



# Promise Yourself

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT  
2018-19 Number 1    October 31, 2018

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**Governor Debbie** has chosen 'Batting 1,000 for the Children' for the District Theme this year.



**Governor Debbie**

## First Quarter District Conference

The first AL-MS Conference was held in Tuscaloosa, AL on October 19-21, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Two representatives from Optimist International were our invited guests. Ms. Venus Sanford, Past Vice President, South West Region, (NM-West Texas District) provided instructional/training support. Mr. Craig Boring, Exec Director of the Optimist International Foundation outlined the benefits that the Foundation offers to our Clubs, such as pass thru services, funding of scholarships. Craig also presented Roger Vaughn A Past Optimist International Foundation President's pin at the Saturday Banquet.

The conference was most informative and fun. We had a 'Match the Child Photo to the Governor' Contest. Tolanda Beal was the winner with nine out of sixteen correct. There were eight celebrity child photographs to make the contest a little more difficult. Twelve people picked Tom Selleck's child photo as Tom Casteel.

Venus was our trainer and dressed up as Wonder Woman and Bat Woman, keeping the training fun. A lot of material was covered, and time went by fast because of the excellent instructors.

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## District Directory

Our District Directory is posted in the Member Area of our District website: [www.amoptimists.org](http://www.amoptimists.org) . For access, Select Member Area on the home page to reach the login page where you will be prompted to choose a user name and password to gain access. Once your registration has been accepted, you will be notified by the District webmaster.

The current AL-MS District Directory, Rev A, dated 20 Oct 17 is being updated and it is requested that each addressee review and verify your contact information. When discrepancies are noted, please provide corrections to [tom@leetsac.net](mailto:tom@leetsac.net) not later than Nov 9, 2018. The chairpersons are listed on pages 7-9 and the club officers are on pages 10-23.

## Optimists in Action



**The Shoals Optimist Club** has used the Flag Program as a fund raiser for several years. It proudly provides residents with a display of our American Flag for 5 Holidays during the year. Members of the Muscle Shoals HS JOI Club contribute their time and effort to make the Flag Program a success.

The JOI Club members receive Community Service Hour Certificates. We have an outstanding group of JOI members, several Seniors who are instrumental in leading and serving their Club and Community. The JOI members cut out and assemble 50-60 blankets annually for the patients in the Helen Keller Hospital's Children Ward. Submitted by Past Gov Gargis. **Good Job, Good Job.**



**The Growing Minds Optimist Club of the Shoals** joined with the Diamonds in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Breast Cancer Explosion event to show their respect to breast cancer survivors and to support them in raising funds for a young lady whose Mom is in chemo. The Diamonds are women who deal with providing women a platform to help other women who are going through difficult circumstances. Kathy Davis and Rochelle Vinson both breast cancer survivors were the keynote speakers.



**The Optimist Club of Huntsville** has sent out STEM grant Applications to 65 Schools in Huntsville and Madison County and sponsored the Growing Minds Optimist Club of The Shoals with eighteen members.

**The Huntsville Evening Optimist Club** has chartered two new JOI Clubs at Buckhorn Middle School and Huntsville Achievement School.

**The South Huntsville Optimist Club** held an Appreciation Banquet that recognized five teachers at Weatherly Elementary School in Huntsville.

**The Ft Payne Optimist Club** recruited new members totaling 15+ for the year.

### **Scholarship Contests**

The theme for the 2018-19 Oratorical Contest and CCDHH contest is:

**“Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?”**

The Theme for the 2018-19 Essay Contest is:

***“When All the World’s Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?”***

See the District website for more information.

### **District Newsletter**

This is your newsletter and your input is needed for its bi-monthly publication. Please send articles and photos to the Editor, Tom Howell at [rcktmanal@aol.com](mailto:rcktmanal@aol.com). Word is preferred for text and .jpg format for photos. For the next issue inputs are needed by **December 15<sup>th</sup>**.



**Roger Vaughn Receives  
Past OIF President Pin**



**Happy Halloween to all.**