

**ORDER OF LaShe's
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2025
The Locale**

Board Members Present:

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

Meeting Called to Order 7:04p.m.

New Member: Christy Potts
Introduction by Lynlee Evans

Pledge-Kendra Isenhower

Reading of the Minutes: April 16, 2025

- Michelle Simison made a motion to dispense with the reading of April 16, 2025, minutes. Anita Knapp seconded the motion. The majority voted in favor; one opposed; motion passed.

Officer's Reports

- **Vice President Cindy Bishop**
 - Member count: 2 Founder Emeritus, 300 Active, 8 Active Non-Riding, 30 Honorary, 24 Costume Honorary and 63 Associates.
 - There are currently 71 ladies on the waiting list.
 - Tonight, we will vote on thirty-seven members.
 - Tonight, is the only night that you may submit an application for Marshals
- **Treasurer Stacey Jessee**
 - It's a dues month-do not forget to pay your dues at the finance table.
 - You may scan the barcode to pay your dues. There is one at the finance table and one at the sign in table.
 - See Danetta for your EOC Tickets
 - Read April 2025 balances.
 - Wells Fargo Operating-Beginning Balance \$52214.91, Ending Balance \$\$34372.65
 - Wells Fargo Savings- Beginning Balance \$150,697.83, Ending Balance \$180,699.07
 - MOOL Savings-Beginning Balance \$5,927.02, Ending Balance \$5,927.22
 - Trustmark Building Fund-Beginning Balance \$42,283.06, Ending Balance \$43,343.39
 - Trustmark Building CD-Beginning Balance \$175,185.92, Ending Balance \$175,770.41

- **Recording Secretary Donna Diaz**
 - No report but please remember to sign in and do not forget your name tags.
 - Please remember only to sign in for yourself. Do not sign in another member.
- **Corresponding Secretary Tracey Taylor**
 - Please check the directory at the sign-in table and on the website. There are forms in the binder for you if you need to update anything. Or email information to Tracey
 - Tracey hopes that you enjoyed the updated newsletter. Contact her with feedback regarding the newsletter and the website. Do not forget to check out the new “Quicklists” for Room Officers, Fundraisers and Chairmen.
 - Tracey read two thank you cards from Julie Johnson and Donna Tew.
- **Parliamentarian Kendra Isenhower**
 - We will be voting tonight. Be mindful of the voting procedures. Have your correct name tag on, stand (when prompted), and place your ballot in a bin. Do not allow anyone to take your ballot. Kendra will return shortly the bylaws vote.
- **Historian Gabby Smith**
 - Gabby would like everyone to take a trip down memory lane. The table to the right of the stage is set up with pictures from 1991-1994.
- **Board Seat 1, Parade Sara McKinley**
 - Our new Float Builder has begun teardown in the barn. Sketches are being drafted by the Artist.
 - If you have any suggestions for our parade-fillers, especially local vendors, bands, etc., please let Sara know.
 - As of now, the Parading Society has no new information regarding route changes. As soon as Sara receives any new information, she will pass it on to the membership.
- **Board Seat 2 Ball Nicolle Rayborn**
 - Nicolle met with OVG to go over what went right and wrong at our Ball this past season. OVG recognizes that several things could have been handled differently. Nicolle feels confident that changes for the better will occur this year. No date has been set yet with them to discuss the coming year. Nicolle will keep everyone posted.
 - The Ball Committee has been working hard. The subgroup tasked with band research is making plans the view some in person. If you have any suggestions, please send them to me.
 - Stay tuned for the theme reveal a little later.
- **Board Seat 3 Ways and Means Christine Bramlett**
 - Christine is pleased to see the many Ways and Means packages sitting at the tables tonight.
 - There are new items available -earrings, headbands, license plate frames and the backpack coolers that do not leak (please let her know if you find otherwise).
 - Fundraisers for this year will be Dave and Busters play cards and a Top Golf Sunday Funday in October. More details to come.
 - Christine shared her thanks to her committee for their tireless efforts and support.

