



GFWC OSSOLI CIRCLE

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and I enjoyed seeing many of you at the 40th annual I Love Ossoli Tea at my home. Wanda, Janie and the Tea Committee did a fabulous job. We will begin our year soon with the opening coffee and Kim and Janet are busy planning a special and informative day for our members and guests. Cathy Briscoe has sent out lots of invitations to prospective new members, so plan to be there and show these ladies what a special organization we are.

I am looking forward to a great year: full of community service and involvement in our projects, interesting programs and speakers, delicious lunches, special events and even some new and creative fun times. My President's Project is the Wesley House Community Center, and we will learn more about what they are all about and how we can be involved at our first meeting on September 16. Let's make this a great year. We are all Ossoli STARS!

Sherry Hillis,
President 2024-2025

I LOVE OSSOLI TEA

Ossoli Circle celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Ossoli Circle "Greens Tea" which is known as

the I Love Ossoli Circle Tea. The mother-in-law of President Sherry Hillis, Florence Hillis, was the originator of the first "Greens Tea" held at her home. This year for the 40th tea Ossoli, members returned to the Hillis home, Hillhouse.

The "Greens Tea" gives members an opportunity to donate funds to Ossoli over and above their dues to help with the upkeep of the historic clubhouse. Currently, the clubhouse is undergoing repairs to the front. If you were unable to attend the tea and would like to make an I Love Ossoli Tea donation, please make your donations for Ossoli Circle and mail to Treasurer, Joy Kelly at P.O. Box 10892 Knoxville, Tennessee 37939-0892. This is one of the most special days of the year as we celebrate friendships and our proud heritage.

Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner chaired the day and with the help of their committee loaded the table with delicious food. The entire Hillis family representing three generations were on hand to welcome members to Hillhouse and share Ossoli memories. Sunflowers, with their smiling faces decorated the house. Thanks to Joy Kelly for creating a lovely setting with beautiful flowers.



The I Love Ossoli Tea Committee and the beautiful table of delectable refreshments



Hostess Sherry Hillis with her daughter, Angela Holian and granddaughter, Claire Holian
Notice the Florence Hillis' dress on the left



Steve Hillis demonstrates antique phonograph

OPENING AND MEMBERSHIP COFFEE

GFWC Ossoli Circle will be putting their best foot forward on Monday, September 9th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to impress all the invited guests for the Opening and Membership Coffee. Membership Chair Cathy Briscoe has mailed out over 60 invitations. Co-Chairs Kim Overman and Janet Amber-Harpe are busy making exciting plans, starting with an ice breaker and lots of information about all the interesting and fun events going on at Ossoli all year. Everyone will enjoy a luncheon from a salad bar extravaganza and ice cream sundaes for dessert so bring your appetite and your friends

Please let your membership chair Cathy Brisco know if you have someone to invite.

CLUBHOUSE REPAIRS UPDATE

Repairs to the exterior clubhouse are ongoing and hopefully will be complete by Opening Coffee. Kaiser Restorations, LLC, is doing the work, and they are doing a great job! The first phase to the front of the clubhouse involved a soft wash and pressure washing, straightening the left column, repair of rotted soffit and fascia, cleaning and repairing gutter systems, and painting. Phase 1 is completed, and Phase 2 has started. These repairs were needed for several years, and we are going to be very pleased with the way our clubhouse looks.

Dexter has sprayed and killed the grass in the cracks and painted new lines for the parking lot. With the landscaping improvements that Carol and Glenn Hiers completed earlier this year, the grounds and clubhouse are looking great. It is so very important to maintain and preserve our beautiful clubhouse for us and future generations to enjoy.





WHY REPORTING IS SO IMPORTANT

It is the Reporting Chair's responsibility to document our club's impact on our community by sending a summary of all our community service involvement and accomplishments to GFWC of TN. It is so important for each member to keep track of and turn in your Volunteer Hours and In-Kind ("out of the members own pocket") expenses to your Program, Project, or Committee Chairs. Ossoli Circle has received the prestigious state-level Club of the Year award for the past 5 years. Now you see why reporting is important. If you have questions, contact Jolene Martin, GFWC Ossoli Circle Reporting Chair

OSSOLI CIRCLE INSTALLATION DAY

Installation Day on May 13th was rich in tradition and reflection. The changing of the leadership was performed in a simple but elegant way: the Presidents Pin (or pendant in this case) was touched by the previous presidents to symbolize passing on of wisdom, responsibility, and support before it was given to the new President Sherry Hillis. She introduced her "President's Community Service Project" which is providing support and help to the Wesley House Community Center. Her husband, a Sertoma Club member, was in the audience and challenged our Circle to meet his Club's \$5000 commitment for the Wesley House. The challenge was quickly

accepted. The President invited everyone to lunch designed by the Fete Day Refreshment and Decoration Chairs that was simple yet sophisticated and elegant in both food and decor.



Installation Chair Nancy Christmas presents New President Sherry Hillis with her President's pendant

DUES AND YEARBOOKS

A BIG THANKS to all the members who have paid their dues. If you have not paid your dues, please bring your check for \$150.00 September 9 to our first meeting or mail to Ossoli Circle, P.O. Box 10892, Knoxville, TN 37939-0892. Add an extra \$5.00 if you want your yearbook insert mailed to you.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Sarah Wimberly
August 1, 2024
Ossoli Member 1999-2024