

In our 98<sup>th</sup> Year of Service to  
Youth & the Community

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## Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the  
Alabama-Mississippi District  
August-September 2026

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
12:00 Noon

### OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 12 NOON, CLUB MEETING

Alabama Power Co., Elantra Room  
600 N 18<sup>th</sup> St., Birmingham, AL 35203

The meeting will feature the Installation of Club Officers and Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 Optimist year conducted by Past AL/MS District Gov. Vera Hendrix. Guest speaker will be Public Speaker, Don Mosely. \*Please plan to arrive early to get your lunch in the Atrium Cafe, so you can be ready for the meeting to begin at noon. You may bring your own lunch if you prefer.

### MEMBER NEWS

**AUGUST Birthdays:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Don Kirkland, 4<sup>th</sup> – Steve Wingo, 17<sup>th</sup> – Clara Greene, 24<sup>th</sup> – Judge Patricia Stephens, 27<sup>th</sup> – Capt. Janice Blackwell, 27<sup>th</sup> – Dorothy A Davis

**SEPTEMBER Birthdays:** 11<sup>th</sup> – Samuel Edwards, Jr., 16<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Ryan, 17<sup>th</sup> – Roger Vaughan, 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sharon Wilson, 26<sup>th</sup> – Ra'Jeeni Marshall, 28<sup>th</sup> – Zoé Champion,

**SEPTEMBER Anniversaries:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Debbie & Don Kirkland, 4<sup>th</sup> – Ira Moss & Patricia Stephens Moss, 7<sup>th</sup> – Heide & Herb Forsythe, 17<sup>th</sup> – Jean & Roger Vaughan, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 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](mailto:nryan95@charter.net), so they can be added to the list.

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 1 – BINGO & ICE CREAM SUNDAES, RMH

OCT 8 – Board Meeting Via Zoom, 1 PM

OCT 15 – Club Meeting, Alabama Power Co., 12 N

### BACK TO SCHOOL FOR RUBY & GLENN PETERSON'S GRANDCHILDREN!

We always appreciate Brandy Werther (Ruby & Glenn's daughter) keeping us updated with pictures of Jurnee (9<sup>th</sup> grade) & Kamron (8<sup>th</sup> grade) on their first day back to school!



### LAUNDRY KITS & BLANKETS FOR RMH

Members of the Club gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, August 7, to assemble a total of 150 laundry kits to have on hand for the families residing at Ronald McDonald House. Many times, parents find themselves unexpectedly having to stay away from home without having all the things they may need when their child has just been diagnosed with a serious illness, such as cancer or other life-threatening disease. One of those things needed is simply to have supplies to wash their clothes until they have time to get settled in. Volunteers included **Connie Demand, Clara Greene, Erma Hinton, Joie Hinton** (daughter of Erma), **Anita Lee, Carolyn McCoy, Adrienne Pearson,** and **Nancy Ryan**.

The Club was also proud to partner with **Phi Alpha Honor Society**, affiliated with the **Social Work Department at Miles College**, where Club VP **Anita Lee** serves as Field Placement Director, as well as serving as the organization's Advisor. Volunteers **Aniyiniua Edwards, Danielle Johnson,** and **Yolanda Nash**, created several adorable "no sew" blankets which will be donated for the toy store at RMH to be available for infants and toddlers! 🧡



Connie Demand, Clara Greene, Joie Hinton,  
Erma Hinton & Adrienne Pearson



Clara Greene, Joie & Erma Hinton

## SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



**Carolyn McCoy & Connie Demand**



**Nancy Ryan, Connie Demand, Clara Greene, Erma Hinton, Joie Hinton, Adrienne Pearson & Anita Lee**



**Miles College Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society members Yolanda Nash, Danielle Johnson, and Aniyiniua Edwards, along with their Advisor Anita Lee, proudly display the "no-sew" blankets they made for infants & toddlers at RMH.**

## RESPECT FOR LAW PROGRAM

The Optimist Club of Birmingham held its annual Respect for Law Program, conducted by **Chair Adrienne Pearso & Co-Chair Jacqueline Holder**, along with **Co-Chair Capt. Janice Blackwell**, on Thursday, August 20, at City Club Birmingham. The Club was proud to recognize **Truman Fitzgerald**, Attorney at Law, practicing in the areas of Criminal Defense and Personal Injuries, as the recipient of its 2026 Respect for Law Award. Making the event even more special was having Truman's wife, **Lieutenant Erin Valentine Fitzgerald**, of the Birmingham Police Department, currently serving as West Precinct Shift Commander, as the Keynote Speaker, along with having his father-in-law, **Reginald Valentine**, in attendance!

