

In our 96th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

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Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
May-June 2024

Meets 3rd Thursday
12:00 Noon

JUNE 20TH CLUB MEETING

Our guest speaker was **Tiffany Osborne**, Director of Community Engagement for the University of Alabama at Birmingham Minority Health & Health Equity Research Center (MHERC). More details in next newsletter.

MAY 16TH MEETING

Our guest speaker was **Saundra Taylor**. As Outreach Executive at Oak Street Health, Saundra passionately promotes mental health and wellness, engaging with seniors and small groups to foster resilience and holistic well-being.

Saundra is a respected leader from Tuscaloosa, who brings over three decades of retail expertise, excelling as a District Manager, Training Manager, and Store Manager.

Her love for music shines through as the Executive Officer at Fee-nominal Music. Additionally, she serves as Outreach Coordinator for The Man Project: An all-male mentorship program dedicated to shaping the futures of young men in our community, advocating for positive change.

Saundra is the proud mother of two beautiful children, a member at First Baptist of Old Jonesboro in Bessemer, AL where she is an active member in the choir and helps with the Youth Department.

Saundra enjoys living life to the fullest, and her personal mantra is "Make a promise to yourself and keep it!"

CCDHH CONTEST

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored our annual Club Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) on Thursday, April 18, at Alabama Power Company. Contest Chair **Roger Vaughan** conducted the contest.

The topic of this year's contest was "**How to Change the World with Optimism.**" First Place winner of the Club contest was **Lawson Katz** (grade 12) and Second Place winner was **Ayden Slover** (grade 12). Both contestants received a Certificate of Participation, along with a 1st and 2nd Place medallion, along with a cash prize of \$300 and \$200 respectively.

Congratulations to **Lawson Katz** who advanced to compete in the Alabama-Mississippi District CCDHH Contest held in Pearl, MS, on May 4, and was declared the winner of a \$2,500 scholarship to the college of his choice!

Contest judges were **Paula Hines, Mark Taylor, and Sandra Weems**. The timekeeper was **Margie Argo**.

The Club was honored to have as our guests: **Robin Slover**, mother of **Ayden**, and **Maria Katz**, mother of **Lawson**, and co-founder of **Alabama Hands and Voices**, a non-profit organization which supports all families with children who are deaf/hard of hearing, regardless of communication choice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11 – Board Meeting on Zoom, 1 pm

July 13 – Drums of Apaaso Benefit Brunch, 11am-3pm

Please contact Dr. Paul Amamoo at 205-482-1565 or pamamoo@aol.com, or Anita Lee at 205-960-6440 or scottsmithanita@yahoo.com for tickets. **Please see more details on flyer in email.**

July 14 – Maria's Women Health and Wellness 2nd Annual Mother & Daughter Tea. Contact Nancy Ryan, 205-531-5992 or nryan95@charter.net if interested in attending. **(See separate email with more details).**

July 18 – Respect for Law Program, City Club, 12 noon

MEMBER NEWS

The Optimist Club offers our deepest condolences to **Bettie Bell** on the recent loss of her brother, Connie Butler. Please keep Bettie and her family in your prayers.

May Birthdays: 13th – Charlie Binion, 20th – Desiree Bates, 26th – Tom Casey

June Birthdays: 11th – Dan Hardwick, 20th – Herb Forsythe
Anniversary: 18th – Linda & Steve Wingo

Hope you each enjoy(ed) 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!

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025 OPTIMIST YEAR

The election for Club Officers and Directors has taken place. The following Members will serve for the administrative year beginning October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025:

President – Sharon Wilson

VP Administration/Community Affairs – Anita Lee

VP Youth Work – Dr. Paul Amamoo

Secretary – Teresa Jones

Treasurer – Leon Evans, Jr.

Assistant Treasurer – Erma Hinton

Past President – Carolyn McCoy

Club Foundation Representative – Roger Vaughan

Directors: Two-year terms expiring 2026 – **Clara Greene, Adrienne Pearson, and Ronald Taylor**

They along with Directors **Angene Coleman, Jacqueline Holder, and Jon Ryan**, whose terms expire in 2025, will comprise next year's Board of Directors.

SICKLE CELL WALK

The Sickle Cell Walk took place at Railroad Park on Saturday, June 15, 8 am-12 noon. Our Club has sponsored a team called the "Optimist Onlookers."

