

Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
September 2024

Meets 3rd Thursday
12:00 Noon

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

www.birmingham.amoptimists.org
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**OCTOBER 17, 12 NOON, MEETING TO BE HELD AT
ALABAMA POWER COMPANY, ELECTRA ROOM
600 18TH ST. N., BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203**

***PLEASE ARRIVE IN TIME TO PURCHASE LUNCH
FROM THE ATRIUM CAFETERIA (OR BRING YOUR
OWN LUNCH) & BE READY FOR THE MEETING TO
BEGIN AT NOON.**

SEPTEMBER 19TH YOUTH APPRECIATION PROGRAM

Youth Appreciation Co-Chairs **Leon Evans & Erma Hinton** conducted our annual program recognizing two young people in our community for their outstanding accomplishments, London Koi Jones and Carter W. Holloway.

London's raw musical talent and interest in it, were realized at the young age of one when she surprised her parents with an impromptu presentation of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Her parents, Derrick and Renee Green-Jones, nurtured her love for entertaining by pouring into her talents and enrolling her into music lessons by age three. Her talents were further cultivated while taking acting, voice, piano, and dance classes.

London currently attends a private Christian School in a suburban area south of the City of Birmingham. Affectionately called "Lon Lon" by her family, at only 11-years-old, she is professionally acknowledged as London Koi. She has been showcased on countless stages, participates annually in the Motown Musical, Holiday and Summer Showoffs, has rendered her presentation of the National Anthem for the NAACP, the Amanda Pair Foundation, and Birmingham Barons' Baseball game, to name a few, and has had many opportunities to grace national audiences including performing for comedian and radio host Rickey Smiley. London Koi released her first originally arranged Christmas Single, "Oh Holy Night," executively produced by David Shea, and arranged by Joel Johnson, last December. The Club was delighted to have London entertain us with her beautiful rendition of "Hero" (Mariah Carey), which was recently released on all streaming platforms on July 31st!

Carter W. Holloway is a junior at Spain Park High School and is recognized for his excellence in service, academics and athletics. Carter shared that his name means everything to him and that he strives for excellence in everything he does as his grandfather, The Rev. Dr. Clyde L. Carter, has always taught him to do. He is a member of The Birmingham Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. where he currently serves as Co-Chair of Community Service and Financial Secretary of the Teen Group, and most enjoys having an opportunity to serve not only the Birmingham Community, but across the nation. He completed over 400 hours of community service during the 2023-2024 academic year. One of those service projects

was through Backpack Buddies, which provides food to elementary school aged children in the Titusville community who don't have food on the weekends. He leads the Teen group through packing 60-80 food bags once a month at his home. He believes every child deserves to eat. He also serves by using his voice in choir at church and school.

Carter is a member of Law Academy at Spain Park High School and loves learning and understanding the law. He was recently elected by his peers across the State of Alabama to represent them as House Floor Leader as a part of the Youth Legislative Government sponsored by the YMCA. He believes in speaking for those who don't have a voice. He is also a dual enrollment student and is taking Advanced Biology and Math. In his "spare" time, he plays varsity football at his high school, averaging 11 tackles a game. He also plays travel baseball where he leads in steals, RBIs, and batting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 17 – Club Installation of Officers & New Member Inductions, Alabama Power Co., 12 N

Nov 14 – Board Meeting via Zoom, 1 PM

Nov 21 – Club Meeting, Alabama Power Co., 12 N

MEMBER NEWS

September Birthdays: 11th – Samuel Edwards, Jr., 16th – Nancy Ryan, 17th – Roger Vaughan, 23rd – Sharon Wilson, 26th – Ra'Jeeni Marshall, 28th – Zoe' Champion, 28th – Kelly Driver

Anniversaries: 1st – Debbie & Don Kirkland, 4th – Ira & Judge Patricia Stephens Moss, 7th – Heide & Herb Forsythe, 17th – Jean & Roger Vaughan, 22nd – Don & Sharon Wilson

Hope you each 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!



SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES

TEEN SUMMIT, SEPTEMBER 17TH

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored a Teen Summit, under the direction of Chair **Anita Lee** and Co-Chair **Angene Coleman**, on Tuesday, September 17, at Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School in Bessemer.

The Teen Summit focused on the U.S. Constitution and the various levels of law enforcement in our nation. The purpose of this event was to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the foundation of our nation's laws and the role that federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies play in upholding these laws. The audience of 50 tenth graders and 18 seniors had the opportunity to hear from a wide variety of distinguished men and women who serve in the various levels of law enforcement in our local community.

The Club wishes to express our gratitude to all who gave of their time and expertise to provide such an outstanding event for these young people! Thank you also to all those who donated gift cards which were used as quiz prizes during the event.