- **Queen Melissa Davis**
 - No Report

Committee Reports

- **New Members Lynlee Evans**
 - Lynlee is asking for volunteers to be a big sister LaShe's. Please contact her.
- **EOC Danetta Bean**
 - The committee is working hard to plan a fun event.
 - The committee is selling raffle tickets for an EOC ticket to be drawn at the July meeting.
 - See your room rep for your EOC tickets.
- **Layaway Haley Clough**
 - Haley contacted seventeen vendors for quotes. Tariffs are still an issue as many do not have definitive pricing yet.
 - Layaway orders are due in June and July. There will be no orders taken after the July date.
 - Layaway is offering an incentive. Orders of \$500.00 or more paid in full will get a set of Ball tickets.
- **Audit (2024-24) Patsy Ownby**
 - This is 4th Quarter audit-the last for the 2024-25 season. It took a little longer than anticipated due to acquiring paperwork.
 - Deposits were made on time.
 - Deposit slips and checks were verified.
 - Patsy still needs backup/details for a cash deposit.
 - Bank accounts are balanced.
 - Contracts-needed signatures on contracts. Some were done through email only. If a contract cannot be provided, then the LaShe's should provide one to protect our organization.
 - Patsy still needs a copy of one contract.
 - The audit is not complete, and Patsy will give her final report at the June meeting.
 - Patsy thanked her committee, Waneva Ivy and Danetta Bean, her Board Rep Queen Melissa and Past Treasurer Cindy.
- **Costumes Marissa McManus**
 - Marissa thanked the organization for getting measured before the meeting allowing us to be one step closer to costume reveal.
 - Marissa reminded everyone to please DO NOT contact the costumer directly. If you have any issues, reach out to her directly and she will make sure that it is resolved.
 - Associates will be measured at the June meeting from 5:00 to 6:30pm on June 18, 2025, at the Locale.

- **PR/Special Events**

- For the month of May, OOL spotlights infertility and supporting the Center for Reproductive Medicine. The Center has been servicing the Gulf Coast for over thirty years to include emotional support and counseling. Part of this care is to provide comfort baskets to patients. The Center will provide us with a list of items they would like donated for the baskets. Lisa will create an Amazon wish list and provide a link on the Facebook page for member donations.
- We are still collecting tabs for the Ronald McDonald house this year. These tabs bring in approx. \$5,000.00 for the Ronald McDonald House each year. There will be jars at each table each month and at Hospitality for collecting tabs. Don't forget to bring those from home as well.

Unfinished Business

- The Board continues to investigate venues while considering consistency, budget and our ability to have our Hospitality and Way and Means set up. The June General meeting will again be at the Locale on June 18, 2025. We hope to be able to present the calendar for the rest of the year by June.
- Bienville Costumes was awarded the Active, ANR and Costume Honorary costumes. Aryn Carr was awarded the Associate costumes. Please remember that all communication with our costumers should be through Costume Chairman Marissa.
- We have a new Float Builder. Mythic Float Works, LLC will be working with Sara, Queen Melissa and the Parade committee to bring our theme to life.
- Jamie asked if there was any more unfinished business (three times).

New Business

- Jamie announced the addition of two Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs
 - Recommendations – Fay Olensky
 - Roof Repair/Replacement Kanja Weldy
- Bylaw Voting Commenced with Kendra presenting.
 - Election Committee passed out Ballots for new applicants. Membership voted.
 - Kendra stated that we would vote on Bylaws.

Faye Olensky made a motion to read only the proposed changes on the ballots. Motion seconded by Robin Brown. All in favor; motion passed.

- **PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT #1**

ARTICLE VI – STANDING COMMITTEES

Current

Section 6. The Costume Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, the Chairperson appointed by the President and six (6) Float Captains whose names shall be randomly drawn at the first General Meeting after the Annual Meeting. The committee shall work closely with the Queen, the Ball Chairperson, and the Costume Vendor. (9-14-94) (12-12-02) (09-20-18)

Change

Section 6. The Costume Committee shall consist of ~~seven (7) members,~~ Float Captains of each lettered

float and the Committee Chair float. The Chairperson will be appointed by the President and six (6) Float Captains whose names shall be randomly drawn at the first General Meeting after the Annual Meeting. The committee shall work closely with the Queen, the Ball Chairperson, and the Costume Vendor. (9-14-94) (12-12-02) (09-20-18)

Reason

Each float should have representation on the costume committee and participate in decision-making as well as the process of fittings, sorting, and distribution of costumes.

