



GFWC OSSOLI CIRCLE

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are off to an amazing start for our 2024-2025 year. Service projects so far this year have included making bags of healthy treats and foods for The Love Kitchen and handbags for the Hope Project containing toiletries in a beautiful handbag with a scarf for victims of domestic violence. We participated in GFWC National Day of Service to combat food insecurity and hunger across the U.S. GFWC members collected 221,142 pounds of nonperishable food, recorded 18,159 volunteer hours, collected \$242,731 in monetary donations for food pantries and school feeding programs and prepared 69,660 meals. What an honor to be a part of such a wonderful organization.

We have had some educational and interesting programs so far this year, including a visit from the owls at the Owl Ridge Raptor Center. I have forgiven Nugget, the sweet little owl that "christened" me. What a fabulous time we all had learning about the owls and making photos.

Our fall Replacement Benefit Party, "Let's Get Brewing", was a fun day and made a record amount of funds for our clubhouse.

The holidays are upon us, and we have exciting events to enjoy in November and December, including our 139th Founders' Day, a visit from a WWII veteran, and a day of preparing and wrapping our Appalachian Assistance gifts. This is a Blue Jean Day (November 25). Wear your jeans and donate \$5 that will go to our

Appalachian Assistance projects. Our President's Day, a FETE DAY honoring our past presidents, will be the last meeting of this year and promises to be very special. So, hold on tight for a fabulous and productive next few weeks at Ossoli Circle.

Sherry Hillis,
President 2024-2025

Shot@Life, A Platinum Affiliate of GFWC

Shot@Life is a United Nations Foundation campaign working to ensure everyone in the world has access to lifesaving vaccines and all children have a shot at life. GFWC chapters around the world support global childhood immunization in local communities by holding events, raising money, and advocating to our elected officials.

Every 20 seconds, a child dies from a vaccine-preventable disease, resulting in 1.5 million deaths every year and accounting for nearly a third of all childhood deaths? Vaccines are one of the safest, most cost-effective ways to save children's lives, improve health, and ensure long-term economic prosperity

This year we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of routine immunization campaigns that have reduced child mortality by 80% and saved a billion lives. Many GAVI countries (Vaccine Alliance) are paying part or all the cost for their vaccination programs.

Jan Coley participated on a call to Senator Haggerty staffers on November 4th, as well as phone calls to the Washinton offices of Senator Blackburn, Senator Haggerty and Representative Hashbarger. Ask Jan how you can become involved. Your advocacy is important and helps make change. Supporting global vaccines is the right thing to do!

REPLACEMENT BENEFIT HALLOWEEN PARTY

Thanks to Co-Chairs Robin Smith, Cathy Briscoe, and Replacement Benefit Committee for the Halloween themed “Let’s Get Brewing” party and all their hard work preparing great food and making the clubhouse look so festive. A costume contest and other games added to the enjoyment along with several bake sale tables loaded with great things to eat. The silent auction raised over \$746 for Ways and Means. The event raised about \$3149 for the Replacement Fund for the upkeep of the clubhouse.



**Decorative Balloon Arch Creators:
Tamme Beal & Tonya Whittle**



**All dressed up – Janet Oakes, Joyce Condry, and
Robin Goddard**



Halloween Costume Contestants - The winner in the center is Elaine Ralston, dressed as the Great Pumpkin

DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS PROGRAM

October was Domestic Abuse Awareness Month and Ossoli Circle's program, led by Nancy Carmon, was an interactive role-playing activity, "Walking the Walk". Club members gained a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts, barriers, and feelings that the survivors and their loved ones face after an event of sexual violence. The members filled twenty "Handbags for Hope: for the Family Crisis Center, a Violence Shelter in Knoxville, with toiletries for women and accented each handbag with a colorful scarf.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS



Cindy Bartell



Rebecca Bleirdorn



Jo Kocisko



Deborah Saunders



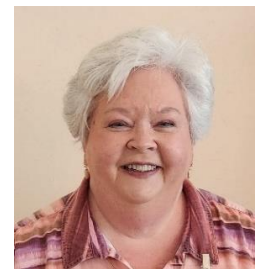
Tina Keener



Penny Keim



Marilyn Turner



Lee Workman

IMPORTANT DATES

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 139 th Founders' Day | November 18 th |
| Business Meeting | December 9 th |
| Election of Nomination Committee | |
| Presidents' Day | December 16 th |

IN LOVING MEMORY



Sue Cha Griffith
October 9, 2024
Ossoli Member 2021-2024