

In our 94th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

www.birmingham.amoptimists.org
www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub
BirminghamOptimistClub@gmail.com

Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
April-May 2022

Meets 2nd Thursday
City Club
12:00 Noon

The June 9th Club Meeting will take place at City Club located at 1901 6th Ave N, Ste 3100, Birmingham, on Thursday, June 9th, at 12 Noon. Meal cost is \$25.

JUNE 9TH CLUB MEETING

Our guest speaker will be Brenda Paige Ward, State Director of Alabama National Juneteenth Observance Foundation. After much hard volunteer service and dedication, a divine order from God led Brenda to put together a 3-day march in two days for then, 92-year-old Historian Opal Lee, who took on the task of walking across America to gather up signatures to make Juneteenth a Federal paid holiday.

On June 17, 2021, the United States House and Senate unanimously passed bill S.475 making Juneteenth a National and Federal Paid Holiday, which was signed by President Joe Biden.

Ms. Ward is an Apostle of the Seed Bearers Ministry. She holds a degree in Business Administration with a minor in Computer Programming. She has two nationally published books.

Ms. Ward is the proprietor of Odussa African Apparel and an outstanding community volunteer. She is also a proud mother and grandmother.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

Ms. Ward's passion is to educate and motivate people about Juneteenth and the blood sweat and tears that have been shed for us by our ancestors to bring us to where we find ourselves today.

The 2022 Juneteenth Observance will be held at various venues around the City of Birmingham from June 6 - June 19, 2022.

LAST MEETING

Our guest speaker was **Josh Coleman**, Director of ACE (Academy of Civic Engagement), a City of Birmingham initiative with the central goal of getting residents directly involved and engaged with their local municipal government. ACE is a city-wide leadership initiative aimed at bringing everyday citizens together for a deeper understanding of how the City is working for them and how they can plug into a variety of opportunities. ACE wants to prepare residents to go out into their communities to act, serve, and lead. You must be 16 years old and a resident of the City of Birmingham to participate.

For more details about ACE, please visit:
<https://bhamnow.com/2022/04/04/apply-for-ace-learn-local-government/>



Adrienne Pearson & President Anita Lee thank guest speaker, Josh Coleman, for his excellent presentation!

SICKLE CELL WALK

The Sickle Cell Walk will take place at Railroad Park on Saturday, June 18, 8 am-12 noon. Our Club is sponsoring a team called the "Optimist Onlookers." Those wishing to contribute can make checks payable to "BOYF" and give to Treasurer Leon Evans at the June 9th Club meeting or mail to 700 - 71st Place S, Birmingham, AL 35206.

CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 2022-2023

The election for Club Officers and Directors took place at the Club meeting on May 19th. The following Members will serve for the administrative year beginning October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023:

President - Carolyn McCoy

VP Administration/Community Affairs - Sharon Wilson

VP Youth Work - Ruby Peterson

Secretary - Jon Ryan

Treasurer - Leon Evans, Jr.

Club Foundation Representative - Roger Vaughan

Directors: Two-year terms expiring 2024

Dr. Paul Amamoo, Adrienne Pearson & Ronald Taylor They, along with Directors Angene Coleman, Jackie Holder Y Teresa Jones, whose terms expire in 2023, will comprise next year's board of directors.

MEMBER NEWS

The Club offers our sincere condolences and prayers for **Ruby Peterson** & her family on the loss of her sister **Debra Bell**. Ruby also wishes to thank everyone for all the gifts and good wishes extended to her at the May 19th Club meeting, as well as for the continued prayers for her recovery following her recent surgery.

April Birthdays: 11th - Jon Ryan, 16th - Rudy Lee

May Birthdays: 13th - Charlie Binion, 26th - Tom Casey. Hope you enjoyed your special day!

Please note: If your birthday and/or anniversary was not included, please email the dates to Nancy Ryan at nryan95@charter.net, so they can be added to the list!!

SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS

CLUB CCDHH CONTEST

Contest Chair **Roger Vaughan** conducted the Club CCDHH Contest on Thursday, April 7th, at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. The topic was the same as for the Oratorical Contest, "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times." Congratulations to 1st Place Winner, **Landon Myers**, who received a medallion & \$300 award, and 2nd Place Winner, **Will Andress**, who received a medallion & \$200 award.

Thank you to Club CCDHH Contest Timekeeper **Margie Argo** and Contest Judges: Friend of Optimists Member **Allan Evans**, Board Member **Teresa Jones**, and special guest judge **Erma Hinton**. Special thanks to **Mrs. Hinton** for taking extra time to share her words of wisdom with each of our contestants, based on her many years of experience in teaching speech and drama.

DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST

The topic of this year's Essay Contest was "How Does an Optimistic Mindset Change My Tomorrow?" The Optimist Club of Birmingham congratulates our 1st place Club winner, **Christian Gregg**, who is the 1st place winner of the **District Essay Contest** and has earned a \$2,500 scholarship to the college of her choice, along with a beautiful, engraved plaque! Christian read her winning essay during the 3rd Quarter District Meeting in Meridian, MS, on April 23rd. Way to go, Christian!



District Essay Contest Winner Christian Gregg

DISTRICT ORATORICAL & CCDHH CONTESTS

The Club is also very proud of our Club Oratorical Contest 1st Place Winner, **Madison Brown**, along with Club CCDHH Contest 1st & 2nd Place Winners, **Landon Myers** and **Will Andress**, who each took part in the Contests at the District level. They all did an excellent job! Congratulations Madison, Landon & Will!!



District Oratorical Contest Participant
Madison Brown



District CCDHH Contest Participant
Landon Myers



District Governor Ester Stubbs presents Certificate of Participation to CCDHH Contestant Will Andress. Madison Brown & Landon Myers have also received a Certificate of Participation in the District Contests.



Will Andress is pictured with the 1st Place winner and other CCDHH Contestants at the District Contest.



President Anita Lee thanks Club Members for their team efforts in achieving Distinguished Club status for the 2020-2021 Optimist year!



Secretary Jon Ryan, Director Teresa Jones & President Anita Lee present gifts to Vice President Ruby Peterson to wish her well as she continues to recover following her recent surgery.



Gov. Ester Stubbs congratulates Pres. Anita on achieving Distinguished Club President for 2020-2021!



Congratulations to President-Elect Carolyn McCoy!!



Gov. Ester presents the 365 Club banner patch to Club Foundation Representative Roger Vaughan for the Club's contribution to the OI Foundation.



Gov. Ester congratulates Jon Ryan & Leon Evans for achieving Distinguished Secretary & Treasurer for the 2020-2021 Optimist year!



President-Elect Carolyn McCoy welcomes her cousin and special guest, Vanessa Miles, to the meeting



Ruby & Glenn Peterson



Angene Coleman, Adrienne Pearson & Deborah Dickinson



Gov. Ester Stubbs presents plaque to Scholarship Chair Ruby Peterson to deliver to District Essay Winner Christian Gregg



Leon Evans, Roger Vaughan, Ron Taylor, & Jon Ryan