Jamie called for Discussion (three times):

- No discussion

Membership voted - Election committee collected ballots.

- **PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT #2**

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Current

Section 22. The Executive Board may elect to procure additional floats during special Anniversary years (25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, etc.), to allow Active (Non- Riding), Honorary, Costume Honorary, and/or Associate members to participate in the Annual Parade. If the Active (Non-Riding), Honorary, Costume Honorary, and/or Associate member elects to ride, she must notify the President by the announced cut-off date. Once the President has been informed, she will notify the Float Captain and Costume Chairpersons. The riding member will be responsible for paying additional organization and room dues equivalent to Active dues. The member must also abide by all deadlines and fines related to Ball, Rehearsal, Costume Measurement and Costume Fitting. The member will be assigned to said float(s) in order of request. Unless otherwise stated, float ride selection for special riders will be by float seniority followed by organization seniority. The member's status does not change, and she does not receive any rights or privileges other than parading rights for the Anniversary year. (6-20-13)

Change

Section 22. The Executive Board may elect to procure additional floats during special Anniversary years (25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, etc.), to allow Active (Non- Riding), Honorary, Costume Honorary, and/or Associate members to participate in the Annual Parade. If the Active (Non-Riding), Honorary, Costume Honorary, and/or Associate member elects to ride, she must notify the President by the announced cut-off date. Once the President has been informed, she will notify the Float Captain and Costume Chairpersons. The riding member will be responsible for paying additional organization and room dues equivalent to Active dues. The member must also abide by all deadlines and fines related to Ball, Rehearsal, Costume Measurement and Costume Fitting. The member will be assigned to said float(s) in order of request. Unless otherwise stated, float ride selection for special riders will be by float seniority followed by organization seniority. The member's status does not change, and she does not receive any rights or privileges other than parading rights for the Anniversary year. (6-20-13)

Reason

This change allows for floats to be rented for any year. If an additional float (s) is procured, more members would be given the chance to ride. Increased dues for temporary rider fees can help cover the cost of floats and add additional revenue for the organization. This would also increase member participation with Layaway and Ways & Means. This change does not mean that a float (s) will be rented every year but allows the organization more flexibility to rent a float (s).

If passed, the following bylaws will conform to correspond with this change:

Sections: 11G, 19G, 20F and 23.

Jamie called for discussion:

- **Danetta Bean:** At the top, we are taking out Special Anniversary year. We are leaving Special Anniversary year at the bottom.
- **Linda O'Bryan:** Does not agree with this. We just did this and the next year we were advised we were broke. We should only do this if we have the funds.
- **Laura Bethea:** Does not agree with this. If you put 21 riders on a float, the Associates pay \$50.00 temp rider fee. Which is \$1100.00. We rent ours for \$1000.00 dollars. It's not quite covering the cost of the float. If we are going to rent floats, then the Associates should be moved to Active and be allowed to vote on things.
- **Lisa Bullock:** When we rented the floats, we paid \$450.00 and additional fees covered that. High school bands are over \$1000.00. We would come out ahead financially if we rented a float.
- **Lynn Pryor:** Question-if we are only renting for anniversary years, why would we need to rent floats?
- **Wendy Howell:** This will change rentals to more than just special occasions. This would be great to allow those that have been waiting years to ride. The money will come with the riders. I believe after so long in membership, the Associates should be allowed to vote.
- **Jamie** answered the question-she doesn't think there must be a special occasion, members would be allowed to ride if it is decided to do so.
- **Gracie Overmyer:** Wanted to know why we do this every five years. Why can't we just do this every ten years? Gracie feels that this is too much.
- **Kendra** stated that the bylaw currently does not specify every 5 years or 10 years, just that it could be a special anniversary year.
- **Tyger Bullock:** By having fillers, we are supporting our kids, especially in the arts, and the community. The more floats you add, the less fillers you have as you are only allowed 36 units in a parade.
- **Suzanne Miller:** Question-how many units are in parade? 36 units. How many of those were high school bands? Her point was, we don't necessarily need to lose a band, it could be another filler. We do not need to kick the kids out to add floats.

