



GFWC

Ossoli Circle Newsletter

January 2023



Nancy Dickson Christmas
President 2022-2023

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year, everyone!

It is hard to believe we are already in a new year and moving forward with exciting and new programs and fun events planned at Ossoli Circle for the first half of 2023.

Looking back at some of the highlights in October, my President's project, Alzheimer's Association Tennessee Chapter in Knoxville began with our Walk to End Alzheimer's at Zoo Knoxville on Saturday October 8. GFWC Ossoli Circle Team was well represented with 8 members and 5 guests who walked and had a chance to tour the Zoo afterwards. In addition, our campaign to raise money for Alzheimer's Walk continued throughout the year. We had a generous outpouring of donations from our members, and by the end of December, Ossoli Team had reached our goal of \$4,500. Our Club was awarded a special plaque as a top team producer for our fundraising support and partnership in 2022. The award we received was for Ossoli Circle being recognized as the 2022 Grand champion for our fundraising efforts for this year's Walk. My thanks to all of you who participated in this special event and for all those members who donated generously for the cause. For those of you who would like to donate this year, we will be collecting ALZ donations through the middle of May.

HonorAir Knoxville, one of our community service projects, took place on October 12. Its mission is to take WWII, Korean, and Vietnam veterans from East Tennessee to Washington, D.C. for the day to visit the memorials built to honor their sacrifices. This special flight originated from McGhee Tyson Airport. Ossoli Circle members, working in tandem with the Tellico Village Women's Club, prepared appreciation bags for each of the female veterans flying on HonorAir Flight 31. This partnership proved to be a successful and enjoyable event after three years in the making. Thanks to Janie Bitner and Wanda Taylor for coordinating these details.

Another memorable program was on October 10 when Kellie Harper, UT Lady Vols' Head Basketball coach, discussed ways to inspire women to be the best we can be. You could have heard a pin drop as she spoke to our crowded audience. I honestly believe her speech was one of the most inspirational ones I had ever heard. A big thanks to our member, Faith Yandell, for arranging and confirming Kellie as one of our speakers.

Saturday, October 22 was the GFWC Smoky Mountain District Conference in Chattanooga where Host Club Valamont had made all of the arrangements for this one-day event. Ossoli was well represented with nine members in attendance. This was an informative day as Wanda Taylor, Smoky Mountain District President, made her debut.

October 24 was our Replacement benefit that coincided with Halloween and aptly named "Ossoli Circle House of Horrors". It was a huge success. Many members wore appropriate Halloween costumes and purchased baked goodies and enjoyed bidding on the silent auction items. A whopping \$3,545.00 was raised from our special party. A big round of applause

goes to Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner, Co-chairs, who rose to the occasion for the planning, coordination, and execution of this fun event.

One of our programs on October 31 was given by Nancy Carmon, Chair of Legislation and Resolutions. She explained what a GFWC Resolution is. This was especially beneficial for our newer members to hear all about the Resolution process of GFWC. On November 14, another member who also serves on the Board, Patricia Harris, gave her presentation about her recent trip to Southwest France. As many of you know, Patricia was a French teacher at Bearden High School for many years and has enjoyed her annual trips to France where she has opportunities to brush up on her French.

Founder's Day at Ossoli Circle was on November 21 and commemorated our 137th anniversary. This day centered around key founders who were played by members participating in specific roles. This was also about our rich history and our founders who helped pave the way to preserve Ossoli's traditions and continue its legacy all of these years.

Wrapping up the year in December was our Appalachian Assistance Shoe Box project that netted over 164 gifts, 24 unwrapped ones that were odd sized, 7 miscellaneous items and 36 gift cards worth more than \$500. Several Board members from Unicorn Fund were present as well as Troy Wilson, a senior at UT who is a Unicorn Fund "Marion Bloomer" scholarship recipient. After staying for lunch, the Unicorn representatives packed their trucks and cars with all of their gifts and headed back to Wartburg to begin the task of assembling these special items for the children in Morgan and Scott counties to help make their Christmas become a reality.

