

ORDER OF LaShe's
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2025
The Locale

Board Members Present:

Cindy Bishop, DD Payne, Stacey Jessee, Donna Diaz, Tracey Taylor, Kendra Isenhower, Gabby Smith, Sara McKinley, Nicolle Rayborn, Christine Bramlett, Melissa Davis

Guest Speaker 6:54p.m.

Under His Wings-Arceilia Miller:

Under His Wings has been providing a loving, Christian home for girls with trauma since 2013. Their goal is to help girls see that adversity can be changed to opportunity. They provide outreach to help them instill grit, leadership, excellence, and nobility so that they may discover their inner warrior. They are trying to open another home which will cost \$2.5 million.

Lisa Bullock and committee collected funds for Under His Wings.

Meeting Called to Order 7:03 p.m.

New Members: Introduction by Lynlee Evans

Hillary Blair	Shelby Brockman	Amber Brockwell
Eva Marie Hale	Vickie Nicholas	Lana Nichelson
Nancy "Bitsy" Pate	Katelyn Portella	Victoria Simison
Amanda Michele Smith	Rebecca Smith	Morgan L. Williams

Pledge-Kendra Isenhower

Reading of the Minutes: July 22, 2025

- Anita Knapp made a motion to dispense with the reading of July 22, 2025, minutes. Tiffany Simison seconded the motion. The majority voted in favor; two opposed; motion passed.

Officer's Reports

- **Vice President-DD Payne.**
 - Member count: 2 Founder Emeritus, 300 Active, 8 Active Non-Riding, 30 Honorary, 24 Costume Honorary and 96 Associates.
 - We will vote on 3 new members tonight and a reinstatement.
 - There are currently 19 ladies on the waiting list. DD received 2 applications at the meeting. Please encourage ladies that are friends and family to apply to become a part of our wonderful organization.
 - New members remember that we have new member orientation January 11, 2026. There will be a lot of information, and it is a fun event.
 - Rosters are posted online as well as, on the board in the back.

- DD is trying to spotlight our sisterhood and wants to celebrate one of tonight's pledges-Hillary Blair. She joins her mother, Valerie Boutries, as a sister LaShe!
- Chairman Faye Olensky asked that DD point out the Recommendations box. If you have any ideas, recommendations, concerns, please deposit them in the box.

- **Treasurer Stacey Jessee**

- Danetta was unable to be at the meeting. Stacey recognized the hard work that she and her committee put in to make the EOC successful.

The event brought in over \$47,133.00. After the expenses of \$28,175.79 the EOC profited \$18,957.21! Danetta made over \$1,50.00 more than the event last year and \$157.21 more than budgeted to make.

Stacey thanked the Committee, the Marshals and the membership for the success of the event.

- Stacey read July 2025 balances.
 - Wells Fargo Operating-Beginning Balance \$58042.04, Ending Balance \$105,055.75
 - Wells Fargo Savings- Beginning Balance \$230,702.11, Ending Balance \$230,704.07
 - MOOLs Trustmark Savings-Beginning Balance \$5,927.61, Ending Balance \$5,927.81
 - Trustmark Building Fund-Beginning Balance \$45,498.78, Ending Balance \$46,613.33
 - Trustmark Building CD-Beginning Balance \$177,068.20, Ending Balance \$177,709.97

- **Recording Secretary Donna Diaz**

- If you read your newsletter, you know that in July, 50% of our Active/ANR/FE, 40% of our Associates and 26% of our Honorary/Costume Honorary members attended our meeting. That is approximately 45% of our membership. We need your input! Please encourage our sistas to attend the meetings so that we can all participate in the decision making process of our organization.
- If you have not signed in, please do so. Signing in is the only way to get credit for attending the meetings. Check the book for the number of meetings that are recorded that you have attended. If you feel this is recorded in error, please see me so that we may get this resolved. Do not mark up the sheets as there are official records of our meetings.
- If you need to change any of your information, there are forms at the sign in table. Fill the form out and give it to Tracey so that she can update your information
- Signing in determines our quorum. Do not sign in for other members.
- And don't forget your name tags. If you are Active or ANR you will need your name tag as we are voting on three new members tonight.

- **Corresponding Secretary Tracey Taylor**

- Please update directory information and place in the binder provided.