The Club was also honored to have 11 special guests of Club **VP Anita Lee**, all members of **Phi Alpha Honor Society**, affiliated with the Social Work Department at Miles College, where Anita serves as Field Placement Director, as well as serving as the organization's Advisor. Anita was also accompanied by her husband, **Rudy Lee**, as her guest. In addition to a delicious meal, Club members and guests were also treated to special musical entertainment as they were arriving, provided by **Jonathan Wise**, along with his beautiful renditions of "Edelweiss" and "O Danny Boy" during the program!



**Respect for Law Chair Adrienne Pearson, Co-Chair Jackie Holder, & President Sharon Wilson proudly present the Respect for Law Award to Attorney Truman Fitzgerald.**



**Respect for Law Award Recipient, Truman Fitzgerald, Attorney at Law, with his wife and Keynote Speaker, Lieutenant Erin Valentine Fitzgerald.**

## SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



**Respect for Law Award Recipient Truman Fitzgerald with his proud wife, Lt. Erin Valentine Fitzgerald, and father-in-law, Mr. Reginald Valentine.**



**Respect for Law Chair Adrienne Pearson, Lt. Erin Valentine Fitzgerald, Attorney Truman Fitzgerald, RFL Co-Chair Jackie Holder, & President Sharon Wilson.**



**Club Treasurer Leon Evans thanks our special guest, Jonathan Wise, who provided musical entertainment as members and guests were arriving, along with beautiful renditions of "Edelweiss" and "O Danny Boy"!**



**Respect for Law Co-Chair Jackie Holder pictured with Attorney Truman Fitzgerald, along with his proud wife, Lt. Erin Valentine Fitzgerald, and father-in-law, Mr. Reginald Valentine.**



**Members of Phi Alpha Honor Society, affiliated with the Social Work Department at Miles College, where Club Vice President Anita Lee (pictured center) serves as Field Placement Director, as well as serving as the organization's Advisor.**



**Phi Alpha Honor Society members and Advisor Anita Lee, pictured with Keynote Speaker, Lt. Erin Valentine Fitzgerald and RFL Award Recipient, Attorney Truman Fitzgerald.**



**Club members and guests reciting the Optimist Creed.**



**Anita Lee & Carolyn McCoy**



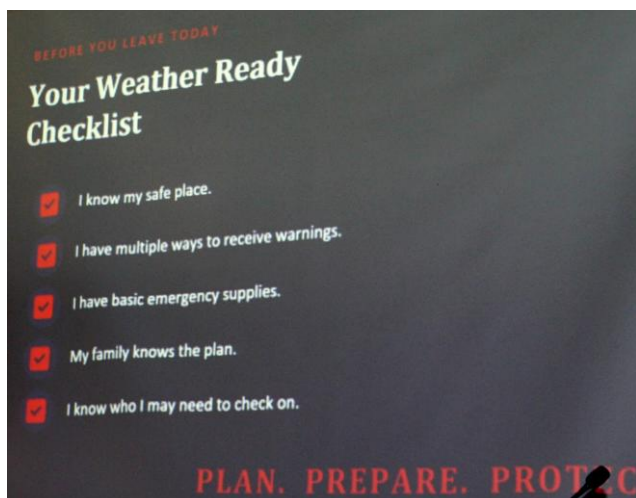
**Nicole Webb leads the Optimist Creed**

## SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

### SEPTEMBER 17 GUEST SPEAKER TONIA MICHELE

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was honored to have WBRC First Alert Weather Meteorologist **Tonia Michele** as the guest speaker at our September 17 Club meeting held at Alabama Power Company. She gave a very informative presentation about weather safety and the importance of having a safety plan ahead of time, along with what is needed to have on hand in a safety kit to be weather ready! She also took time to answer questions from members and guests about any other weather-related concerns.