Jamie called for more discussion (three times)

Membership voted - Election committee collected ballots.

○ **PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT #3**

ARTICLE XI – FINANCE

Current

Section 1. Annual dues for Active/Active Non-Riding members shall not exceed \$550.00 and will include one (1) costume, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; parading rights (Active), voting rights, and a number of Ball invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. (10-17-91) (12-14-95) (3-15-01) (1-21-10) (6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-18-23) (5-16-24)

Annual dues for Associate members shall not exceed \$500.00 and will include one set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; one (1) Associate Costume and a number of Ball Invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. (10-17-91) (12-14-95) (3-15-01) (1-21-10) (6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-18-23)

Annual dues for Costume Honorary members shall be \$275.00 payable \$137.50 by the May general membership meeting and \$137.50 by the July general membership meeting. Upon request, a Costume Honorary member will receive one (1) set of Spring Event invitations, if held; and one (1) set of Fall or Winter Event invitations, if held. Costume Honorary members will be required to participate in the Annual Ball; she will be provided a call out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation. (12-11-08)(6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-16-24)

Annual dues for Honorary members shall not exceed the cost of a set of Annual Ball invitations and will include, upon the members request, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; and one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; as well as an Honorary call-out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation should she desire to participate in the Annual Ball. (3-15-01) (6-20-02) (6-21-12)

Section 2. Annual Active/Active Non-Riding and Associates dues can be paid in full by the May monthly meeting or in installments to be paid as follows: (5-18-17) (5-18-23) (7-20-23) (5-16-24)

	Active/Active Non-Riding	Associates
May General Meeting	\$137.50	\$125.00
July General Meeting	\$137.50	\$125.00
September General Meeting	\$137.50	\$125.00
November General Meeting	\$137.50	\$125.00

Honorary dues are due in full by the May meeting. (6-20-02)

Proposed

Section 1. Annual dues for Active/Active Non-Riding members shall not exceed **\$800.00** and will include one (1) costume, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; parading rights (Active), voting rights, and a number of Ball invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. (10-17-91) (12-14-95) (3-15-01) (1-21-10) (6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-18-23) (5-16-24)

Annual dues for Associate members shall not exceed **\$650.00** and will include one set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; one (1) Associate Costume and a number of Ball Invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. (10-17-91) (12-14-95) (3-15-01) (1-21-10) (6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-18-23)

Annual dues for Costume Honorary members shall be **\$280.00** payable **\$140.00**, by the May general membership meeting and **\$140.00** by the July general membership meeting. Upon request, a Costume Honorary member will receive one (1) set of Spring Event invitations, if held; and one (1) set of Fall or Winter Event invitations, if held. Costume Honorary members will be required to participate in the Annual Ball; she will be provided a call out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation. (12-11-08)(6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-16-24)

~~Annual dues for~~ Honorary members shall not pay dues unless a set of invitations is requested. The request for a set of invitations must be submitted no later than the December General meeting and payment is due when requested. Honorary Members requesting a set of invitations shall receive an Honorary call-out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation. Upon the members request, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; and one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held, will be issued.

Section 2. Annual Active/Active Non-Riding and Associates dues can be paid in full by the May monthly meeting or in installments to be paid as follows: (5-18-17) (5-18-23) (7-20-23) (5-16-24)

	Active/Active Non-Riding	Associates
May General Meeting	\$200.00	\$162.50
July General Meeting	\$200.00	\$162.50
September General Meeting	\$200.00	\$162.50
November General Meeting	\$200.00	\$165.50

~~Honorary dues are due in full by the May meeting. (6-20-02)~~

ARTICLE XI – FINANCE

Current

Section 9. All financial obligations are to be paid to the Finance Committee, this includes membership dues, assessments, purchase of pins, cups, coins, event invitations, etc., and any fundraisers. Only room dues (that are paid to the room) and donations to the monthly bar are exempted. (10-17-91) (12-15-05)

Proposed Change

Section 9. All financial obligations are to be paid to the Finance Committee, this includes membership dues, assessments, purchase of pins, cups, coins, event invitations, etc., and any fundraisers. **Only room dues (that are paid to the room)** and donations to the monthly bar are exempted. (10-17-91) (12-15-05)

