



# GFWC

## Ossoli Circle Newsletter

### October 2022



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Nancy Dickson Christmas**  
**President 2022-2023**

Hello, Sisters of Ossoli,

Summer is behind us, and we are now experiencing the hint of fall. It is truly one of my favorite times of the year here in East Tennessee. I still vividly remember those days as a student at UT. It is hard to believe that this will be my 50<sup>th</sup> year since graduating from the UTK campus in 1972. So many wonderful memories, especially going to UT football games. As for Ossoli Circle, since September, we have been reconnecting with our members. All of us should be recharged and READY for an exciting 2022-2023 year ahead and ready for lots of fun activities, informative programs that are scheduled and delicious weekly lunches provided by program chairs and their respective committee members.

After an enjoyable and classy I Love Ossoli Tea in August, we officially began our new year with our Opening and Membership Coffee on September 12. We had a packed House with members and invited guests. Thanks to Jan Coley, Chair-Opening Coffee, who came up with the idea of coffee stations in the auditorium with the theme "Coffee and Friends Make the Perfect Blend." A special thanks to Kim Overman, our Fete Day Refreshments Chair, and the support of other members who helped make this such a special day. We had over 85 in attendance. We had a fun program, too, with live music and talented singers who provided us with excellent entertainment. A big thanks to our Membership Chair, Janice Hixson, for her involvement in sending out the invitations to our special guests as well as coordinating all of the intricate details to make sure our invited guests felt at home among our members. Janice is to be commended for her outstanding leadership. Also, as an update to our membership, at the end of September, Ossoli Circle has two new members on board. We welcome Vivian "Viv" Shipe and Malessa Mason! We look forward to adding several more new members' names in the very near future.

On September 19, our program was dedicated to my President's Project, Alzheimer's. A big thanks to those who signed up to walk on my GFWC Ossoli Circle Team in October and/or who have donated to support the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Two guest speakers addressed our group about Alzheimer's. They were Sara Dickson, Development Manager of Alzheimer's Association Tennessee Chapter, and Gabe Blake, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Franklin & Kyle Elder Law. Sara shared information about the upcoming Walk on Saturday, October 8 at Zoo Knoxville and the three pillars making up the cornerstones of Alzheimer's Association. Gabe's presentation was discussing important conversations to have with loved ones who may be facing a difficult diagnosis or just planning for the future. Prior to their presentations, we were delighted to have State Senator Becky Massey, one of our complimentary members, visit with us. She spoke about our Tennessee State Salute to the Flag and also presented copies of the Tennessee Blue Book 2021-2022 by Tre Hargett, Secretary of State to a few members. One copy was also placed in our French Memorial Library.

My thanks to these three women who were part of our September 19<sup>th</sup> Kick-Off meeting! Later in September, I attended the GFWC of Tennessee Fall Conference held in Brentwood, TN on September 23-25, along with Ossoli members Melanie Goldstine, President-Elect, and Janice Hixson, Membership Chair. Our new GFWC of TN President, Deb Allen, shared her vision with the 63 statewide GFWC attendees. Her theme for the next two years is GFWC TN - Telling our Story! This three-day event was an exciting time to be together, meet new GFWC friends from across the state, learn more about GFWC and share ideas.

There are many more special programs planned for this year at Ossoli. One in particular, our October Replacement event, will be a Halloween-themed party scheduled for October 24. Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner are the co-chairs. Be watching for weekly fliers announcing more details and purchasing of tickets for this “spooky” October 24<sup>th</sup> event.

As you know, Renee Hamilton, our Newsletter Chair, is responsible for the layout, content, and distribution of our quarterly newsletters to our members. Susie Kelley, Email Chair, sends out important email reminders and other updates on an as-needed basis. Another important means of communication is through our website that Jan Coley, Webmaster Chair, has created for us. She spends countless hours updating articles, adding pictures of special Ossoli events to our website and staying on top of our RSVPs for weekly luncheons. Thank you, Renee, Susie, and Jan for keeping the communication link accessible so that we are always informed.

Our calendars are definitely getting full these last three months in 2022. Let us all be thankful for the fun and happy times we will have being together at Ossoli, with friends, and our families during the holidays. Let’s keep the momentum going as we “forge ahead for a better and brighter tomorrow” and not forget to be kind.

*Nancy*



## *OSSOLI CIRCLE and* **MEMBERSHIP COFFEE**

A quaint and inviting Coffee Shop environment was created in the Ossoli Circle clubhouse auditorium for this year's GFWC Ossoli Circle Opening and Membership Coffee. The decoration, food and event chairs did an outstanding job of incorporating the theme “Coffee and Friends Make the Perfect Blend” and everything looked perfect. Over 80 people attended, including 25 potential new member guests. Hot coffee, with all the typical toppings and options, was served along with a delicious, iced coffee. The iced coffee was such a hit. Four baristas were kept VERY busy and over a hundred cups of coffee were served. The beautifully and creatively decorated food table contained everything from homemade sweet French pastries and mini fruit pies to savory quiches and sausage balls. The program started with a warm welcome and overview of GFWC, and included an invocation, introduction of the guests, a program that explained what it was like to be part of GFWC Ossoli Circle. Two first year members described their experience as new members in GFWC Ossoli Circle. Guests were given information packets which included a pin, brochure about Ossoli Circle, and a homemade thank you cookie.