And, our last FETE day of the year, Presidents' Day on December 12, was one of the best programs ever! Dr. Joyce Condry and Robin Goddard, Co-Chairs, planned a first-class event with holiday music provided by a talented vocalist, pianist, and clarinetist. A delicious holiday lunch menu was created by Kim Overman, FETE Day Refreshments Chair, and festive decorations on the lunch tables were provided by Sarah Brudecki, Chair of Decorations. It was a day we will always remember as we paid homage to our Ossoli Past Presidents.

Hopefully by now everyone is rested after the holidays and ready to re-engage as we begin our new year. "Diamonds and Denim" on January 16 was enjoyed by members and was also a fun way to raise dollars for Ways and Means. Our chair of this important and critical committee, Jerilynn Price, is doing an excellent job coming up with creative ideas to raise money for Ossoli. Thank you, Jerri.

Now that we are picking back up our momentum in 2023, let's continue to all work hard together, have

fun, and learn as much as we can about Ossoli and also discover what GFWC is all about at the District, State and International levels. Stay involved and grow in 2023! One way you can do that is to consider a leadership role as a chair position in 2023-2024! That is how you learn about our wonderful organization when you agree to serve as a Chair. I can assure you that you will not regret making that decision if you decide to take that "next" step in assuming a new leadership role for the first time.

With everyone's commitment and involvement at Ossoli, we will continue with hope and stay united as we forge ahead for a better and brighter tomorrow!

Nancy



Our Walk to End Alzheimer's at Zoo Knoxville was well represented. A total of 8 members, along with 5 non-members, took part in the walk and toured the zoo afterwards Ossoli members Jolene Martin, Elaine Ralston, Linda Williams, Susan Calabrese, Patricia Harris, Elizabeth Howell, Julie Sexton and President Nancy Christmas proudly walked for the cause.

HONOR AIR FLIGHT 31



GFWC Ossoli Circle and GFWC Tellico Village Women's Club partnered to prepare and present appreciation bags and gold embossed female veteran's pins for the female veterans on Honor Air Flight 31.

Presidents' Day



Presidents' Day 2022 was filled with many special treats for Ossoli Circle members and Presidents. Joyce Condry and Robin Goddard, event Chairs, planned a special day for all in attendance.

Pictured L to R

Row 1: Lee Patton, Nancy Christmas, Sue Whittle, Janie Bitner

Row 2: Wanda Taylor, Jo Webb, Janet Oakes, Barbara Horton

Row 3 : Janice Hixson, Nancy Carmon, Susie Kelley Back Row: Roberta Pedigo, Kim Overman, and Lexa Hooten



WASHINGTON, D.C. COMES TO OSSOLI CIRCLE



Representative Burchett entertained the members with true stories of events in Washington D.C. His mother had been a member of Ossoli Circle.



Appalachian Assistance



Appalachian Assistance Chair, Renee Hamilton is proud of the job Ossoli Circle member did in helping to create a better

Christmas for children in Scott and Morgan Counties. Members of the Unicorn Board were present to pick up items for their thrift store, 164 wrapped gifts, 24 unwrapped odd sized gifts, 7 bags of miscellaneous items, and 36 gift cards worth more than \$500! Thank you for your generosity.



history of diamonds. He gave a fascinating diamond history lesson, explaining who got credit for starting engagement rings to the development of diamond mining in South Africa.



A Hat Making Demonstration

was delivered by members Linda Williams and Carol Lovingood-Hiers. So many fun ideas were presented on how to make hats and fascinators.