- The directory will be updated on the website tomorrow. New Associates give your information to Lynlee so that you may be included in the Directory.
- Let Tracey know if you need to update or change any information or would like to place an ad in the newsletter.
- **Parliamentarian Kendra Isenhower**
 - Please wear your proper name tag for voting.
 - Be sure to follow proper voting procedures-place you ballot in the baskets.
 - The committee has a bylaw change that will appear in the next newsletter to be voted on in September.
- **Historian Gabby Smith**
 - No Report.
- **Board Seat 1, Parade Sara McKinley**
 - Sara has no report as she will be back later for float presentation and pick.
 - She gave a big shout out to the committee for the coming presentation.
 - There are 173 days and 23 hours until we parade!
- **Board Seat 2 Ball Nicolle Rayborn**
 - Nicolle and some of the Board members will meet with OVG tomorrow, August 19, 2025. We will meet with other organizations to discuss venue planning for the 2026 Ball.
 - Nicolle hopes to have a lot of information to share regarding our Ball.
 - If you have any ideas or input, reach out to your room Recommendations committee or send her an email.
 - Tonight is the last call for bartenders. Nicolle has only received a few. Please get them to her for submission to OVG tomorrow.
- **Board Seat 3 Ways and Means Christine Bramlett**
 - Thank you for visiting the store tonight. We have Pearl Pins and Neoprene Bags and this is your last chance to get them. We will not reorder these items.
 - Christine would like suggestions for Fall things and Ball things. She is thinking about a sweatshirt.
 - She will soon have theme posters and charms in addition to a charm bracelet.
 - There are still some Dave & Buster's play cards. Purchase tonight for \$20.00.
 - Save the date! Ways and Means will host a Sunday Funday at Top Golf on October 26, 2025 from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Flyers are on the table along with sign up sheets. Sign up your team of six.
- **Past President & Queen Melissa Davis**
 - Please make plans to attend the Queen & Emblem party hosted by Queen Melissa and Emblem Marissa Friday, August 22, 2025, at the Locale. Journey to Mars will be the entertainment for the night. Doors open and the fun begins at 6:00pm. Dress in your best boots and bling.

Committee Reports

- **PR/Special Events-Lisa Bullock**

- Thank you for supporting Fostering Together Gulf Coast last month by providing much needed book bags for those children. Room 14 collected the most backpacks and will not have to work the food at Float Review!
- This month's spotlight organization, Under His Wings, will take home \$616.00 tonight to help with the cost of building new accommodations for their girls. Thank you ladies! Lisa has more information if you would like to help out this organization.
- Lisa still has a set of keys that she found in a bag of tabs last month. If anyone is missing a set of keys, see Cindy Bishop.

- **Audit-Jan Barbato**

- The audit for the first quarter ending June 30, 2025 is complete.
- Stacey is very organized and did a wonderful job.
- Everything is accounted for and there were only a few things that the committee had questions about. She addressed them in a timely manner.

- **Float Review-Summer Frahm**

- Float Review will have a perpetual raffle fundraiser. Only 100 tickets will be sold for \$25.00 each. The committee is trying to keep the kid zone free this year. Tickets will be good for all six drawings. See Summer to purchase your tickets.

- **Recommendations-Faye Olensky**

- The committee met last night. They are bringing back the questionnaire that Kanja started last year. This will be available next month. The committee is looking forward to hearing from you!
- Please place your ideas, concerns, and comments in the Suggestion box.

- **Elections-Cassie Knorr**

- For standing votes, please stay seated unless you are voting. If you are working a committee such as Hospitality, Cassie asks that you sit down until it is time to vote.

Unfinished Business

- **Roof Committee-Kanja Weldy**

- Kanja met with the insurance adjuster. He said if we are going to replace the roof, we should file a claim. He suggested that our policy may have recoverable depreciation. Once we replace the roof, we could come back and claim more money. That would only be good if the roof had replacement cash value. Our policy does have replacement cash value. However, our policy has a clause that states if the roof is over 15 years old, it reverts to actual cash value. There is no value in that roof. There is no way to pay a deductible on it and the adjuster agreed.
- The adjuster looked at everything. He owns a roofing company and said that he will give us a fair quote. He is very responsive with very good advice. We have four bids from the previous year. We could not move forward on any of those bids because we had no way to fund the roof.
- Several of those bids were for one portion of the roof. Why only do a portion and be in this predicament later. He resubmitted his bid for the entire roof. We thought that we would eliminate the skylights as they were a major source of the leaks in the roof. He said that they are improved and do not leak as previous skylights. He suggested not eliminating them for the benefits they provide including natural lights, etc. His quote was \$115,500.00.