**Congratulations and thank you to the members of GFWC Ossoli Circle for the awards and recognitions received at the Annual GFWC of Tennessee Annual Conference on April 22- 24, 2022. Once again, the winner is...Ossoli Circle:**

- **GFWC Ossoli Circle won Outstanding Club of the Year award for our Division.**
- **Club Woman of the Year-Nancy Christmas**
- **Tribute of Honor-Robin Goddard**
- **First place recognitions: GFWC Signature Project for Domestic Violence Prevention & Awareness, Junior Special Project: Advocates for Children, Legislation & Public Policy, Fundraising & Development**
- **Second Place recognitions: Leadership, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Women's History & Resource Center**

**Thank you to all members for their work and diligence in helping provide the wonderful work and services contributed by GFWC Ossoli Circle!**



Tennessee State Senator Becky Duncan Massey visited us. Senator Massey updated members on

activities in Nashville as well as informed the membership regarding four important legislative matters that will be on the ballot in November.

## *I LOVE OSSOLI TEA 2022*



The 38th annual I Love Ossoli Tea was held at our Clubhouse on Monday, August 8. It is also a fun time to wear our pretty dresses and hats and see each other after the summer break. Members are treated to tea, punch, champagne, and scrumptious treats prepared by our committee members. Entertainment was provided by Anne Jackson playing her harp. This year we had a special program presented by members of the cast from the musical play, *A Vote of Her Own*. The playwright and song writer, Candace Corrigan was captivating with her stories and performance. This was truly a very special tea!

### **2022-2023 Ossoli Circle Officers**



L to R Roberta Pedigo (Trustee Chair), Linda Williams (2nd Vice Pres.), Elaine Ralston (Rec. Sec.), President Nancy Christmas, Melanie Goldstine (1st Vice Pres.), Susie Kelley (Asst. Treas.), Patricia Harris (Cor. Sec.), Joy Kelly (Treasurer), not pictured: Charlotte Miller (Parliamentarian)



**The Ossoli Circle Christmas Shoebox Project for Appalachian Children is off and running!**



**Deadline to have your items to Ossoli is December 5, 2022. Instructions have been emailed to members. Please start bringing your gifts to the clubhouse October 24<sup>th</sup>. Tables will be set up in the back of the auditorium and designated for Appalachia.**

**The Unicorn Fund distributes approximately 3000 gifts in Morgan and Scott County. The foster children in Scott County are but one of the groups on our list each year. The Morgan County Head Start children and their siblings also benefit from the program. A designated day is set up for the distribution of gifts. Several organizations and many individuals support our Christmas program.**





Saturday, October 8 - President's Project "Walk to End Alzheimer's" at Zoo Knoxville.

Registration from 8:00 - 9:30 am, GFWC Ossoli Circle Team members who have registered will walk beginning at 10:00 am.

October 10 - At 10:30 am Kellie Harper, UT Lady Vols' Basketball Coach will be speaking on inspiring young women to be the best they can be. Our 11:30 am speaker will be Bradley Reeves, a local media archivist and collector and radio DJ who will share the history of vintage home movies.

Monday, October 17- In support of Domestic Violence Awareness month, Rachel Haverkamp, CEO of YWCA Knoxville, and the Tennessee Valley, speaking at 10:30 am. Tuesday Morning Music Club at 11:30 am.

Saturday, October 22 - GFWC Smoky Mountain District Fall Conference, hosted by Valamont Woman's Club, Chattanooga, TN. Information on Bulletin Board in hallway.

Registration deadline is Friday, October 14.

Monday, October 24 - Ossoli's Replacement Benefit/Halloween "House of Horrors," Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner, Co-Chairs.

Wednesday, October 26 - Joint Board Meeting

at 10:00 am at Clubhouse

Thursday, October 27 through Sunday, October 30 - GFWC Southeastern Region Conference in Lexington, KY

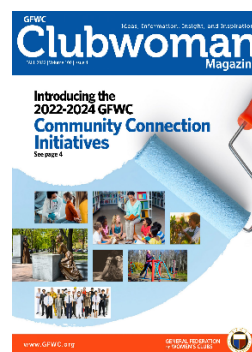
Monday, October 31 - International Outreach program at 10:30 am with Anita Hinderlight, ELI Education Programs, providing an update on South Sudan and Ugandan refugees, followed by Nancy Carmon, Chair of Legislation and Resolutions, speaking at 11:30 am on "What's a GFWC Resolution?"

Monday, November 7 - in observance of Veterans' Day (celebrated on the 11th), Liz Logan, Navy veteran, will be discussing WASPS of World War II at 10:30 am. Our November Business meeting follows.

Tuesday, November 8 - Election Day. Take time to vote.

Monday, December 12-FETE Day honoring our Ossoli Circle Presidents.

## CLUBWOMAN MAGAZINE



GFWC Clubwoman Magazine is the premier publication of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and one of the most useful and beneficial communication tools we have to inform and educate our Federation about community service opportunities, project

ideas, and ways to enhance club operations. Published quarterly, the magazine is a source for insightful and informative content that keeps our members in tune with all things GFWC. The magazine is released early March, June, September, and December, and all electronic issues are archived in the GFWC Member Portal.