

Optimist Club of Birmingham

In Our 89th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

www.birmingham.amoptimists.org
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The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
August 10, 2017

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

Please Note: Our August 10th meeting will take place at Alabama Power Company, 600 N 18th St. in the Electra Room located on the first floor in the corner of the dining area. Meals will be available from the food court at your expense. The meeting will open at 12:15 pm. **Please plan to arrive early enough to get your food ahead of time, so that you can be in your seat by that time.**

Program

Our guest speaker will be Assistant Fire Chief Donald L. Jones, who serves as Director of the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department and has statutory responsibility for provision of Emergency Medical Services within the City of Birmingham. The Emergency Medical Services Division ensures that the BFRS maintains a constant state of readiness to provide Basic or Advanced Life Support to persons in need of emergent care. They are also responsible for providing EMS coverage at mass gathering events including festivals, sports, and racing.

Last Meeting

Nancy Ryan made a presentation on Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School's Corporate Work-Study Program. "By combining corporate work-study program with a rigorous academic curriculum, students who normally would not be able to afford a college preparatory education now have a chance to work their way to higher education. In so doing, generational cycles of poverty and violence are broken." (Read more about the [history of Holy Family Cristo Rey High School](#).)

The school seeks full-time, entry-level positions for its students. Their students will be trained to perform such tasks as filing, copying, faxing, delivering interoffice mail, assembling information packets, very basic data entry, reception, and general "go-for" duties. Their students also appreciate progressively more challenging jobs. Your company can make a difference in the lives of young adults by sponsoring a team of their students and offering them the opportunity to grow in self-respect and learn marketable job skills as they prepare for the future!

If interested, please contact the Director of Business Development, Kent Graeve, at kgraeve@hfcristorey.org or 205-999-3474 or visit www.hfcristorey.org.

If you are not in a position to hire their students, you could still help by volunteering or [becoming a benefactor](#). Or simply help spread the word and tell your friends about Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School!

Upcoming Events

Aug 9 – Supper Served at Ronald McDonald House, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Contact Childhood Cancer Campaign Chair [Jon Ryan](#) at 467-9170 if you plan to volunteer.

Aug 10 – Club meeting followed by monthly Board Mtg.

Aug 17 – No Board Mtg. – See Aug. 10

Aug 24 – Club Mtg. – Guest speaker, Rebecca Dobrinski, Executive Director, Birmingham Holocaust Education Center

Member News

August Birthdays: Don Kirkland – 1st, Steve Wingo – 4th, Jason McCrory – 19th, Judge Patricia Stephens – 24th.
Anniversaries: Helen & Ken Holcomb – 7th, Michelle & Jason McCrory – 24th. **Congratulations to all! Enjoy your special day!**

Teen Summit - "Laws That Affect Teens"

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored a Teen Summit, co-chaired by **Angene Coleman**, **Anita Jackson** and **Alice Westery**, for ages 13-19 at Vestavia Hills Public Library on Thursday, August 3rd. More than 40 teens participated in the one-day conference designed to inspire youth's respect for law enforcement, self-well-being and awareness of laws that affect teens. Other Club members assisting with the event included: **Pres. Leon Evans**, **Glenn & Ruby Peterson**, **Ken Prevo**, **Jon & Nancy Ryan**.

The event featured the following topics and speakers:

- ❖ **Homelessness:** Alice Westery - Executive Director of Youth Towers
- ❖ **Drugs:** Sgt. R.D. Reid - Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept. and Angene Coleman - Outreach Coordinator, Olivia House
- ❖ **Internet Safety:** Detective Sgt. Mike House
- ❖ **"Loving the Skin You Are In":** Mario Cooper - Youth Pastor, Impact Nation Fellowship
- ❖ **Criminal Offenses and Juvenile Justice:** Detective Zarovsky Pitts - Birmingham Police Dept.
- ❖ **Transportation:** Senior Trooper Chuck Daniel - Alabama State Troopers
- ❖ **School:** Dr. Evelyn Nettle-Hines - Carver High School Principal

The Club wishes to thank each of the above presenters who gave of their time to speak with young people in our community about these important issues. Thank you also to Sylvia Craig-Burnett and Tonya Ryan-Coker, both with Jefferson County DHR, who assisted with youth activities throughout the event, and to Taneisha Tucker, Vestavia Hills Public Library Director, who provided the excellent event venue.



Alabama State Senior Trooper Chuck Daniel is pictured with several youth participants at the Teen Summit.



President Leon Evans thanks presenter Mario Cooper, pictured with his niece, Crystal, and children Myla, Megan and Mario. Thank you to Crystal and Megan for sharing their beautiful voices by singing for the participants.

SNAPSHOTS FROM TEEN SUMMIT – “LAWS THAT AFFECT TEENS”



Pictured at left:
Event Co-Chair Alice Westery, Executive Director of Youth Towers, spoke with youth participants on the topic of homelessness.



Pictured at right:
Event Co-Chair Angene Coleman, Outreach Coordinator for Olivia House, spoke on the topic of Drugs & recognized youth for standing out in positive ways.



President Leon Evans thanks presenter Alabama State Senior Trooper Chuck Daniel, who spoke on transportation laws that affect teens and the importance of avoiding distracted driving. He shared an important video on the Alabama Graduated Driver License Law: <https://youtu.be/J8RR9eJx4II>



Event Co-Chair Anita Jackson and Pres. Leon Evans thank presenter Detective Sgt. Mike House, who spoke on the topic of Internet Safety, pictured with his partner, Shane Williams.



President Leon Evans thanks presenter Sgt. R. D. Reid, with the Jefferson Co. Sheriff's Dept. who spoke on the topic of Drugs.



Event Co-Chair Anita Jackson and President Leon Evans thank presenter Detective Zarovsky Pitts who spoke on the topic of Criminal Offenses & Juvenile Justice.



Mario Cooper, Youth Pastor at Impact Nation Fellowship, spoke on the topic of "Loving the Skin You Are In." He asked participants, "Who's controlling your emoji's?" He stressed that no one can "make" you do anything. Don't give others the power to control your emotions.



Secretary Jon Ryan, Event Co-Chair Anita Jackson and President Leon Evans thank presenter, Dr. Evelyn Nettle-Hines, Carver High School Principal, who spoke on school related laws that affect teens.



Special thanks goes to Tonya Ryan-Coker and Sylvia Craig-Burnett, both with Jefferson County DHR, for assisting with youth activities & handing out door prizes throughout the event.