



GFWC

Ossoli Circle Newsletter

March 2022



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kim Overman
President 2021-2022

Greeting my friends,

Happy Spring! Over 5 inches of snow one week and spring flowers the next, East Tennessee weather is never boring. GFWC Ossoli Circle has been exciting as well.

We have welcomed 19 new members since our opening coffee. Janice Hixson has been a busy lady keeping up with our new members. Thank you, ladies for inviting your friends to join us. Please continue to invite friends for meetings so they can see for themselves how special GFWC Ossoli Circle is to our community.

For my President's project, East TN Children's Hospital Pain and Palliative Care Program, we completed the "snuggles n' hugs" blanket project. We presented Dr. Jessica Nicholson and Danni Varlan with 50 beautiful blankets

and gifts for the children. We started the project in January and were able to give the blankets and gifts at our Ossoli in Action Mardi Gras Party. We also contributed to Isaiah 1:17, a wonderful organization that helps with children that are entering foster care. The Ossoli in Action party was a fun purple, green and gold event. We crowned Robin Goddard as our Queen for the Day.

We hosted the fall Smoky Mountain District meeting on October 23. Our own Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner were nominated for the 22-24 District President and First Vice President. Congratulations ladies; we look forward to your leadership at the district level of GFWC of TN. October also included our Replacement Benefit event, a Halloween party extravaganza chaired by Susan Calabrese. There were witches and a few goblins in the clubhouse as we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

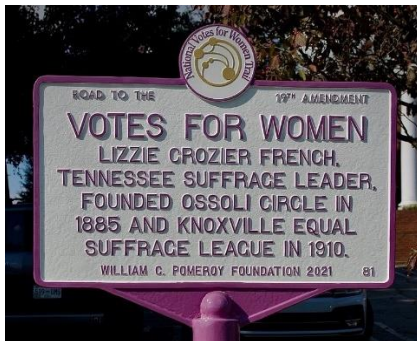
November 22 was our Founder's Day Walk through History. Tona Turpin, Chair of the Day, along with the committee presented us with an interesting and educational program of women in history.

December brought Presidents' Day. What an honor to have so many past presidents attend. The day was filled with joy of the holiday season. Shoe boxes were picked up by our friends in Wartburg to distribute to the children in need. Over 100 Christmas shoe boxes along with gift cards and a van full of "stuff" were sent to aid our neighbors.

Our next big event is our White Linen Luncheon chaired by Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner. They have chosen an exciting theme for this year's party. I hope you will join us. This is our Ways and Means Committee's big fundraiser so come and support our club.

NATIONAL VOTES FOR WOMEN POMEROY HISTORICAL MARKER

The U.S. Women's Suffrage Centennial was celebrated in 2020 and with this landmark anniversary, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites and The William G. Pomeroy Foundation partnered to launch a new historic marker program commemorating the history of U.S. women's suffrage. The National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT) seeks to recognize and celebrate the enormous diversity of people and groups active in the struggle for women's suffrage to passage of the Nineteenth amendment in 1920. The Trail consists of two parts: 1) a database with digital map and 2) a program of historical markers for about 250 women's suffrage sites across the country. GFWC Ossoli Club members, Janie Bitner and Wanda Taylor applied to the Pomeroy Foundation for a grant for Ossoli Circle and received one of these meaningful Historic Markers, the first in Tennessee. The NVWT Pomeroy Historical Marker now stands in front of our historic clubhouse.



MARDI GRAS CARNIVALE

The Ossoli in Action fundraiser was held February 28th and raised almost \$3000. Two checks of \$1000.00 each were awarded to the East Tennessee Children's Hospital Pain and Palliative Care Unit and Isaiah 117. Everyone enjoyed Mardi Gras Bingo, searching for coins hidden in the clubhouse, participating in a pass-the-beads relay race, buying 50/50 tickets, and enjoying the special drinks prepared by our bartenders. After a delicious luncheon served by the kitchen elves which included jambalaya, colorful slaw, fruit salad, and individual King Cake, we crowned our Mardi Gras Queen, and the OIA Committee "Kazooed" for the Ossoli Krewe parade. Amazing decorations, fun

events, and great New Orleans food--a Mardi Gras Carnivale to remember!!

In addition, many Ossoli members worked diligently during February to construct 50 "Snuggles 'n Hugs" fleece blankets. Members also purchased clothing items for Isaiah 117.



President Kim Overman presents check and fleece blankets to Danni Varlan and Dr. Jessica Nicholson from East Tennessee Children's Hospital Pain and Palliative Care Unit



Kim Overman, President, and Nancy Carmon, Ossoli in Action Chair, present a check to Kristi Whitehead from Isaiah 1:17

WHITE LINEN LUNCHEON

Ossoli Circle, founded in 1885, has long played an active role in obtaining economic and educational opportunities for women in Tennessee. The organization moved into the current clubhouse in 1933. The clubhouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The proceeds from the luncheon help to maintain this piece of Knoxville's history. Please join club members for an exciting and entertaining luncheon on April 11, at 10:00 AM.

The luncheon theme is based on the music and times of the Rat Pack.



**JOIN US FOR THE
WHITE LINEN LUNCHEON
MONDAY, APRIL 11
10 AM TILL 2 PM
OSSOLI CLUBHOUSE**

Tickets \$50
Includes 2 drink tickets
Door Prizes
Fashion Show by Chicos
Las Vegas Luncheon

There will be a Silent Auction
50/50 chances
Bake Sale
Vendors

**RAT PACK
STYLE**

RSVP TO
Jo Webb, mjwebb@aol.com
(865) 980-8536
327 Ross Springs Dr.
Maryville, TN 37803

Checks should be made payable to
Ossoli Circle

136th FOUNDERS DAY

Founder's Day 2021 was dedicated to looking at women and their changing fashions and roles throughout the years since Ossoli's founding. Pictured (L to R) Robin Goddard portrayed founder Lizzie Crozier French. Joyce Condry depicted fashion in the early 1900's as she told of women and their evolving role in business affairs. Janie Bitner dressed as a women's suffragist. Linda Williams wore a fashion such as Adelia Armstrong Lutz, the first occupant of Historic Westwood Manor, might have worn. Tona Turpin spoke of the home life of women through the years, wearing clothes from the 1970's. Nancy Carmon modeled a flapper dress from the 1920's era.



PRESIDENTS' DAY 2021



Current and Past Presidents, Row 1: Janet Oakes. Sue Whittle, Kim Overman, Janie Bitner, Wanda Taylor, Lexa Hooten, Row 2: Susie Kelley, Roberta Pedigo, Lee Patton, Jo Webb, Barbara Horton, Row 3: Janice Hixson, Charlotte Miller, Nancy Carmon

The auditorium was decorated with red poinsettias, and Joy Kelly carried the poinsettia theme to the tables. With Christmas trees alight, everything was very festive. Marty was gifted with monies from the membership, and President-Elect Nancy Christmas presented President Overman a plaque with a gavel affixed to recognize her presidency. A full spectrum of Christmas music was presented by the Powell High Singers. A standing ovation showed how much these Ossoli members were impressed with the talent and character of the students. Linda Williams and Jo Webb were co-chairs for the day. Betty McKeehan did an excellent job by preparing a delicious luncheon.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OSSOLI SISTERS



Shirley Hall
Member for 26 years
Died Oct. 23, 2021



Lou McNutt
Member for 30 years
Died Dec. 21, 2021

DATES TO REMEMBER

GFWC Smoky Mtn. District Spring Meeting	March 26
White Linen Luncheon	April 11
GFWC of TN Spring Convention	April 22-24
Ossoli Installation	May 9