ARTICLE XI – FINANCE

Current

Section 12. All delinquent monetary obligations owed to the organization, which includes monetary obligations owed to rooms, must be paid by December 31st of each year. This includes all special orders, layaway, float fund, fines, and late fees. Members will be notified of the amount owed ten (10) days prior to the cutoff date. Any member who fails to pay her Monetary obligations by December 31st will be charged a \$50.00 fine. The fine will be distributed as follows:

If the entire balance is due to the organization, the organization receives the entire fine; If the balance is due both to the organization and to the room; the fine is equally divided between the organization and the room; If the balance is only room related, the entire fine is distributed to the room. The balance owed the organization and the \$50.00 fine must be paid by Float Load Day or the member will not be allowed to load the float and will be removed from the roster without further notice. Costume, invitations, ribbons, and layaway merchandise will not be distributed until all monetary obligations and the fine are paid in full. No exceptions. (12-10-98) (11-12-00) (3-15-01) (5-15-07) (4-21-11) (7-18-19)

Proposed

Section 12. All delinquent monetary obligations owed to the organization, **which includes monetary obligations owed to rooms**, must be paid by December 31st of each year. This includes all special orders, layaway, float fund, fines, and late fees. Members will be notified of the amount owed ten (10) days prior to the cutoff date. Any member who fails to pay her Monetary obligations by December 31st will be charged a \$50.00 fine. **The fine will be distributed as follows:**

If the entire balance is due to the organization, the organization receives the entire fine; If the balance is due both to the organization and to the room; the fine is equally divided between the organization and the room; If the balance is only room related, the entire fine is distributed to the room. The balance owed the organization and the \$50.00 fine must be paid by Float Load Day or the member will not be allowed to load the float and will be removed from the roster without further notice. Costume, invitations, ribbons, and layaway merchandise will not be distributed until all monetary obligations and the fine are paid in full. No exceptions. (12-10-98) (11-12-00) (3-15-01) (5-15-07) (4-21-11) (7-18-19)

New

ARTICLE XI – FINANCE

Section 14. Fifty dollars (\$50.00) of the annual Active/Active Non-Riding/Associate dues will be allocated towards a Parlor fee. The Parlor fee includes any drinks or food served at all meetings, new member orientation, float load, and rehearsal. Any Honorary/Costume Honorary member that chooses to be involved in these functions will have the option to purchase the Parlor rights. The Treasurer will provide the member with a Parlor card to present to Hospitality.

Reason:

This does not increase the Annual Dues but adds a benefit included with the dues. The practice of a “donation” is skirting the rule of not selling alcohol and could lead us into trouble. It is known that roughly 20% of members fully support all our endeavors. The parlor fee is inclusive of all members to ensure they share the burden of funding the organization. This allocated roughly \$20000.00 as income to hospitality with an estimated slight increase in expenses.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Current

Section 11.

D. Honorary members shall be able to request room transfers via the room transfer form and enjoy full privileges as defined by the room members. Honorary members will not be considered in the number of Active, Active (Non-Riding), and Associate members assigned to the rooms. Therefore, the Honorary members' dues, if any, shall be set by each room but cannot exceed those paid by other members. (8-20-98) (11-15-18) (11-17-22)

Proposed Change

Section 11.

D. Honorary members shall be able to request room transfers via the room transfer form and enjoy full privileges as defined by the room members. Honorary members will not be considered in the number of Active, Active (Non-Riding), and Associate members assigned to the rooms. ~~Therefore, the Honorary members' dues, if any, shall be set by each room but cannot exceed those paid by other members.~~ (8-20-98) (11-15-18) (11-17-22)

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Current

Section 20.

