

In our 95th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
August 2023

Meets 2nd Thursday
12:00 Noon

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

The August 10th, 12 noon, meeting will take place at City Club, 1901 6th Ave N, Ste 3100, Birmingham. **PLEASE NOTE: We will be meeting on the 31st floor in the Ballroom, rather than where we normally meet on the 32nd floor. Come off the elevator, then go past the reception desk and stairs to the room on the right.**

August 10th Club Meeting

President Carolyn McCoy will be recognizing a Member as **Optimist of the Year**. She & **Membership Chair Leon Evans** will also be inducting the following Members into the Club: **Andre Flowers, Valencia Flowers, Clara Greene, Ra'Jeeni Marshall, Shakira Marshall & Vanessa Miles**.

Our speaker will be **Dr. Paul Amamoo** who will be talking about his recent mission trip to Apaaso, Ghana, a Birmingham Sister City, where our Club serves as one of the sponsors. He will be sharing pictures and information on the progress that has been made since his last visit, on the library and other projects taking place there.

Last Club Meeting

Respect for Law Chair **Adrienne Pearson** and Co-Chair **Jacqueline Holder** conducted the annual **Respect for Law Program** at City Club Birmingham on July 13th. The Club honored our Respect for Law 2023 Recipient, **Officer Francesca Clark**, who is currently assigned to the Community Outreach and Public Education (COPE) Division of the Birmingham Police Department and serves as a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Jackson-Olin High School. Guests accompanying Officer Clark were **Alonna Clark, Captain Janice Blackwell, & Sgt. Chrystal Foster**.

Our distinguished keynote speaker was **District Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Alabama, Danny Carr**. Guests accompanying Mr. Carr were **Jefferson County Attorney Theo Lawson** and **Assistant District Attorney Glenn Durough**.

The Club was also honored to have **Judy Brown & Virginia Wilson**, guests & sisters of Club Member **Clara Greene**, along with **Mark Taylor**, guest & son of Board Member **Ron Taylor**, at the meeting. Mark has since become a new Friend of Optimists Member!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 17th, Board Mtg. on Zoom, 1 pm

Wednesday, August 23rd – Dinner & Bingo at Ronald McDonald House - Please arrive around 4:30 p.m. if you want to help in the kitchen, and no later than 6:00 pm if you want to help with the BINGO. We will serve dinner at 6:00 p.m.

We can accommodate up to 8 members in the kitchen, and another 7 for the BINGO games. If you wish to participate, please complete the Volunteer Background Check at: <https://www.rmhca.org/background-form-volunteers/> and let Jon Ryan (jonryan62@charter.net or 205-542-4828) know that you will be participating.

MEMBER NEWS

August Birthdays: 1st – Don Kirkland, 4th – Steve Wingo, 17th – Clara Greene, 21st – Vanessa Miles, 24th – Judge Patricia Stephens, 29th – Bettie Bell.

Hope you each enjoy/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!



Friend of Optimists Member, Brandi Werther (& husband Eckart), shared these pictures of their beautiful children, **Jurnee** (11) & **Kamron** (10), who visited our Club several times with their grandparents, **Ruby & Glenn Peterson, Sr.** As you can see, Ruby was always so proud to bring their grands (including **Glenn Peterson III**) with them to our meetings, and always "dressed to the nines" and color coordinated! 😊 It's amazing how much they have grown since their last visit on October 10, 2019! They are welcome to visit any time!!



**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIPS IN GHANA**

The Board of Trustees is appreciative of your donation of \$700 (from the Birmingham Optimist Youth Foundation) to Cultivating Partnerships in Ghana, Inc. Your generous gift is impactful and will help further advance our mission. Specifically, your kind gift will go toward completing the Library in Apaaso. This project will allow access to much-needed books and technology which are not currently available. Your support is invaluable, and we thank you.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Thank you so much for your Club's recent donation to the Foundation and your continued support of our mission. Without you we could not continue making a difference in the lives of children worldwide.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Deb Merritt
OIF President
2022-2023

RESPECT FOR LAW PROGRAM - JULY 13th, AT CITY CLUB BIRMINGHAM



Keynote Speaker District Attorney Danny Carr



Captain Janice Blackwell, Respect for Law Co-Chair Jacqueline Holder, Respect for Law Honoree Officer Francesca Clark, District Attorney Danny Carr, Jefferson County Attorney Theo Lawson, & Respect for Law Chair Adrienne Pearson



President Carolyn McCoy, Capt. Janice Blackwell, & Respect for Law Chair Adrienne Pearson congratulate Respect for Law Honoree, Officer Francesca Clark, and present her with her award.



Club Member Clara Greene (standing), with her guests and sisters, Judy Brown & Virginia Wilson



Sgt. Chrystal Foster, Officer Francesca Clark, Alonna Clark, & Capt. Janice Blackwell



Club Member, Ra'Jeeni Marshall, with her guest & cousin, Monithia Smith, also niece of President Carolyn McCoy.



Desiree Bates, guest of Sharon Wilson, was one of the lucky winners of a beautiful floral centerpiece, provided by the City of Birmingham for the Respect for Law Program.



Ron Taylor was proud to have his son, Mark, as his guest at the Respect for Law Program. Mark is a former winner of our Club Oratorical Contest & we are proud to have him as a new Friend of Optimists!