

Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
October 2023

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

Meets 2nd Thursday
12:00 Noon

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

The October 12th, 12 noon, meeting will take place at City Club, 1901 6th Ave N, Ste 3100, Birmingham. We will meet on the 32nd floor. The cost of the meal will be \$21/person.

October 12th Club Meeting

The meeting will feature the Installation of Club Officers & Board Members to be conducted by our honored guest, AL-MS District Governor **Jeff Keener**. Club President **Carolyn McCoy** will also present her plans for the Club during the 2023-2024 Optimist year!

Last Club Meeting

Youth Appreciation Co-Chairs **Leon Evans & Erma Hinton** conducted our annual program to recognize youth in our community for their outstanding accomplishments. This year we recognized two outstanding athletes, who also happen to be brothers! **Trey Bell**, who is 13 years old and attends Bumpus Middle School where he is in the 8th grade, and **Ethan Bell**, who is 9 years old and attends Deer Valley Elementary School where he is in the 4th grade, both won gold in their divisions at Regionals in Shot Put & Javelin and went on to compete in the Junior Olympics in Iowa in August of this year! Both Trey and Ethan are well-rounded students who excel in academics and flourish in sports. They have each achieved several honors and awards in both academics and sports and have many other interests, as well as enjoying spending time with their family & friends!

Trey and Ethan are the sons of **Judge William Anthony Bell, Jr.** and **Dr. Emily Melton Bell**. They are the grandsons of the Former Mayor of Birmingham **William Anthony Bell, Sr.** and his wife **Dr. Sharon Carson Bell**, and **Reverend Bryant Melton, Jr.** and his wife **Mrs. Emma Jean Melton** of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Other guests included **Mr. Bob Benton** and **Mrs. Sandy Benton**. Trey was unable to attend the event due to school obligations, so his proud parents received the award on his behalf.

President **Carolyn McCoy** and Membership Chair **Leon Evans** conducted the induction ceremony for new members, **Zoé Champion** and **Monithia Smith**. President Carolyn also presented several awards and pins received at the AL-MS District Meeting recognizing Club members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 19th, Board Mtg. on Zoom, 1 pm

MEMBER NEWS

October Birthdays: 16th – Margie Argo, 22nd – Dewayne Smith, 29th – Dr. Paul Amamoo, 31st – Ken Holcomb.
Anniversaries: 14th – Rudy & Anita Lee, 15th – Laurie & Charlie Binion, 15th - Renee & Kenny Haynes, 26th – Gwen & Paul Amamoo.

Hope you each enjoy 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!

YOUTH APPRECIATION PROGRAM



Youth Appreciation Co-Chair Leon Evans & President Carolyn McCoy present Youth Appreciation Award to honoree, Ethan Bell



President Carolyn McCoy congratulates Ethan Bell & Trey Bell for their outstanding accomplishments, and recognizes their proud parents, Judge William Anthony Bell, Jr. & Dr. Emily Melton Bell.



Pictured L to R: Reverend Bryant Melton, Jr., Mrs. Emma Jean Melton, Judge William Anthony Bell, Jr., Dr. Emily Melton Bell, Former Mayor of Birmingham William Anthony Bell, Sr., Ethan Bell, Dr. Sharon Carson Bell, Mr. Bob Benton and Mrs. Sandy Benton.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION CEREMONY



Membership Chair Leon Evans inducts new members, Zoe' Champion & Monithia Smith, accompanied by their sponsors, Nancy Ryan & Ra'Jeeni Marshall.



President Carolyn McCoy presents membership certificates & congratulates Zoe' & Monithia.



ZONE 1 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT GRANTSWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

On Monday, September 25th, Zone 1 Optimists presented a donation of \$1,266.50 to Dr. Loni Hodge, Principal, Grantswood Community School. Our donation will be used to purchase reading materials for about 170 students.

Dr. Hodge sent the following note to express her sincere appreciation of our support:

Optimist Club Members:

Thank you so much for the donation to Grantswood Community School. We cannot wait to provide books for our students. We are so grateful for civic partnerships that support local schools.

Sincerely, Loni Hodge

The following Optimists attended the presentation:

AL-MS District Gov. Vera Hendrix, Talladega Optimist Club; Ann Johnson, Birmingham West End Optimist Club; President Carolyn McCoy, Adrienne Pearson, and Zone 1 Lt. Governor Leon Evans, Birmingham Optimist Club.



Gov. Vera Hendrix & Zone 1 Lt. Gov. Leon Evans, pictured with Zone 1 Optimists, Dr. Loni Hodge, and several Grantswood Community School students.



Pictured L to R: Adrienne Pearson, Leon Evans, Carolyn McCoy, Ann Johnson, & Vera Hendrix.