D. Costume Honorary members shall be able to request room transfers via the room transfer form and enjoy full privileges as defined by the room member. Costume Honorary members will not be considered in the number of Active, Active Non-riding and Associate members assigned to the rooms. Therefore, the Costume Honorary members' dues, if any, shall be set by each room but cannot exceed those paid by other members.(11-15-18) (11-17-22)

Proposed Change

D. Costume Honorary members shall be able to request room transfers via the room transfer form and enjoy full privileges as defined by the room member. Costume Honorary members will not be considered in the number of Active, Active Non-riding and Associate members assigned to the

rooms. Therefore, the Costume Honorary members' dues, if any, shall be set by each room but cannot exceed those paid by other members. (11-15-18) (11-17-22)

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Current

Section 21. Founder Emeritus members are granted gratuitous lifetime membership and shall receive the same membership privileges as Active Members. Founder Emeritus members shall DECLARE in writing their RIDING status at the Annual meeting each year. Founder Emeritus members shall pay one-half of the room dues. (6-20-13)

Proposed Change

Section 21. Founder Emeritus members are granted gratuitous lifetime membership and shall receive the same membership privileges as Active Members. Founder Emeritus members shall DECLARE in writing their RIDING status at the Annual meeting each year. ~~Founder Emeritus members shall pay one-half of the room dues.~~ (6-20-13)

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Current

Section 22. The Executive Board may elect to procure additional floats during special Anniversary years (25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, etc.), to allow Active (Non- Riding), Honorary, Costume Honorary, and/or Associate members to participate in the Annual Parade. If the Active (Non-Riding), Honorary, Costume Honorary, and/or Associate member elects to ride, she must notify the President by the announced cut-off date. Once the President has been informed, she will notify the Float Captain and Costume Chairpersons. The riding member will be responsible for paying additional organization and room dues equivalent to Active dues. The member must also abide by all deadlines and fines related to Ball, Rehearsal, Costume Measurement and Costume Fitting. The member will be assigned to said float(s) in order of request. Unless otherwise stated, float ride selection for special riders will be by float seniority followed by organization seniority. The member's status does not change and she does not receive any rights or privileges other than parading rights for the Anniversary year. (6-20-13)

Proposed Change

Section 22. The Executive Board may elect to procure additional floats during special Anniversary years (25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, etc.), to allow Active (Non- Riding), Honorary, Costume Honorary, and/or Associate members to participate in the Annual Parade. If the Active (Non-Riding), Honorary, Costume Honorary, and/or Associate member elects to ride, she must notify the President by the announced cut-off date. Once the President has been informed, she will notify the Float Captain and Costume Chairpersons. The riding member will be responsible for paying additional organization ~~and room~~ dues equivalent to Active dues. The member must also abide by all deadlines and fines related to Ball, Rehearsal, Costume Measurement and Costume Fitting. The member will be assigned to said float(s) in order of request. Unless otherwise stated, float ride selection for special riders will be by float seniority followed by organization seniority. The member's status does not change and she does not receive any rights or privileges other than parading rights for the Anniversary year. (6-20-13)

Standing Rules for Rooms and Floats

Current

~~1. Room dues are to be set by majority vote of room members present at the first room meeting following the OOL Annual Meeting; however, they shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per year. (10-21-04) (11-15-07) (9-20-12)~~

Proposed Change

2. Rooms shall be allowed to hold fund raisers (number set by the Executive Board) to meet the needs of functions held by the room if they so choose (Example-room Queen and Emblem parties). The maximum number of rooms members are determined periodically by the Executive Board.

~~12. Room dues paid or owed by the member to her given room shall be transferred with the member at the time of her transfer. Any room transfer granted less than ninety (90) days prior to the Ball, shall result in a forfeiture of room dues transferred. (1-15-99) (6-16-05) (11-15-07)~~

Reason:

We all know that prices of goods and services is not going down. The Convention Center is already wanting to go up on prices. Going forward our ball venues will not have rooms as we have had in the past, even when the new Civic Center is completed. These changes eliminate the room dues and folds the historical maximum amount of \$200.00 into the organization dues. This will eliminate the payment to the room and the room having to pay the organization. This change also recognizes the long history of our Honorary members and eliminates their dues unless they request a ball invitation. The change for the Costume Honorary members reflects the most recent invitation and costume cost since they are obligated to participate in the Annual Ball per another Bylaw unless excused by the President. A larger difference in dues for Active and Associates is once again established. This increase will bring in a larger amount of dues collected last year including the assessment, thus eliminating the need for an assessment this year barring unforeseen circumstances. Our founders and members have worked hard to establish a strong organization. It is time we all invest in the future to ensure we remain this way.