Tonia shared that when asked by a relative to talk with their child who was very afraid of severe weather, instead of just talking, she decided to write a book to help educate and provide comfort for young children during a storm. "Weather Wonders: Exploring the Skies with Mom" is available to order online. Be sure to order your copy today on Amazon, Lulu, and others!



### OPTIMISTS VOLUNTEER AT "9/11 DAY" EVENT

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was honored to take part in the large-scale, high-profile food packing event hosted by "9/11 Day", the nonprofit that founded and leads the National September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11, more than 50,000 volunteers in over 50 cities gathered together on September 11 to pack 20 million meals for people experiencing food insecurity. The event in Birmingham took place at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex.

Volunteers **Desiree Bates, Nicole Webb, President Sharon Wilson, Adrienne Pearson, Connie Demand**, and guest volunteer **Audrey**, helped to fill bags with the ingredients to prepare meals, which all went to the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama. The event was projected to be the largest day of service in American history! For more information about 9/11 Day, visit <https://www.911day.org/>



### OPTIMISTS VOLUNTEER AT PATHWAYS – SEPT. 15



Optimist Club Members **Connie Demand, Hazel Collins, Tara Fisher, Pres. Sharon Wilson, Desiree Bates, Paula Hines, Adrienne Pearson, and Erma Hinton** (see pic below) prepared and served a delicious dinner for the 55 women and children residing at **Pathways: Women's and Children's Shelter** in Birmingham on Tuesday, September 15.

For more information about Pathways, please visit: <https://pathwayshome.org/>



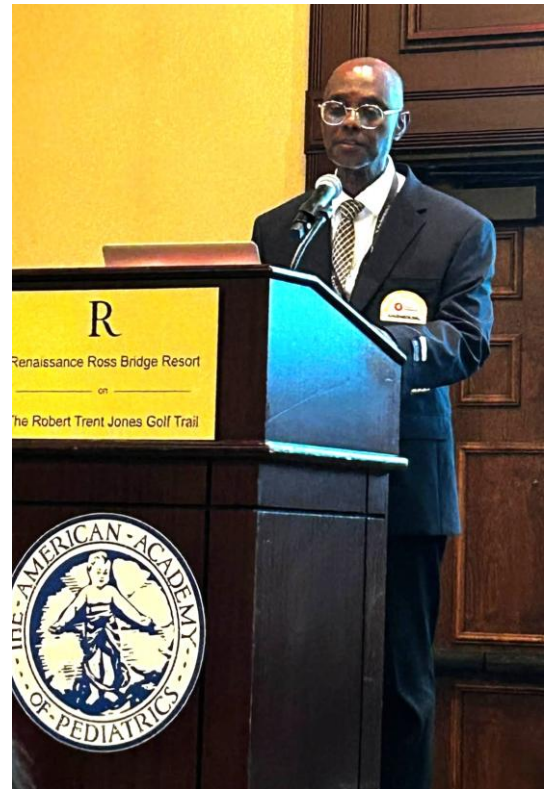
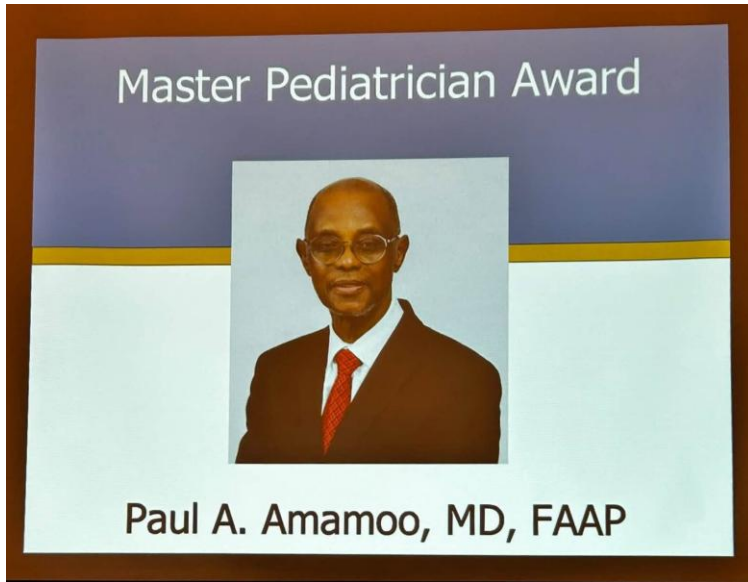
Gouda Mac and Cheese lovingly prepared by **Erma Hinton**, who was not able to attend in person, for the meal! 😊

## SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

### DR. PAUL AMAMOO RECEIVES 2026 MASTER PEDIATRICIAN AWARD

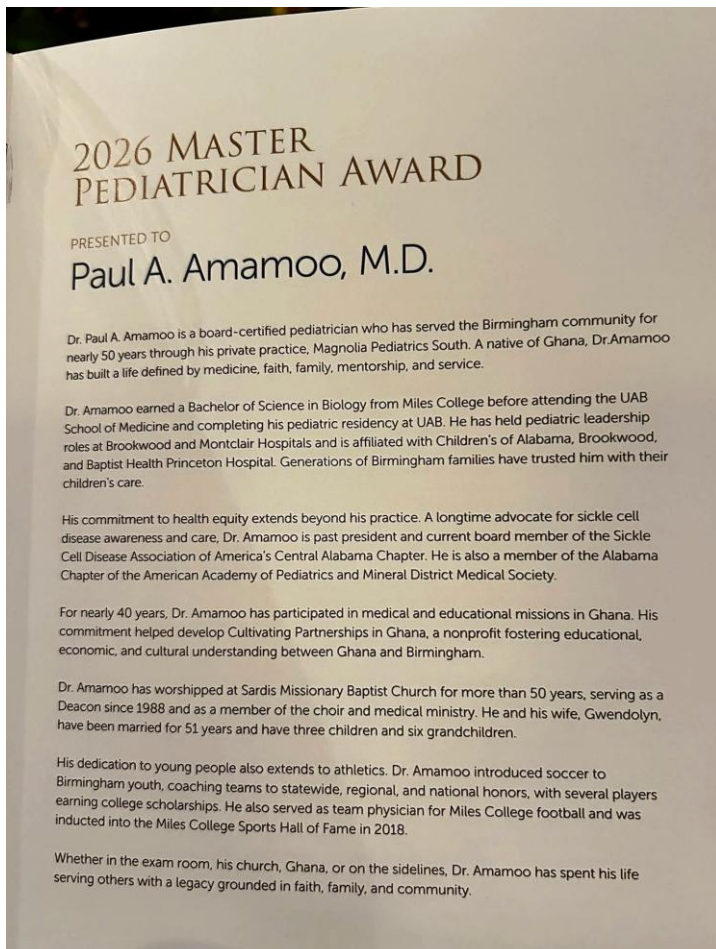
Congratulations to Dr. Paul Amamoo on receiving this well-deserved prestigious honor - the 2026 Master Pediatrician Award!

The Optimist Club of Birmingham is proud of you and honored to have you as a long-time member, having served in many positions of leadership, including Past President, and currently serving as Vice President of Youth Work. You are a shining example of a true gentleman & Optimist with a servant's heart!



**Dr. Paul Amamoo**  
**2026 Master Pediatrician Award Recipient**

### ZOÉ CHAMPION RECEIVES ENCOMPASS HEALTH CORPORATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to **Zoé Champion** as the recipient of the **Encompass Health Corporation Endowed Scholarship** as she continues her studies to achieve her Doctorate through the UAB Department of Physical Therapy! The Optimist Club of Birmingham is so proud of you, Zoé, and honored to have you as a member!