

# Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the  
Alabama-Mississippi District  
March-April, 2024

In our 96<sup>th</sup> Year of Service to  
Youth & the Community

Meets 3<sup>rd</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)

## CLUB CCDHH CONTEST, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 12 NOON, ALABAMA POWER COMPANY, ELECTRA ROOM 600 18<sup>TH</sup> ST. N., BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

Our Club CCDHH (Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) Chair, **Roger Vaughan**, will conduct the contest. Topic: "How to Change the World with Optimism." **Please come to support our youth!**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The meeting itself will begin promptly at 12 noon. Contestants and judges have been asked to be in the Electra Room ready for briefing before the contest by 11:30 a.m. All others, please arrive on site in time to go through the cafeteria (at around 11:45), purchase your meal (or BYO lunch) and be in the Electra room before Noon. To avoid any distractions or interruptions to the contestants, no one will be allowed to enter or leave the room during the speeches.

## MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> – CLUB ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored our annual Club Oratorical Contest on Saturday, March 2, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Contest Chair **Erma Hinton** conducted the contest.

The topic of this year's contest is "How to Change the World with Optimism." First Place winner of the Club contest was **Charles Diggins, II** (grade 12), Second Place winner was **Makayla Bolling** (grade 8), and Third Place winner was **Brandon Williams** (grade 11). Also participating was **Zariyah Fisher** (grade 9). Each contestant received a Certificate of Participation, along with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners receiving a medallion and cash prize of \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively. **Charles Diggins, II**, and **Makayla Bolling**, both advanced to the Zone 1 Contest held on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Contest judges were **Dr. Paul Amamoo**, **Mrs. Joyce Stevenson**, and **James Stewart, Esq.** The timekeeper was **Mrs. Margie Argo**.

The Club was honored to have parents and family members of each of the contestants as our guests.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting on Zoom, 1 pm

May 16<sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting, Alabama Power Co., 12 noon

## MEMBER NEWS

**March Birthdays:** 4<sup>th</sup> – Stuart Benjamin, 4<sup>th</sup> – Andre Flowers, 23<sup>rd</sup> – Linda DeMarco. **Anniversaries:** 11<sup>th</sup> – Elliott & Dr. Kim Carr, 26<sup>th</sup> – Martin & Erma Hinton

**April Birthdays:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hazel Collins, 11<sup>th</sup> – Jon Ryan, 15<sup>th</sup> – Sandra Weems

Hope you each enjoy(ed) 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!

**CLUB OFFICER ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE APRIL 18**  
The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of Officers for the 2024-2025 Optimist year, October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025.

**President – Sharon Wilson**

**VP Administration/Community Affairs – Anita Lee**

**VP Youth Work – Dr. Paul Amamoo**

**Secretary – Teresa Jones**

**Treasurer – Leon Evans, Jr.**

**Assistant Treasurer – Erma Hinton**

**Past President – Carolyn McCoy**

**Club Foundation Representative – Roger Vaughan**

**Directors:** Two-year terms expiring 2026 – **Clara Greene, Adrienne Pearson, and Ronald Taylor**

**Angene Coleman, Jacqueline Holder, and Jon Ryan** will continue to serve as **Directors** through Sept. 30, 2025.

## THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM CONGRATULATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONOREE, ANGENE COLEMAN!!

Congratulations to Club Member, **Angene Coleman**, who was recognized as a "Women's History Month" Honoree, during a special event which took place at Peace Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, March 30th! Angene is very active in our Club, serving on the Board of Directors and as Chair of several of our Youth programs, as well as in the community. We are so proud of you for receiving this well-deserved honor, Angene!!



# ORATORICAL CONTESTS

**CLUB ORATORICAL CONTEST  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH  
SATURDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>  
MRS. ERMA HINTON, CHAIR**



**President Carolyn McCoy & Club Contest Chair Erma Hinton congratulate each of our contestants on a job well-done! Contestants pictured L to R: Zariyah Fisher, Brandon Williams, Charles Diggins, II, and Makayla Bolling.**



**Club Contest 2nd Place Winner, Makayla Bolling & 1st Place Winner, Charles Diggins, II**



**Thank you to our Judges & \*Timekeeper: Dr. Paul Amamoo, \*Mrs. Margie Argo, James Stewart, Esq., & Mrs. Joyce Stevenson with Contest Chair, Mrs. Erma Hinton**



**President Carolyn McCoy, Treasurer Leon Evans, & Oratorical Contest Chair, Erma Hinton**

# ORATORICAL CONTESTS

## APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> ZONE 1 ORATORICAL CONTEST BETHEL BAPTIST BERNEY POINTS CHURCH

LT. GOVERNOR MICHAEL HOLT, CHAIR

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was proud to sponsor our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winners, **Charles Diggins, II**, and **Makayla Bolling**, in the Zone 1 Oratorical Contest. Both of our contestants did an outstanding job!! Charles was accompanied by his mother, **Queen Diggins**. **Makayla** was accompanied by her mother, **Angela Bolling**.

Club Members who attended were Club Treasurer **Leon Evans**, Club Oratorical Contest Chair **Erma Hinton** along with her daughter/guest, **Joie Medley**, Scholarship Contest Chair **Jon Ryan**, Social Media Chair **Nancy Ryan**, and Vice President **Sharon Wilson**.

The Club was also honored to have **Ms. Paula Hines**, co-worker of **Teresa Jones**, who volunteered to serve as a judge for the contest.



Lt. Governor Michael Holt presents a Certificate of Participation to Makayla Bolling & Charles Diggins, II



Club Scholarship Contest Chair Jon Ryan and Club Oratorical Contest Chair Erma Hinton congratulate Zone 1 Oratorical Contest participants, Makayla Bolling and Charles Diggins, II, on their outstanding speeches.



Club Oratorical Contest Chair Erma Hinton, along with her daughter, Joie Medley, are pictured with Makayla Bolling and her mother, Angela Bolling, & Charles Diggins, II, and his mother, Queen Diggins.



Lt. Gov. Michael Holt and Immediate Past Gov. Vera Hendrix thank Ms. Paula Hines for giving of her time & talents to serve as one of the contest judges.



Optimist Club of Birmingham members attending the Zone 1 Oratorical Contest included Jon Ryan, Nancy Ryan, Erma Hinton, and Leon Evans, along with Sharon Wilson (not pictured).

# ORATORICAL CONTESTS



**Joie Medley, with Makayla Bolling and her proud Mom, Angela Bolling.**



**Charles Diggins, II, with his proud Mom, Queen Diggins.**



**Contestants of the Zone 1 Oratorical Contest are pictured with their Certificates of Participation. Clubs represented in the contest included Birmingham, Birmingham West End, Metro-Tuscaloosa, and Talladega. Congratulations to each of the contestants for being selected to participate in the Zone Contest!**