

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
March 2022

Meets 2nd Thursday
On Zoom
1:00 PM

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

Scheduled for Thursday, April 7th, at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. The topic is the same as for the Oratorical Contest, "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times." For more information about the contest, please contact Club CCDHH Chair [Roger Vaughan](#) at 205-602-9242. Deadline to submit entry is March 31, 2022

February 10th Club Meeting

Our guest speaker was **Maureen Hallman**, Development Officer with Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries. Mrs. Hallman's role at the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries includes responsibility for Business Partnerships, Volunteer and Service opportunities for Pastor's Wives and staff, as well as directing the Women of Compassion Giving Group.

People often ask what they can do to help, and she is able to share opportunities to pray, serve, and give at ABCH. Their mission is always to Protect, Nurture, and Restore children and families in hard places. For more information on how you and/or your company can provide support, please click on the following links:

<https://www.alabamachild.org/give>

[Your Company Can Impact the Lives of Children in Foster Care](#)

[Make a Difference at Camp of Champions](#)

[Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries](#)



Maureen Hallman, Development Officer
Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries

MEMBER NEWS

The Club offers our sincere condolences and prayers to **Ruby Peterson** & her family on the loss of her brother, **Louis Zorns**. Please also keep Ruby in your prayers for a full and speedy recovery following her recent surgery

March Birthdays: 4th – **Stuart Benjamin**, 23rd – **Linda DeMarco**. **Anniversaries:** 11th – **Elliott & Dr. Kim Carr**. Hope you enjoyed your special day!

For more information or questions re: **Membership**, please contact Membership Chair **Leon Evans** at levansjr74@aol.com or 205-836-6057.

Club Oratorical Scholarship Contest Held on March 12, 10 am, on Zoom

Oratorical Contest Chair **Ruby Peterson** and Co-Chair **Jon Ryan** conducted the annual Club Contest on Saturday, March 12th, at 10 AM on Zoom. The 2021-2022 Optimist Oratorical Topic is "Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times."



Thank you to our Club Contest judges and timekeeper: **Dr. Paul Amamoo, Erma Gray Hinton, Teresa Jones, and Margie Argo**.

Club Winners received the following cash prizes:

First Place: **Madison Brown** - \$300, Second Place: **Paris Perdue** - \$200, and Third Place: **Adrienne Mboumba**, \$100. Each winner also received a medallion, certificate of participation & Optimist goody bag! Congratulations to each of our winners!!

First Place winner, **Madison Brown**, will advance in competition to the AL-MS District Contest on Saturday, April 23, in Meridian, MS, for the opportunity to earn a \$2,500 college scholarship.

Essay Scholarship Contest Held on February 24th

Club Essay Contest Chair **Sharon Wilson** introduced the top three Essay Contest winners on February 24. The topic of this year's essay is "How Does an Optimistic Mindset Change My Tomorrow?" Each of the winners read their essays and received recognition for their achievement during the Zoom meeting and in person after the Meeting.

Club Winners received the following cash prizes and medallions:

1st Place: **Christian Gregg** - \$300

2nd Place: **Paris Perdue** - \$200

3rd Place: **Landon Myers** - \$100



Also participating in the contest was **Javori Moore**. Each participant received a certificate of participation and Optimist goody bag! Congratulations to each of our winners and participants!

Christian Gregg's first place essay has been submitted for further competition in the AL-MS District Contest for the opportunity to earn a \$2,500 college scholarship.

Thank you to each of our judges for the contest: **Desiree Bates, Tiffanie Evans, & Tamara Hall**.

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST ACTIVITIES



Essay Contest Winners: 1st Place - Christian Gregg, 2nd Place – Paris Perdue, 3rd Place – Landon Myers.

Pictured below: Scholarship Contest Chair Ruby Peterson, Essay Contest Chair Sharon Wilson, & Scholarship Contest Co-Chair Jon Ryan congratulate each of the winners!



Oratorical Contest Winners: 3rd Place - Adrienne Mboumba, 1st Place - Madison Brown, 2nd Place - Paris Perdue.

Pictured below: Oratorical Contest Chair Ruby Peterson & Co-Chair Jon Ryan congratulate each of the winners!



SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST ACTIVITIES

In commemoration of Black History Month, the Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored an "African American Read-In" at Robinson Elementary School on February 15th, where Club Members read to students in the 3rd grade, and at Oliver Elementary School on February 16th, where members read to those in Kindergarten. The books were then donated to the schools for use in their classrooms. Club Members taking part in the "African American Read-In" were **Deborah Dickinson, Chairperson Danella Johnson, Teresa Jones, President Anita Lee, Carolyn McCoy, Adrienne Pearson, Ruby Peterson & Sharon Wilson.**



SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST ACTIVITIES

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM AT ROBINSON ELEM.

Members of the Optimist Club of Birmingham took part in Robinson Elementary School's 2021-2022 Black History Program on February 25th at the invitation of Principal Marcia Henderson. Club Members taking part in the program included: **Deborah Dickinson, Danella Johnson, Teresa Jones, Anita Lee, Carolyn McCoy, Adrienne Pearson, & Sharon Wilson.** The program can be viewed on our Club's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/2041045725988939/videos/1957054011140886>

READ ACROSS AMERICA

The Optimist Club of Birmingham took part in "Read Across America" Day on March 2, at Robinson Elementary School. Members volunteering at the event included **Deborah Dickinson, Adrienne Pearson, & Ruby Peterson,** pictured below with Principal Marcia Henderson, all dressed in red, white, and blue!!



SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST ACTIVITIES

CASINO DANCE NIGHT

The Optimist Club of Birmingham partnered with the dance community at Our Lady of Lourdes Church to sponsor a "Casino Dance Night" to raise funds for the Birmingham Optimist Youth Foundation. Music was provided by "Randy Glenn & Peppy." In addition to dancing, the evening also featured casino type games played with chips, raffles for a wide selection of items, and concessions. Over \$500 was raised to benefit youth in the community. Members participating at the event included: **Leon Evans, Michael & Teresa Jones, Anita Lee, Carolyn McCoy, Jon & Nancy Ryan, & Sharon Wilson.**

