeblood of Ossoli. So, please, think of some ladies that would consider joining our wonderful group. Send their names and addresses to Membership Chair Janice Hixson by August 29, in order that she can mail the invitations in a timely fashion. Let's have a great Opening Day!

### **UNICORN FUND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Five Ossoli Circle members attended the annual brunch in Wartburg on June 5 honoring all the Unicorn Fund Scholarship recipients. Our two scholarships for 2021 were awarded to Carla Kees and Melissa Osborne. Troy Wilson, who received the first Marion Bloomer Scholarship given by the Unicorn Fund in 2020, was also recognized. He is attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and will be a sophomore this fall.



L to R: Nancy Carmon, Jo Webb, Janice Hixson, Melissa Osborne, Renee Hamilton, and Nancy Christmas.

### **OSSOLI IN ACTION PROJECT**

Ossoli in Action working with the History Project of Knoxville produced an Art Wrap illustrating

the Knoxville Female Institute by Russell Briscoe, a local artist painting of historic buildings. The founder of GFWC Ossoli Circle, Lizzie Crozier French (also pictured on the box), was the founder and teacher at the Institute popularly known as "Miss French's School". She and her sisters established it in 1881 for girls and young women in an era when they were excluded from colleges and schools of higher learning. This box is located across the street from the former site of the school where Church Street Methodist Church stands.



L to R: Terry Finnerty, Roberta Pedigo, Ossoli in Action Co-Chair, President Kim Overman, Nancy Christmas, and Nancy Carmon, Ossoli in Action Co-Chair.

### **PROGRAM ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

Janie Bitner was interviewed on a Community TV Suffrage Series with Wanda Sobieski, a leader in promoting awareness of women's suffrage and President of the Suffrage Coalition, Inc. Watch the program online at <https://www.ctvknox.org/suffrage-coalition-16/>. You will hear about the GFWC Ossoli Circle Grant for a Pomeroy Foundation Historical Marker program and dedication planned November 1, 2021, at our historical clubhouse. Also discussed is the Lizzie Crozier French grave marker dedication ceremony at Old Gray Cemetery in Knoxville on August 21, 2021.

### **CLUBHOUSE INVENTORY DAY**

Inventory Chair Carol Lovingood-Hiers oversaw a busy morning of counting at the clubhouse on Inventory Day. A huge thank you to the ladies

who participated, (in addition to those pictured below): Wanda Taylor, Jolene Martin, Christine Henry, Nancy Staub, Paulette Corcoran, Sherry Hillis, and Patricia Harris. And Nancy Christmas who braved the heat to carry in many items donated for our sale. Also, thank you to Rebecca Schuler and Judy Penry who sat outside to take up dues and handout yearbooks. We got a lot accomplished in a few short hours.

If any of your personal information in the new yearbook has changed or needs to be corrected, please contact Printing Chair Roberta Pedigo at 577-4106 or [rbpedigo@comcast.net](mailto:rbpedigo@comcast.net).

### INSTALLATION DAY



L to R: President Kim Overman, Janie Bitner, and Rebecca Shular



2020-21 President Wanda Taylor installs Ossoli Circle newest President Kim Overman.



L to R: Jan Coley, Roberta Pedigo, Linda Williams, and Elaine Ralston. In the background: Susan Fowlkes and Nancy Carmon

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF AN OSSOLI SISTER



**Glenda Jessee**  
Member for 31 years  
Died July 4, 2021

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

It's time to pay your Ossoli dues for 2021-2022. Mail your check, made out to Ossoli Circle, for \$150 to Treasurer Rebecca Shular at 2917 Deanvue Dr., Knoxville, 37920. If you want your yearbook mailed to you, add \$3.50 to cover the postage.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Summer Board Meeting</b>	<b>July 28</b>
<b>I Love Ossoli Tea</b>	<b>August 9</b>
<b>Opening/Membership Coffee</b>	<b>September 13</b>
<b>First Regular Meeting</b>	<b>September 20</b>