

In our 95<sup>th</sup> Year of Service to  
Youth & the Community

# Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the  
Alabama-Mississippi District  
September 2023

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
12:00 Noon

[www.birmingham.amoptimists.org](http://www.birmingham.amoptimists.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub)  
[BirminghamOptimistClub@gmail.com](mailto:BirminghamOptimistClub@gmail.com)

The September 14<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon, meeting will take place at City Club, 1901 6th Ave N, Ste 3100, Birmingham. We will meet on the 32<sup>nd</sup> floor. The cost of the meal will be \$21/person.

## September 14<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting

Youth Appreciation Co-Chairs **Leon Evans & Erma Hinton** will be conducting our annual program to recognize youth in our community for their outstanding accomplishments. This year we will be recognizing two outstanding athletes, who also happen to be brothers! **Trey Bell**, who is in 8th grade, and **Ethan Bell**, who is in 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 July!

President **Carolyn McCoy** will be presenting some awards and pins received at the AL-MS District Meeting. She and Membership Chair **Leon Evans** will also be conducting the induction ceremony for new members, **Zoé Champion & Monithia Smith**. New member, **Desiree Bates**, will be inducted at a later date.

## Last Club Meeting

President **Carolyn McCoy** recognized Secretary **Jon Ryan** as our **Optimist of the Year**. She & Membership Chair **Leon Evans** also conducted the induction ceremony for the following new members: **Clara Greene, Ra'Jeeni Marshall, & Vanessa Miles**. New members **Andre & Valencia Flowers** were inducted at a later date.

Our distinguished speaker was our member **Dr. Paul Amamoo**, who shared about his recent mission trip to Apaaso, Ghana, a Birmingham Sister City, where our Club serves as one of the sponsors. He shared pictures and information on the progress that has been made since his last visit, on the library and other projects taking place there. Thank you to Dr. Amamoo and his daughter, Anihee Amamoo, for sharing the following information:

**Cultivating Partnerships in Ghana (CPG)**, is a non-profit organization that was established to create educational, economic, and cultural understanding, in addition to cultivating opportunities between the citizens of both Ghana and Birmingham, AL.

The members of CPG have been travelling to serve the people of Ghana for well over 40 years and have observed many unmet needs of the people in Ghana. As a result, CPG has established several projects to assist the natives of Ghana. Projects have included building a library and community center in Apaaso, Ghana, developing educational exchange opportunities between students from Alabama and Winneba, Ghana, Brown Babies and Cars drive for an orphanage in Winneba, and building four wells in the Volta region of Ghana to assist with providing clean water to these communities.

Their most recent project embarks on an essential mission to improve the learning environment for students in the Christ Shalom Preparatory School in Hohoe, Ghana, who have an enormous need for functional desks and chairs at school. As we all know, quality education requires an environment that is conducive to learning, and one of the fundamental elements of such an environment is having adequate and suitable furniture. Through the support of some they were able to donate 17 desks to the school. Through further support they aim to address this pressing issue and ensure the students have the resources necessary to thrive academically.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, Board Mtg. on Zoom, 1 pm

## MEMBER NEWS

**September Birthdays:** 11<sup>th</sup> – Samuel Edwards, 16<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Ryan, 17<sup>th</sup> – Roger Vaughan, 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sharon Wilson, 26<sup>th</sup> – Ra'Jeeni Marshall, 28<sup>th</sup> – Zoé Champion, 28<sup>th</sup> – Kelly Driver. **Anniversaries:** 1st – Debbie & Don Kirkland, 4<sup>th</sup> – Ira & Patricia Stephens Moss, 7<sup>th</sup> – Heide & Herb Forsythe, 17<sup>th</sup> – Jean & Roger Vaughan, 22<sup>nd</sup> – Don & Sharon Wilson. 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](mailto:nryan95@charter.net), so they can be added to the list!



President Carolyn congratulates new Members Clara Greene, (sponsored by Sharon Wilson), Vanessa Miles & Ra'Jeeni Marshall (sponsored by Carolyn McCoy.)

President Carolyn thanks Dr. Paul Amamoo for his excellent presentation.





**President Carolyn recognizes Secretary Jon Ryan as "Optimist of the Year" & presents him with a special plaque.**



**New member Ra'Jeeni Marshall with her husband Cortinez, and cousin Monithia Smith, who she is sponsoring as a new member!**



**President Carolyn congratulates new member Valencia & Andre Flowers at their induction ceremony**



**Membership Chair Leon Evans congratulates new members Valencia & Andre Flowers**





**PICTURES SHARED BY DR. PAUL AMAMOO  
OF CHRIST SHALOM PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN  
HOHOE, GHANA**



**Dr. Amamoo presents one of the 17 much-needed new desks donated by CPG for the students, which will make a HUGE difference for them in their classrooms!!**



**Progress is continuing to be made for Apaaso Library!**



## AL-MS DISTRICT MEETING AUGUST 18-20 HOOVER, AL

Club Officers & Directors attended the AL-MS District Convention held August 18-20 in Hoover, AL. Those attending the Convention included: Zone 1 Lt. Governor / Club Treasurer Leon Evans, President Carolyn McCoy, Vice President Sharon Wilson, Secretary Jon Ryan, Secretary-Elect Teresa Jones, Treasurer-Assistant Erma Hinton, Club Foundation Rep. Roger Vaughan, Director Dr. Paul Amamoo & Social Media Chair Nancy Ryan.



AL-MS District Foundation Representative Janet Smith, OI Foundation President Debbie Merritt, Past OI Foundation President Roger Vaughan (2012-2013), & AL-MS District Governor Vera Hendrix gather for a picture at the AL-MS District Convention in Hoover.

Pictured at left: Dr. Paul & Gwen Amamoo, Nancy & Jon Ryan, Zone 1 Lt. Gov. / Club Treasurer Leon Evans & President Carolyn McCoy enjoyed attending the District Banquet.

## DINNER & BINGO AT RONALD McDONALD HOUSE AUGUST 23<sup>rd</sup>



New member Zoé Champion & VP Sharon Wilson serve dinner to residents



Zoé Champion & Secretary-Elect Teresa Jones calling out Bingo numbers for the children & adults after dinner





**Teresa Jones, Erma Hinton, Carolyn McCoy, Nancy Ryan, Zoé Champion, Adrienne Pearson, Sharon Wilson, & Childhood Cancer Chair Jon Ryan prepared to serve dinner & play Bingo with the children & adults residing at Ronald McDonald House**