In our historical clubhouse on January 9th, East Tennessee native, poet and storyteller, Laura Still explained why she started "Knoxville Walking Tours" in downtown Knoxville. When she was working part time in the Knoxville Visitors Center, people asked her if she knew anybody that could take them on a guided tour of the city. She would give them directions but said she didn't know of anybody. She decided it would be fun and important to share all of Knoxville's fascinating stories. She is a born storyteller so she started the Walking Tours. She stated that she especially loves the stories of Lizzie Crozier French and the history of Ossoli. Because of that fascination, she has a tour called "Misbehaving Women". She hopes to join GFWC Ossoli Circle when her life slows down a little.



Darryl Mackley is the President/Owner of the store Mackley Jewelers and a Gemologist. On January 16, in the GFWC Ossoli Circle Clubhouse, he spoke about various aspects of Gemology; specifically addressing the





Registration for the GFWC webinar series, The Power of You: A GFWC Advocacy Training Series, is open! GFWC members will learn civic engagement strategies to influence local, state, and federal government officials. The webinar series starts in January 2023, each Thursday evening at 7 pm ET, with the first on January 19. Each episode will be 45 minutes to one hour in length with Q & A, as time allows. You can register for the entire series or single episodes of your choice. To learn more, contact Darrell Jones, GFWC Programs Manager, at DNJones@GFWC.org.



- **January 30** (Leadership Day): Beth Stubbs, Director-Elect for Rotary International discussing “Empowering Women and Young Girls” followed by Jamie Osborn, Reference Services Manager of Knox County Public Library

February

- **February 6:** Kristen Sheppard, Maryville College, Director of Global Engagement followed by Business Meeting
- **February 13:** Modern Miracles of Dentistry Today; Protecting Yourself Against Cyber Crimes and Scams
- **February 14:** Valentine’s Day
- **February 20:** Business Meeting- Election of Officers followed by Tuesday Morning Musical Club
- **February 22:** Board of Directors’ Meeting - 10:00am
- **Saturday, February 25:** GFWC Loudon Woman’s Club Card Party & Family Game Night, 6pm at Fort Loudoun Middle School
- **February 27:** Ossoli in Action

Benefit “Bingo” Party and presentation of OIA checks, Nancy Carmon, OIA Chair coordinating this event

MARCH

- **March 6:** Tuesday Morning Musical Club at 10:30am; Business Meeting at 11:30am
- **March 13:** Book Study program “Living with Grace” by Esther Roberta’s followed by Conservation program, “Abundant Living in the Smokies,” by Stephen Lyn Bales, Naturalist.
- **Saturday, March 18:** GFWC District Spring Mtg in Loudon
- **March 20:** The Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier, presented by Robin Goddard followed by STAR (Shanghai-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding, Lynn Petr, Director
- **Wednesday, March 22:** Board of Directors’ Meeting
- **Monday, March 27:** Becoming Clutter Free and Organized by Mary Pankiewicz Certified Professional Organizer; “How Mary Boyce Temple Saved Blount Mansion,” by David Hearnes, Blount Mansion Executive Director



- **Monday, April 3:** 10:30am program TBD; Business Meeting at 11:30am
- **Monday, April 17:** 10am-2pm, White Linen Luncheon—Ways and Means Fundraising event, Ossoli Circle Clubhouse
- **Wednesday, April 26:** Board of Directors’ Meeting/Covered Dish Lunch
- **April 24:** President’s Project on Alzheimer’s followed by Memorial Service
- **Friday, April 28 - Sunday, April 30:** GFWC State Spring Conference at Paris Landing State Park, Paris, TN

MAY

- **May 1:** Caring for Body, Mind and Soul, Elaine Doss, Life Coach and followed by Poland and the Ukrainian Crisis by Ambassador Victor Ashe
- **Monday, May 8:** Business Meeting moved to 10:30am followed by Tuesday Morning Musical Club at 11:30am
- **Monday, May 15:** Installation of Officers
- **June 10-12: GFWC 2023:** GFWC Annual Convention in Louisville, KY, Louisville Marriott Downtown. Reservations: call 1-800-266-9432 or go online