In our 98th Year of Service to Youth & the Community

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Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the Alabama-Mississippi District
April-May 2026

Meets 3rd Thursday
12:00 Noon

JUNE 18TH MEETING TO BE HELD AT CITY CLUB BIRMINGHAM
1901 6th Ave N #3100, Birmingham, AL 35203

Youth Appreciation Co-Chairs, Leon Evans & Erma Hinton, will be conducting our annual program where we will be recognizing youth in our community for their outstanding accomplishments. Please contact **Leon Evans** at levansjr74@aol.com or **205-222-6227** by **Thursday, June 11th**, to make your reservation for you and any guests who will be accompanying you. **The cost of the meal will be $27/person.**

MEMBER NEWS

The Optimist Club extends our deepest condolences to **Leon Evans, Jr., Allan Evans,** and **Linda Carter**, on the loss of their sister and our Friend of Optimists, **Mary E. Wright,** on May 28th. Please keep them and their families in your prayers for God's comfort and peace during this difficult time.

APRIL Birthdays: 3rd – Hazel Collins, 11th – Jon Ryan, 15th – Sandra Weems
APRIL Anniversaries: 18th – Herman **& Nicole Webb**

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

JUNE Birthdays: 11th – Dan Hardwick, 20th – Herb Forsythe
JUNE Anniversaries: 18th – Linda & **Steve Wingo**

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, so they can be added to the list.

JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2 – BINGO & ICE CREAM SUNDAES
Ronald McDonald House
JUNE 11 – Board Meeting via Zoom, 1 PM
Reservations due for June 18 Club Meeting
JUNE 18 – Club Meeting, Youth Appreciation Program, City Club Birmingham, 12 N
JUNE 20 – Sickle Cell Walk, Railroad Park, 8 AM – 12N
More details regarding volunteers to follow

MAY 19TH CLUB MEETING

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was honored to have Club Member, the **Honorable Patricia Stephens**, Presiding Circuit Judge for the Domestic Relations Division, Jefferson County, as our speaker at the May 19th meeting. Her presentation focused on foster parenting, which she believes aligns with Optimist International's mission of bringing out the best in youth.

Judge Stephens reported that there are currently approximately 6,000 children, up to the age of 18, in foster care in our state, which doesn't include those who should be in foster care due to situations that are no fault of their own. Foster parenting is an incredibly vital need, providing children who have experienced trauma or instability with a safe, nurturing environment and a chance to thrive. Whether it be through serving as a foster parent, being a respite provider to give foster parents a much-needed break, or providing other types of support, even if you can only help just one child, that's one for whom you made a difference in their life.

As a member of "Women of Compassion," affiliated with the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries, Judge Stephens continues to help serve the needs of those in foster care. For more information please visit: https://www.alabamachild.org/women-of-compassion

President Sharon presents a gift to Judge Stephens as a token of appreciation for her excellent presentation.

President Sharon presented 2024-2025 Club Secretary Teresa Jones & Club Treasurer Leon Evans, Jr. with the Honor Club Citation.

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

CCDHH CONTEST – APRIL 9TH

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was proud to sponsor its annual Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), conducted by Contest Chair **Paula Hines**, on Thursday, April 9th, at Alabama Power Company in Birmingham. The topic of this year's contest is, "The Moment I Realized I Belonged - My Definition of Community".

The contest was the first level of competition to give participants the chance to move forward, for the opportunity to earn a $2,500 college scholarship to the college of their choice at the District competition.

Congratulations to:
1st Place Winner - **Skylar Sippola**
2nd Place Winner - **Janae Glover**
Each winner received a cash award and a medallion, along with a Certificate of Participation.

Skylar advanced in competition at the District level in Flowood, MS, on Saturday, April 18.

Congratulations to 2nd Place CCDHH Contest Winner Janae Glover & 1st Place Winner Skylar Sippola!!

President Sharon Wilson & Contest Chair Paula Hines congratulate 1st Place winner Skylar Sippola!

Contest Judges Darnell Gardner, Nicholas Preston, Velissa Williams, Bria Hines (Timekeeper), and Contest Chair Paula Hines congratulate 2nd Place Winner Janae Glover & 1st Place Winner Skylar Sippola!

President Sharon Wilson and Contest Chair Paula Hines congratulate 2nd Place winner Janae Glover!

Janae Glover with her proud grandmother, Pamela Glover!

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

AL/MS DISTRICT MEETING
FLOWOOD, MS – APRIL 17-19

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS

The Optimist Club of Birmingham congratulates **Club Oratorical Contest Winner, Addison Grantham**, and **Club CCDHH Contest Winner**, **Skylar Sippola**, for the outstanding speeches they each gave in the **AL/MS District Scholarship Contests** they participated in on Saturday, April 18, at the **3rd Quarter District Meeting** in Flowood, MS!! We could not be more proud of how well they each represented our Club!!

The topic of the speech for the 2025-2026 Optimist year for each contest was "The Moment I Realized I Belonged - My Definition of Community."

Club Oratorical Contest Chair Ryan Adams & Pres. Sharon congratulate Addison Grantham, 3rd Place Winner of AL/MS District Oratorical Contest & recipient of a $1,000 scholarship to the college of her choice!

Congratulations to each of the winners and participants in the AL/MS District Oratorical Contest!!

CCDHH Contest Chair Paula Hines and President Sharon Wilson congratulate Club Winner Skylar Sippola on delivering an outstanding speech in the AL/MS District CCDHH Contest!!

AL/MS District CCDHH Contest Chair Angela Yates congratulates Optimist Club of Birmingham participant, Skylar Sippola, along with each of the other contestants! Congratulations to all!!

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

2024-2025 District Governor Michael Hanshaw presents recognition to President Sharon Wilson for her excellent leadership of the Club and on behalf of the Club. Congratulations to President Sharon on leading our Club to achieve Honor Club!

2024-2025 AL/MS District Governor Michael Hanshaw and District Membership Chair Ester Stubbs present the Club Growth Award Trophy to President Sharon Wilson for the 2024-2025 Optimist year!

Club President Sharon Wilson and other Club leaders are recognized by 2024-2025 District Foundation Representative Sherrie Cook for their Club's and/or individual contributions to the OI Foundation. The Optimist Club of Birmingham received a "365 Patch" for its $365 donation ($1/day) to OIF!

DONATIONS TO THREE HOTS & A COT APRIL 29

Optimist Club of Birmingham **President Sharon Wilson**, along with Club Members **Connie Demand**, **Shirley Miller**, **Adrienne Pearson** and **Nicole Webb**, visited **Three Hots & A Cot**, located on Old Springville Rd., Center Point, on Wednesday, April 29, to deliver needed supplies for the 20 Veterans who reside there.

Three Hots and A Cot is a 501c3 organization "formed by veterans to help veterans." Their primary mission is to "help veterans experiencing homelessness transition into civilian society."

For more information about Three Hots & A Cot and/or how you can help, please visit:
https://www.cotsforvets.org/

Optimists Nicole Webb, Shirley Miller, Adrienne Pearson, President Sharon Wilson & Connie Demand visited Three Hots and a Cot in Clay to deliver needed supplies for the 20 veterans who reside there.

Optimists Shirley Miller, Adrienne Pearson, President Sharon Wilson, Nicole Webb & Connie Demand deliver needed supplies for the veterans who reside at Three Hots and a Cot in Clay.