

Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
October-November, 2025

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

Meets 3rd Thursday
12:00 Noon

www.birmingham.amoptimists.org
www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub

OCTOBER 16TH MEETING

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was honored to have **Alabama-Mississippi District Gov. Michael Holt, District Secretary-Treasurer Norma Stewart, and Zone 1 Lt. Gov. Vera Hendrix** as our distinguished guests at the October 16th Club meeting held at Alabama Power Company in the Electra Room.

The meeting featured the **Installation of Club Officers and Board of Directors** for the 2025-2026 Optimist year, along with the presentation of the **President's Citation to Adrienne Pearson as the 2024-2025 Optimist of the Year**, as well as the induction ceremony for three of our newest members: **Debra Jackson, Joy Stanley, and Nicole Webb**. **President Sharon Wilson** also shared her vision for the Club as we look forward to continuing to serve our community throughout the 2025-2026 year!

NOVEMBER 19TH – A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

The Optimist Club of Birmingham conducted "A Salute to Our Veterans" Program on Wednesday, November 19, to honor Club Members and/or their family members who have served our country. The event was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Birmingham.

Our Keynote Speaker was **Dr. Rev. Jerry Jones**, who was also honored for his service during the program. He was accompanied by his wife, **Teresa**. Other guests included **Ramsay High School JROTC Cadets 1LT Janiya Anderson, 2LT Nisa Muhammad, 2LT Journey Sharpe**, accompanied by Army Instructor, **First SGT Hardwick "Rico" Hall**.

Twenty Veterans were recognized and honored (although not all were able to attend) for their dedicated service to our country. Each Veteran received a Certificate of Appreciation, along with an American flag lapel pin. The Club wishes to thank ALL those who have served our country!



MEMBER NEWS

OCTOBER Birthdays: 14th – Joy Stanley, 16th – Margie Argo, 22nd – Dewayne Smith, 29th – Dr. Paul Amamoo, 31st – Ken Holcomb

OCTOBER Anniversaries: 14th – Rudy & Anita Lee, 15th – Laurie & Charlie Binion, 15th - Renee & Kenny Haynes, 26th – Gwen & Paul Amamoo

NOVEMBER Birthdays: 1st – Dr. Kim Carr

Hope you each enjoyed your special day!



Governor Michael Holt addresses the Club prior to the Installation of Officers and Board Ceremony.



Adrienne Pearson receives President's Citation for the 2024-2025 Optimist year from President Sharon Wilson.



President Sharon Wilson inducts new members, Nicole Webb, Joy Stanley and Debra Jackson.



Teresa Jones and Clara Greene present an update to Club members on the new "Letters from Santa" fundraiser to take place in December.

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

INSTALLATION OF CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026



Treasurer Leon Evans, Jr., President Sharon Wilson, and Secretary Jon Ryan listen closely to Gov. Mike as they prepare to take their oath of office for the 2025-2026 Optimist year.



Newly installed Optimist Club of Birmingham Officers and Board Members for the 2025-2026 Optimist Year (standing L to R): Treasurer Leon Evans, Jr., Board Member Teresa Jones, Secretary Jon Ryan, Assistant Treasurer Erma Hinton, VP Youth Work Dr. Paul Amamoo, President Sharon Wilson, Board Member Adrienne Pearson, Club Foundation Representative Nancy Ryan, Board Members Ronald Taylor, Angene Coleman, & Clara Greene, along with (seated) Zone 1 Lt. Gov. Vera Hendrix, AL/MS District Gov. Michael Holt, and District Secretary/Treasurer Norma Stewart

(Not pictured: VP Administration & Community Affairs Anita Lee and Board Member Jackie Holder)



Assistant Treasurer Erma Hinton, Vice President of Youth Work Dr. Paul Amamoo, and Board Members Adrienne Pearson and Ron Taylor listen attentively to Gov. Mike.

BINGO & ICE CREAM SUNDAE NIGHT AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OCTOBER 2ND

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored a BINGO & Ice Cream Sundae Night with children and their families at Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham.

The Club provided BINGO prizes for all the children and adults who participated, which was about 40 people in all!



Board Members Angene Coleman, Clara Greene, Teresa Jones, and Club Foundation Representative Nancy Ryan are ready to serve the Club and the community during the new Optimist year.



Volunteers Jon Ryan, Nancy Ryan, Connie Demand, Sharon Wilson, Zoe' Champion, and Adrienne Pearson greatly enjoyed offering time for a little fun for children and their families after a long day!!

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

RED RIBBON WEEK DOOR CONTEST

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored its annual Door Contest for Red Ribbon Week on Monday, October 20, at Legacy Prep Charter School, located on Daniel Payne Drive in Birmingham. Red Ribbon Week campaign is the nation's largest and oldest drug prevention program, promoting a drug-free lifestyle through community and school-based activities.

Red Ribbon Week Chair Angene Coleman, along with Club Members Desiree Bates, Adrienne Pearson, and Nicole Webb, who served as door judges, did an excellent job in conducting the contest! There were five 3rd classes, with approximately 96 students, who participated in the contest this year. Each student received a goody bag for participating in the contest.



