

Optimist Club of Birmingham

In Our 90th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

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The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
March 3, 2018

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays
12:15 PM
[Alabama Power Co.](http://AlabamaPowerCo.com)
600 18th St. N
Birmingham, AL 35203

PLEASE NOTE: The March 3rd Oratorical Contest will be held at Woodlawn High School, located at 5620 1st Avenue North in the library, which is in the main building.

The program will begin at 10 am. No one will be allowed to enter or leave the room during the speeches, so please be sure to arrive in plenty of time in order to be in your seat when the contest begins. A continental breakfast will be available beginning at 9:30 am.

Program

Oratorical Contest Chair **Ruby Peterson** and Co-Chair **Jon Ryan** will conduct the annual Club Contest on Saturday, March 3rd, 10 am at Woodlawn High School. The 2017-2018 Optimist Oratorical Topic is "Where Are My Roots of Optimism?"



Please come to show your support for these young people who will be competing for the opportunity to advance to the Zone, Region and District levels to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship, presented to the top boy and girl winners of the District competition. The winner with the highest score at the District level will advance to the Optimist International Regional and World Championship Contest to compete for up to an additional \$20,000 in college scholarships!

Last Meeting

Essay Contest Chair **Kimberly Oden-Webster** and Co-Chair **Ruby Peterson** presented the top two Club Essay Contest winners who did an outstanding job of reading their essays for our Club members and guests. The topic of this year's Optimist International Essay Contest is "Can Society Function Without Respect?" The 1st place winner is Zoé Champion, a freshman at Alabama Connections Academy. The 2nd place winner is Leslie Bell, a sophomore at Woodlawn High School. Each winner was presented a medallion, cash prize, and certificate of participation. Zoé's first place essay will be submitted for further competition in the AL-MS District competition for the opportunity to earn a \$2,500 college scholarship.



Guests of Zoé included her dad, Shane Champion, and her sister, Chandler Champion. Guests of Leslie included her mom, Vetra Adams, her aunt, Irene Adams, and her brother, Daniel Bell. Our other guest was Caela Cowan, a student at Holy Family Cristo Rey who participates in the school's work study program by working in the office at Our Lady of Lourdes Church one day per week.

Member News

March Birthdays: Stuart Benjamin – 4th, Curtis Lloyd – 6th, Salla' Oliver – 6th, Linda DeMarco – 23rd.
Anniversaries: Elliot & Kim Carr – 11th, Jarvis & Alice Westery – 20th. Congratulations to all!

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 12, 2018
CLUB 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!!!
MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE SOON!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

March 8 – **NO CLUB MEETING**

March 15 – Board Mtg., YWCA, BYO Lunch, 12 noon

March 22 – CCDHH (Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing), Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Youth Bldg., 12:15 p.m.

April 12 – 90th Anniversary Celebration & NOW Meeting (New Optimists Welcome), Botanical Gardens Auditorium, 12:15 p.m.



President Jon Ryan welcomes new Optimist Club Member Flora Giles at her induction ceremony on February 8th as her sponsor, VP Ruby Peterson, presents her with a membership pin.



President Jon Ryan, Membership Co-Chair Nancy Ryan, and Vice President Ruby Peterson welcome new member Flora Giles.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM ESSAY CONTEST



Essay Contest Chair Kimberly Oden-Webster & Pres. Jon Ryan congratulate 1st place winner Zoé Champion.



Essay Contest Chair Kimberly Oden-Webster & Pres. Jon Ryan congratulate 2nd place winner Leslie Bell.



Leslie Bell and Zoé Champion proudly display their winning medals!



Leslie Bell with her proud aunt, Irene Adams, mother, Vetra Adams, and brother, Daniel Bell.

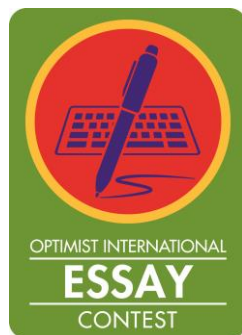


Zoé Champion with her proud dad, Shane Champion, & sister, Chandler Champion.



Contest Co-Chair Ruby Peterson congratulates winners Leslie Bell and Zoé Champion.

Promise yourself to think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best!



OPTIMIST CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM ESSAY CONTEST



Thank you to special guest, Caela Cowan, for assisting with the set-up for the meeting and for coming up with this creative display for the candy kisses!!!

SUPPORT FOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION & WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY COUNCIL (WPC) "HELPING OPTIMISTS HELP KIDS"



Optimist International's WPC Member Nancy Ryan presents a *Pink Purse* pin to Past Optimist International Foundation President Roger Vaughan for his support of the WPC. Roger currently serves as the Optimist Club of Birmingham's OI Foundation Chair. Special thanks also goes to Club Members Dr. Paul Amamoo & Jon Ryan who have each already made a donation to support the WPC!

Your \$100 donation will not only make you the proud owner of this adorable *Pink Purse* pin, you will also be supporting the work of the WPC and of Optimist International Foundation by helping to fund the many programs that benefit youth in conjunction with Optimists across the US and the Caribbean. [Click here](#) or contact [Nancy Ryan](#) at 205-467-9170 for more info.



Can you spare a dime a day?

Optimist International and Optimist International Foundation coexist as two separate organizations that support each other. Optimist International Foundation is the fundraising arm of Optimist International, and works to develop funds to support the endeavors of Optimist International and its mission.

When Members and Clubs make a contribution to support Optimist International Foundation, they are, with that gift, supporting Optimist International itself and themselves as a Club as well.

With just one dime a day, you can become part of the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids" and become part of a large group of Foundation supporters who realize what a difference they make every day in the lives of children. Would you consider making a gift of just a dime a day to assist the charitable work of Optimist International?

The [Dime-A-Day](#) level is reached by a contribution of \$36.50 to the Foundation within one Optimist Year, and is recognized by the presentation of a pin.

[Click here](#) or contact [Roger Vaughan](#) at 205-602-9242 for more details on how to become a [Dime-A-Day](#) member..