It's not too late to make an online donation! Here is the direct link to the "Optimist Onlookers" donation page:

Click on **"Give Now"** to make a donation. (Some other donations were also given.)

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLUB CCDHH CONTEST APRIL 18, 2024



Club CCDHH Contest Chair & Past OI Foundation President Roger Vaughan, presents medallions, certificates of participation, and cash prizes to 2nd Place Winner, Ayden Slover, and 1st Place Winner, Lawson Katz.



Contest Judges Sandra Weems, Mark Taylor & Paula Hines, congratulate contest winners, Ayden Slover & Lawson Katz, along with their parents Robin Slover & Maria Katz.



Lawson Katz with his proud Mom, Maria Katz.



Ayden Slover with her proud Mom, Robin Slover.

AL-MS DISTRICT CCDHH CONTEST MAY 4, 2024



District CCDHH Winner Lawson Katz, pictured with other Zone Winners from throughout the AL-MS District.



District CCDHH Chair Angela Yates & District Gov. Jeff Keener congratulate Lawson & each of the Winners!!



Vice President of Administration & Community Affairs, Sharon Wilson, thanks contest judges, Sandra Weems, Mark Taylor & Paula Hines for giving of their time & talents! Not pictured: Contest timekeeper, Margie Argo.

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES

AL-MS DISTRICT MTG., MAY 3-5, PEARL, MS



District Governor 2022-2023 Vera Hendrix presents Honor Club Citations to Club President Carolyn McCoy & Club Treasurer Leon Evans, along with Club Secretary Jon Ryan. The Club is thankful for your leadership and dedication to serving the youth of our community!



District Governor 2022-2023 Vera Hendrix presents the Silver Certificate of Excellence for Category 2 for the Awards & Activities accomplished by the Optimist Club of Birmingham to Club President-Elect Sharon Wilson.

Congratulations to Kamron Werther, son of Friend of Optimists Brandi Werther & husband, Eckart, sister of Jurnee, grandson of Glenn Peterson, Sr. and the late Ruby Peterson (Club Vice President), who was promoted to 6th grade with all A's and is a member of the Junior Beta Club!!



SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES

MAY 16 MEETING



Guest speaker Sandra Taylor speaking with Optimists and guests about Oak Street Health



Vice President Sharon Wilson thanks guest speaker, Sandra Taylor for her excellent presentation.



New Member Paula Hines & Membership Chair Clara Greene



Angene Coleman welcomes our guests, Fee-Fee Redmon, owner of It's Fee-nominal, and Sandra Taylor, Outreach Executive at Oak Street Health, as well as Executive Officer at Fee-nominal Music.



Angene Coleman & Erma Hinton with our guests, Fee-Fee Redmon and Sandra Taylor.



Erma Hinton, Dr. Paul Amamoo, Anita Lee, Danella Johnson & Adrienne Pearson



Leon Evans, Ron Taylor, Jon Ryan & Mark Taylor

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES

MAY 16 MEETING CONT'D



President Carolyn McCoy & Treasurer Leon Evans share their Honor Club Citations with Club Members



Leon Evans presents Jon Ryan with his Honor Club Secretary Citation for the 2022-2023 Optimist Year!!



Honor Club Officers are pictured with their Citations & other awards earned for the 2022-2023 Optimist Year, Including Silver Certificate for Category 2 Activities & Awards (based on Club size), Bronze Certificate for Overall Clubs, plus Zone 1 placed #1 among all zones under the leadership of Lt. Governor Leon Evans!!

SICKLE CELL WALK, JUNE 15, RAILROAD PARK



President Carolyn McCoy, Erma Hinton, Sickle Cell Walk Chair Leon Evans, Dewayne Smith, President-Elect Sharon Wilson & Adrienne Pearson served as volunteers at the Walk.



Groove Phi Groove Friends of Optimists Members served as volunteers at the Sickle Cell Walk. Pictured L to R: Norman Horn, Ron Hall, Kent Feagin, James Stewart, Leon Evans, & Dewayne Smith.



President Carolyn McCoy, Erma Hinton, & Adrienne Pearson trying to get some shade from the heat and stay hydrated at the Sickle Cell Walk