Nicole Webb, Angene Coleman (Red Ribbon Week Chair), Adrienne Pearson, and Desiree Bates, congratulate Mrs. Williams and present a \$100 gift card for her class as 1st place winners of the Red Ribbon door contest!



Mrs. Williams' Class - 1st Place Winning Door!



Angene Coleman, along with door judges Nicole Webb, Adrienne Pearson, and Desiree Bates, congratulate and present a \$75 gift card to the 2nd Place winning teacher of the door contest for his class!



2nd Place Winning Door!



3rd Place Winning Door



Angene Coleman, Adrienne Pearson, Desiree Bates and Nicole Webb congratulate Mr. Spruill and present him with a \$50 gift card for his class being the 3rd Place winners of the door contest!

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

“A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS” PROGRAM NOVEMBER 19TH



Veterans Program Chair, Connie Demand and President Sharon Wilson welcome Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rev. Jerry Jones, and his wife, Teresa.



Connie Demand and Sharon Wilson thank Dr. Rev. Jerry Jones for his inspiring presentation and present him with a token of appreciation.



Veterans Program Chair Connie Demand and President Sharon Wilson thank Cadet 1LT Janiya Anderson, Cadet 2LT Nisa Muhammad, Cadet 2LT Journey Sharpe, and JROTC Army Instructor SGT Hardwick (Rico) Hall for their participation in our program



Sharon Wilson with Margie Argo, LT COL, ALARNG
Thank you for your 23 years of service to our country!



Optimist Shirley Miller gave our invocation.



Sharon Wilson with her son-in-law,
Joshua Cook, CW3, ALARNG.
Thank you for your 24 years of service to our country!

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



Sharon Wilson with Leon Evans, Jr. on behalf of his brother, Allan B. Evans, YN1-LPO, USN
Thank you for your 20 years of service to our country!



Sharon Wilson and Connie Demand with Doris Lee, on behalf of her husband, Joseph Lee - SGT, USA.
Thank you for your service to our country!



Sharon Wilson with Chrystal L. Jones, SGM, USA
Thank you for your 34 years of service to our country!



Sharon Wilson with Jon Ryan - CDR, USCGR(R)
Thank you for your 20 years of service to our country!



Connie Demand presents a Certificate of Appreciation and American flag lapel pin to Dr. Rev. Jerry Jones, SGT, USA & ARNG
Thank you for your service to our country!



Sharon Wilson with Ron Taylor - SSG, ALARNG (20 years of service) & Mark Taylor on behalf of his wife, Lynn Taylor, SrA, USAF (4 years of service)
Thank you both for your service to our country!

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



Sharon Wilson and Connie Demand with Roger Vaughan, COL, USACE
Thank you for your 22 years of service to our country!



Sharon Wilson with Carolyn McCoy on behalf of her sister, Nikita D. Williams, SFC, USA(R).
Thank you for your 20 years of service to our country!



Sharon Wilson with Nicole Webb, CSM, USAR
Thank you for your 34 years, 10 months, of service to our country!



Sharon Wilson and Connie Demand, with Don Wilson, FN, USN.
Thank you for your 4 years of service to our country!



Sharon Wilson with Carolyn McCoy on behalf of her brother-in-law, Albert C. Williams, Jr., SSG, USA. Thank you for your 8 years, 7 months, of service to our country!



Optimist Nicole Webb led us in the Optimist Creed.



Ramsay High School JROTC Cadets Present the Colors

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

4TH ANNUAL CLASSIC COCKTAILS MAGIC CITY CLASSIC KICKOFF OCTOBER 21, 2025

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was proud to support the **4th Annual Classic Cocktails, a Magic City Classic Kickoff Party**, sponsored by the Birmingham Public Library (BPL) and Friends of the BPL, on Tuesday, October 21. Chandler Champion, BPL Director of Development, was there to welcome us at the event, which was a great success!

Those who attended the event included: **Angene & Jerry Coleman, Clara Greene, Bria Hines, Paula Hines, Anita & Rudy Lee, Jon & Nancy Ryan, and President Sharon Wilson**. Other contributors who were unable to attend included: **Dr. Paul Amamoo, Leon Evans, Jr., Shirley Miller, Adrienne Pearson, Ron Taylor, and Nicole Webb**.

According to the Classic Cocktails flyer:

"The mission of the BPL is to provide the highest quality experience to our community for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment and enjoyment."

"The Friends Foundation of the BPL is an independent 501(c)(3) tax qualified, non-profit organization. It operates both independently and in partnership with BPL and others to fulfill its mission of supporting the programs, services, and partnerships of BPL through advocacy, outreach, and fundraising. Working closely with BPL staff, the Friends Foundation helps the Birmingham Public Library be the best library it can be."



Jon & Nancy Ryan, Anita Lee, President Sharon Wilson, Clara Greene, Bria Hines, Paula Hines, with BPL Director of Development, Chandler Champion. Also in attendance were Angene & Jerry Coleman, and Rudy Lee.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD BAGS AT BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Desiree Bates, Adrienne Pearson, along with another Optimist member, helped to distribute food bags to those in need in the community on October 6th. The event took place at Barrett Elementary School.



Thank You Sponsors

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