

In our 95th 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 - April 2023

Meets 2nd Thursday
City Club
12:00 Noon

The Club will be having our NOW (New Optimists Welcome) Luncheon on Thursday, May 11th, 12 noon at City Club. **Please RSVP to Leon Evans at levansjr74@aol.com or 205-222-6227 by Monday, May 8th**, if you plan to attend and also indicate the number of guests/prospective members that you have attending. **Please contact Leon if you have any questions.**

MARCH 11TH ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored its annual Club Oratorical Contest on Saturday, March 11, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Oratorical Contest Co-Chairs **Erma Hinton & Jon Ryan** conducted the contest.

President **Carolyn McCoy** expressed her deep gratitude, on behalf of the entire Club, for the hard work that **Vice President of Youth Work & Scholarship Contest Chair, Ruby Peterson**, had done in preparation for the contest. She will be greatly missed by our entire Optimist Family.

The topic of this year's contest was "Discovering the Optimism Within Me." First Place winner of the contest was **Simeon Williams**, Second Place winner was **Kaila Woods**, and Third Place winner was **Ethan Hill**. Each winner received a Certificate of Participation, along with a medallion and a cash prize of \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively.

Contest judges were **Teresa Jones, Roger Vaughan**, and **Sharon Wilson**. The timekeeper was **Margie Argo**.

The Club was honored to have parents and family members of each of the contestants as our guests. Catering was provided by **M&S Catering**.

MARCH 25TH ZONE 1 ORATORICAL CONTEST

Simeon Williams advanced to the Zone 1 level of competition, conducted by **Zone 1 Lt. Governor Leon Evans**, on Saturday, April 25, at Avondale Library, where he placed First in the contest. Due to a conflict in Simeon's schedule, he was unable to attend the District level of competition, but was presented with a plaque as the Zone Winner. Other contestant's included **Young Cutter**, sponsored by the Talladega Optimist Club, and **Xylah Reynolds**, sponsored by the Birmingham West End Optimist Club.

Congratulations to **Young Cutter**, who represented our Zone at the April 29th, District Oratorical Contest in Flowood/Jackson, MS, where he was awarded a plaque & \$2,500 scholarship to the college of his choice! He will now advance to the OI Regional Contest, where he will compete for even more in college scholarship funds and the opportunity to advance to the Optimist International Championship Contest!! Good luck, Young!!

CCDHH (COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING)

Contest Chair, **Roger Vaughan**, conducted the annual CCDHH Contest on Thursday, April 13th, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Judges for the contest were **Dr. Paul Amamoo, Erma Hinton, & Norma Stewart**, member of the Birmingham West End Optimist Club and caterer with M&S Catering for the event. **Jon Ryan** served as timekeeper.

Adele Brandrup was the First Place winner of the contest. She received a Certificate of Participation, along with a medallion and cash prize of \$300. The topic of this year's contest was "Discovering the Optimism Within Me."

Guests included Adele's proud parents, **Julie & Jay Brandrup**, along with Senior Counselor, **Jamie Glass**, and Interpreter, **Josh Brewer**, both with Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Adele advanced to the District level of competition on April 29th, where she gave an excellent presentation on Zoom! So proud to have Adele represent our Club in the contest!

MEMBER NEWS

The Club extends our deepest sympathies to Friend of Optimists Member, **Glenn Peterson, Sr.** on the passing of his beloved wife of over 43 years, **Ruby Peterson**, and to their children, Friend of Optimists Member **Brandi Werther** and **Glenn Peterson, Jr.** and their families. Please keep Ruby's family in your prayers during this most difficult time.

Ruby was a dedicated Optimist who faithfully served as Vice President of Youth Work, Chair of the Scholarship Contests, and event chair for the Oratorical Contest over the past several years. She was a person that you could count on to do any project in a thorough and conscientious manner. In fact, soon before her passing, Ruby made sure that everything was ready for this year's Oratorical Contest. Ruby will be greatly missed by all her Optimist family!

March Birthdays: 4th – **Stuart Benjamin**, 23rd – **Linda DeMarco**. **Anniversaries:** 11th – **Elliott & Dr. Kim Carr**, 26th – **Martin & Erma Hinton**

April Birthdays: 11th – **Jon Ryan**, 16th – **Rudy Lee**
Hope you each 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 11, 12 Noon – NOW (New Optimists Welcome) City Club

Thursday, May 25 – Board of Directors Meeting, 1 pm, on Zoom (Please note change of date from regular 3rd Thursday meeting date).

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB & ZONE SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS



Club Oratorical Contest Co-Chair Erma Hinton & President Carolyn McCoy present Certificates of Participation to contestants, Kaila Woods, Ethan Hill, & Simeon Williams.



Oratorical Contest Co-Chairs Jon Ryan & Erma Hinton and President Carolyn McCoy present 1st Place Medallion & \$300 cash award to Simeon Williams.



Simeon Williams, Ethan Hill, & Kaila Wood with Optimist bag filled with some goodies from the Club.



Oratorical Contest Co-Chairs Jon Ryan & Erma Hinton and President Carolyn McCoy present 2nd Place Medallion & \$200 cash award to Kaila Wood.



Contest Co-Chairs Erma Hinton & Jon Ryan and President Carolyn McCoy thank Teresa Jones & Sharon Wilson for serving as judges for the Club contest. Not pictured: Roger Vaughan (judge) & Margie Argo (time keeper)



Oratorical Contest Co-Chairs Jon Ryan & Erma Hinton and President Carolyn McCoy present 3rd Place Medallion & \$100 cash award to Ethan Hill.

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB & ZONE SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS



President Carolyn McCoy with her grandson, Jayden Marshall, at Oratorical Contest



Contest judges, Sharon Wilson (above) & Teresa Jones (below) commend the contestants on a job well done!



ZONE 1 ORATORICAL CONTEST AVONDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY MARCH 25, 2023



Birmingham Club Member Erma Hinton & Zone 1 Lt. Gov. Leon Evans congratulate Zone 1 Oratorical Contest 1st Place Winner Simeon Williams, sponsored by Optimist Club of Birmingham, along with Optimist Club of Talladega Club Winner, Young Cutter, and Birmingham West End Optimist Club Winner, Xylah Reynolds, for their outstanding speeches.



AL-MS District Governor Vera Hendrix commends each of the Zone 1 Oratorical Contest participants for the outstanding job they did on their speeches!

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB & ZONE SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS



Optimist Club of Birmingham Members, Lt. Gov. Leon Evans, Erma Hinton, President Carolyn McCoy, Valencia Flowers, Jon & Nancy Ryan, congratulate 1st Place Zone 1 Oratorical Contest Winner, Simeon Williams, pictured with his proud little brother!



Optimist Club of Birmingham Members: Zone 1 Lt. Governor Leon Evans, Erma Hinton, President Carolyn McCoy, Valencia Flowers, Jon & Nancy Ryan



Zone 1 Lt. Governor Leon Evans & AL-MS District Governor Vera Hendrix thank James Stewart, Pam Jenkins, and Lynn Hutchins, for giving of their time to serve as judges for the contest. Not pictured: Valencia Flowers, timekeeper.

**CCDHH CLUB CONTEST
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH
APRIL 13**



Thank you to Josh Brewer for serving as the interpreter for the CCDHH Contest!



Congratulations to Adele Brandrup, 1st Place Winner of the Club Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing!!



Adele is pictured with her proud parents, Julie & Jay Brandrup!