- **Vickie Turner**-Kanja has done a lot of work on this and she has knowledge, if she suggests we use this contractor.
 - Vickie Turner made a motion that we go with this contractor. Anita Knapp seconded the motion. Cindy called for any discussion.
- **Question** was asked the name of the contractor. Cindy stated that it is Wade Roofing and Construction. He is licensed and bonded. He just completed Ft. Whiting's roof.
- **Joni Carter**-Stated that she is an adjuster and what he is doing is illegal. He cannot be an adjuster and give us a quote on a roof. Kanja said that he wasn't our insurance adjuster. He is a private adjuster that we asked to look at the roof. We never made a claim-we were trying to determine if we should make a claim. Joni said that was not clear and asked if we made a claim. Cindy confirmed that we had not. Cindy said that the reason that we chose not to make a claim is that we have a deductible that would cost more than what money we would get back coupled with the 15 year clause.
- **Renee Murdo**-Is the demolition that they are going to do, if we go with them, include removal of the material that they take down? Kanja said he will dispose of all material. However, we do have a member that buys metal scrap. He will either haul it away or if that company will buy it, he will let us keep it and sell it to them.
- **Brenda McDonald**-The question is, how are we going to pay for it? Are we going to talk about that before we vote on it? Kanja said no. We are going to vote on this roofer or someone else. We will not hire them until we figure out the funding. That is our next topic of discussion.
- **Cindy** asked for any more discussion (three times). The following motion was voted on by standing vote:
 - Vickie Turner made a motion that we hire Wade Roofing and Contracting to replace the roof on the Float Barn. Anita Knapp seconded the motion. 125 in favor; 0 against; 5 abstained; motion passed.
- Funding Roof (See handout provided by Kanja Weldy)
 - **Building Fund**-With Building Savings, CD, Additional funds allocated monthly through November 2025 and CD earnings, we should have \$231,823.10 available for use. After paying \$120,000.00, we will have a balance of \$111,823.10.

Adding the \$1,000.00 monthly allocation, in five years we could have \$198,000.00
 - **Loan**-Using Building CD as collateral, take out a five year loan of \$120,000.00. The monthly allotment to the building fund would no longer be deposited into the building fund but will help pay the monthly note of approximately \$2,320.00. We would have a short fall of \$84,000.00 that will have to be made up by members during the life of the loan. The Building Fund would have approximately \$279,829.00 at the end of five years.
 - Laura Bethea made a motion to take out a loan using the Building Fund CD as collateral to fund replacement of the roof on the Float Barn. Les Simison seconded the motion. Cindy asked for discussion.
 - **Kim Skipper**-Why can't we take the money out of savings, then when the CD matures, we put it back in our savings? What is the savings account for?

Cindy explained that we use our savings to help balance our budget/pay any short falls throughout the year.

- **Ashley Adams**-What is the deficient every year that we would have to assess members to come up with the money? Kanja stated \$1320.00 per month is \$84,000.00.

Ashley is concerned that members must vote on assessments. She is not confident that our members will vote on that as needed every year. If interest rates drop, our CD rate is going to drop also. That may make that deficit go up every year. Cindy stated that the CD is a five year fixed rate.

Kanja confirmed that there will be the need for an assessment, or dues increase to fund this. Cindy stated that the assessment would need to be about \$37.00 per person for five years.

- **Brenda McDonald**-We should have the income first. We should vote on the assessment first. Cindy stated that we currently have a motion on the floor and we must discuss that at this time. Kanja said that until we are ready to take out the loan, we don't have to collect money.
- **Meg Westbrook**-Can we do a roof assessment for the five years so that it is set? Cindy confirmed that we can do that.
- Laura Bethea amended her motion:
- Laura Bethea made a motion to take out a loan using the Building Fund CD as collateral to fund replacement of the roof on the Float Barn. In addition, each member will be assessed \$37.00 per year over the term of the five year loan. Les Simison seconded the motion. Cindy asked for any other discussion.
- **Prudence Meador**-Is the \$37.00 an accurate figure to cover the loan? Cindy confirmed that yes, this would cover the payment of the loan without collecting any additional funds. Prudence stated that she does not feel that we will get a building and that we use the money. Cindy reminded her that we did try that last month and it did not pass.
- **Robin Brown**-Does the assessment include all members-even honorary? Yes.
- **Laura Bethea**-She believes that we will see a building we can purchase. But we must take care of the building we do have to protect our floats or the assessment for that will be much higher.
- Discussion ended. Call for vote: Laura Bethea made a motion to take out a loan using the Building Fund CD as collateral to fund replacement of the roof on the Float Barn. In addition, each member will be assessed \$37.00 per year over the term of the five year loan. Les Simison seconded the motion. 75 in favor; 37 opposed; 9 abstained; motion passed.

- Cindy asked for any unfinished business (three times). No unfinished business.

Break 8:05p.m.

Call to order 8:14p.m.

New Business

Cindy announced that Gabby has the table set up with photos from 2007 to 2010 for everyone to view.