Anita Lee & Angene Coleman thank Bessemer Police Captain Gary Carmichael & Bessemer Police Sergeant Kendra Ward Young, Esq.



Angene Coleman & Anita Lee thank Bessemer DA Lynneice Washington



Angene Coleman & Anita Lee thank Circuit Court Judge Thomas Thrash



Angene Coleman & Anita Lee thank FBI Special Agent Marcell Rayford



Angene Coleman & Anita Lee thank Jefferson Co. Sheriff's Office Capt. Anthony Dotson & Assistant Sheriff Anthony Phippen

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES



Angene Coleman thanks Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) Officer, Jon Riley, accompanied by one of his ALEA colleagues



Anita Lee & Angene Coleman thank Samford Constitutional Law Professor David Smolin



Anita Lee thanks State Trooper Lt. Jeremy Burkett



Anita Lee & Angene Coleman thank U.S. Magistrate Judge Gray Borden



Anita Lee & Angene Coleman thank U.S. Marshall Service Chief Jonathan Prell



Optimist Members Angene Coleman (Co-Chair), Jonnitha Clark, Anita Lee (Chair), President Carolyn McCoy, Paula Hines, & Leon Evans attended the event.

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES



Judge Thomas Thrash speaking with students.



Samford Constitutional Law Professor David Smolin speaking with students.



U.S. Magistrate Judge Gray Borden speaking with students.

VIRTUAL WALK FOR A CURE

Zone 1 Optimists joined together to walk for two great causes, Autism & Childhood Cancer Awareness, during the month of September. Optimists Members from each of the Clubs in our Zone were also encouraged to make a donation to benefit the cause of Autism through OI Foundation's Childhood Health & Wellness Program and/or Children's Hospital's Alabama Center for Childhood Cancer & Blood Disorders. Thank you to all who participated!



Erma Hinton is "Walking for a Cure" for Autism through OI Foundation's Childhood Health & Wellness Program.



Jon & Nancy Ryan are trying their best to "Walk for a Cure" for Autism and for Childhood Cancer with the help of their furbabies, Baby, Lenny & Lottie!

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES

YOUTH APPRECIATION PROGRAM & CLUB MEMBER AWARDS SEPTEMBER 19TH



Youth Appreciation Award Recipient London Koi Jones is pictured with her proud Mom, Renee Green-Jones, Grandmother, Carolyn Green, Dad, Derrick Jones, Grandmother, Vonnie Hill & Aunt, Sandy Covington.



President Carolyn McCoy recognized Erma Hinton as Optimist of the Year and also presented her with the President's Citation from Optimist International President Tracy Huxley.



Youth Appreciation Award Recipient Carter W. Holloway is pictured with his proud Mom, Krysten Holloway, and his Grandmother, Eva Carter.



President Carolyn McCoy presents the Strength of Optimism Award to Angene Coleman.



New member, Saundra Taylor, Angene Coleman, and guest Jasmine Fells.



President Carolyn McCoy presents Dr. Paul Amamoo & President-Elect Sharon Wilson each with an Optimism Ambassador Award.

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES



President Carolyn McCoy presents the Contagious Enthusiasm Award & the Optimism Ambassador Award to Clara Greene.



Congratulations to Erma Hinton on being recognized as the Optimist of the Year & for receiving the President's Citation for the 2023-2024 Optimist Year!



President Carolyn McCoy presents the Friendship Award to Jacqueline Holder.



Congratulations to Angene Coleman for being recognized with the Strength of Optimism Award.



President Carolyn McCoy presents an Optimist Social Media / Marketing Chair of the Year award to Nancy Ryan.



Dr. Paul Amamoo & Nathaniel Washington reciting the Optimist Creed, along with his guest & cousin, Wynona Blackman.

SNAPSHOTS FROM OPTIMIST CLUB ACTIVITIES

SERVICE PROJECT AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE SEPTEMBER 25TH

The Club provided 183 laundry kits for families residing at Ronald McDonald House on Wednesday, September 25th. RMH Community Outreach Coordinator Mary Ellis Cravey welcomed the group of members who came to put the kits together, including Clara Greene, Paula Hines, Danella Johnson, Ra'Jeeni Marshall & Nancy Ryan.



Clara Greene, Ra'Jeeni Marshall, RMH Community Outreach Coordinator Mary Ellis Cravey, Paula Hines & Danella Johnson



Danella Johnson & Paula Hines working on packing laundry kits for resident families at RMH.



Ra'Jeeni Marshall & Clara Greene working on packing laundry kits for families with babies and those with special skin sensitivity issues.



Nancy Ryan, Paula Hines, Ra'Jeeni Marshall & Clara Greene put together 183 laundry kits for residents at Ronald McDonald House.