Reinstatement

- **Thell Patrones**-Cindy read her reinstatement letter.
 - **Les Simison**-Did she resign in good standing at the annual meeting? Cindy explained that she missed a payment but paid before she was placed on the Blacklist. Les stated that she has been problematic since she joined the organization.
 - **Ashley Gillespie**-She was float captain of Float J. She did not pay her float fees, didn't show up to float load and Ashley does not feel that she is a good fit for our organization.
 - **Tiffany Simison**-Agrees with the other ladies. She caused problems at layaway pick up. She had a very bad attitude with invitations and nearly hit me with her car at layaway pick up.
 - **Linda O'Bryan**-Her first year she caused problems on my float.
 - **Jettie Presley**-I benefited by her getting out of the organization-got to rider- but she has not been a good sister.
 - **Cindy Bishop** verified witnessing her behavior with Ashley
 - **Laura Bethea** made a motion to call for the vote to reinstate Thell Patrones. Ashely Gillespie seconded the motion. O in favor; several against; motion failed. Thell Patrones was not reinstated.
- **New Members vote**-Ballots distributed, and members voted.

Break 8:26p.m.

Call to order 8:54p.m.

- **Parade Presentation**
- **Float Pick-Line Up**
 - Float D History
 - Float J New York
 - Float L Marquee
 - Float M Breakfast at Tiffany's
 - Float E Queens of the Night
 - Float H (21) Let Them
 - Float B Dripping In Diamonds
 - Float C Pin Ups and Pearls
 - Float K Retail Therapy
 - Float F Dolly
 - Float I People's Princess
 - Float A Not Just Skin Deep
 - Float N First Lady
 - Float G (21) Burlesque

- **Prayer for Vickie Turner** (she was ill during the meeting)
- **Voting results:**
 - **New Members:** There are 3 new members. The new members are:
Rachel Dyar Sarah Naramore Hanna Eddins
- **Room Announcements**
 - No Room Announcements

Lynlee Evans made a motion to adjourn. Ashley Gillespie seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Diaz
OOL Recording Secretary

Last meeting, we discussed several options to fund our roof replacement. We are assuming a cost of \$120,000.00 for the roof replacement. We eliminated the following choices:

1. Assessment Only - Amount per member exceeds max allowed, must be voted and is not favored
2. Mortgage loan – Significant interest costs, lengthy loan process, high payment, unknown variables.
3. Spend our Savings – We will not have enough savings at the end of the year to fund.
4. Insurance Claim (Due to ACV clause)

The (2) options that remain are:

A. Use the building fund:

Building Savings Balance 7/31/25:	\$46,613.33
CD Balance:	\$177,709.77
Budgeted to the fund monthly Aug- November:	\$4,000.00
Approximate CD earnings @ maturity 11/16:	\$3,500.00 (4.5% yield)
	\$231,823.10 in fund
Roof payment:	-(\$120,000.00)
Remaining balance:	\$111,823.10

Investing this money and with the current \$1000 monthly allocation, we could grow the fund to about \$198,000.00 at the end of 5 years.

B. Use our money and take a CD Loan:

Upon maturity of the existing CD and in order to pay the roofing contractor, we will open a CD for the amount needed to pay for the roof. Assuming we take out a \$120,000.00 loan, we will make Monthly payments on the loan while still earning on the CD. After careful consideration of a loan term of 3 years, 5 years and 10 years – a 5-year (60 month term) seems our best choice:

CD to be used as collateral:

5 years – Earnings approx. @ 6%:	\$24,500.00 (Loan rate is 2% above CD earnings rate)
Loan against CD:	\$120,000.00
Interest Paid on loan:	\$19,196.17
Interest Earned on CD:	24,500.00
Payment:	\$2,320.00

At the end of the 5 years, we would have approximately \$279,829.00 in the Building Fund. Keep in mind that \$84,000.00 of the monthly payment will have been subsidized by the membership making the net \$195,829.00 so the difference between the (2) choices is only \$3-4k.

See Pro's and Con's on reverse:

Pro's and Con's of spending our money:

Pro's:

- We will still have \$111,823.00 after payment
- We will still put \$1,000.00 each month into the fund per our budget
- We will not have a payment, assessment, or interest. We will not have debt.
- We will earn interest on this money if invested and as it grows, interest grows.

Con's:

- We spend the money and reduce our liquid asset
 - Unless we contribute more to the building fund, we will end the 5 year term with only approximately \$198k after investments.
-

Pro's and Con's of a CD loan:

Pro's

- We still have all our money
- We will still have \$111,823.00 not tied up in the collateral CD and can invest that money in high yield savings or 1-year term CD's to maximize earnings.
- We are offsetting all loan interest costs by using our own money to get a favorable rate and continued earnings on the CD.
- We will end the 5 year term with approximately \$279k in the Building Fund

Con's

- Our money is tied up as collateral and cannot be used until the loan is paid in full and/or the CD matures. If we try to cash out early – we lose our earnings and possibly pay an early termination penalty on the CD
- We will have debt. We will pay interest and monthly payments.
- We will no longer put \$1,000 each month into the fund. It will instead be allocated to the payment of the loan.
- The loan payment is greater than the \$1,000 currently expensed in our budget. We will need to pay an additional \$1,320.00 per month towards the loan (\$16,860.00 annually). This is equal to \$36.00 per member if we need to assess for the difference.