Jamie called for discussion.

- **Sonya Stevens:** Is there a drink limit on the Parlor fee? There is no limit.
- **Barbara Evatt:** at the end it states that it should be voted on together. She thinks this is too much to vote on at once.
- **Laura Bethea:** We do need a dues increase but she believes that it should be voted on in January so that members can make the decision to change their status or resign from the organization in good standing for the next year. This increase may cause some to resign, and they will be blacklisted. The rooms-we can have rooms at the convention center. The Board/membership chose not to have them this past season. She thinks the rooms should be responsible for their own room dues.
- **Tyger Bullock:** First she believes that these should be voted on individually per Roberts Rules of Order. It states that all financial obligations should be paid by December 31st. Shouldn't float dues be included as well? It is hard to collect float dues right before we ride. Also, this will help with knowing if someone will be excused from riding.
- **Wendy Swain:** Question-if someone drinks too much at the meeting, leaves driving and kills someone, where is our insurance for that? How much is our insurance going to go up? It will go up once it is found out how we are doing this.
- **Lynlee Evans:** The bylaw says that we will have an increase of income \$20000.00 which looks great. But we will lose \$2400.00 in honorary fees, \$6600.00 in associate fees (their increase is only \$100.00). The net is of the proposed change will be \$6500.00. Hospitality will be less \$5000.00 if you remove the expenses and the food and drink income. So, this will only increase the income by about \$1400.00.
- **Brenda McDonald:** She agrees with Laura about doing this in January. Last year we were assessed. We need to let everyone know before our annual meeting.

- **Emily Van Hannegan:** To bring up the insurance issue, it could be an issue under the Dram Shop laws if we have a parlor fee. What is more concerning is that if we are skirting the law as to the providing of alcohol by using donations, will there be an exclusion in our policy engaging in unlawful conduct that caused the incident. That could be a big issue with the insurance companies now, especially with the policy limits. I don't have the answer, but I am concerned. What does our insurance policy cover? Jamie stated that we will have to investigate that. Ashley Adams spoke up that we have Host insurance to cover that as we give the alcohol away.
- **Ashley Adams:** Our insurance says host-we give it away. We don't give it away we are selling it. Our tickets say \$5.00 for a bucket of beer. If the ABC Board walks in here, they shut us down. We lose our Charter. Most organizations have a parlor fee built into their dues. The bylaw does not say a \$20000.00 increase for hospitality. It would make their income roughly \$20,000.00. Last year it was roughly \$20000.00. Only \$9000.00 was alcohol and food. The rest were fundraisers. It just moves the money around. Some of those fundraisers are taking away from Ways & Means. There must be a starting point to get the money that we need.
- **Lynn Pryor:** Last year my dues were \$550.00, I was assessed \$150.00 and my room dues were \$150.00. So last year it was \$850.00 out of my pocket it was \$850.00. I'm saving myself \$50.00 if I vote yes on this thing.
- **Sonya Stevens:** Why do the Associates only have a \$150.00 difference, and the Active have a \$250.00 difference? You would have to ask the authors of this bylaw. It was not submitted by the board.
- **Jennifer Sharitt:** As an Associate, when you get moved up to ride, you have to pay the fee. It is not like we are not paying.
- **Laura Bethea:** I agree with the parlor fee; I agree with the dues increase. I do not agree with this being voted on all at once. I do not agree with it taking effect now and people will be getting out and being blacklisted because they cannot afford to pay. The bylaws say if you cannot pay your dues and you get out you are blacklisted. We need to spend within our budget.
- **Mariss McManus:** Just want to follow up on what Laura was saying about getting out now and being blacklisted. If you get out now, you can take care of your financial obligations, get out in good standing and you will not be blacklisted. The reason why you get blacklisted is if you get out and don't pay your financial obligations. Jamie said you can write a letter to the board if it is due to financial hardship. Typically, you would have to be up to date with dues, but the Board can allow it.
- **Jennifer Sharitt:** Communication is key. Communicate with the board. Don't just get out and not pay. Work with the board.
- **Gayle Bishop:** Tonight was our first dues night. We have three more payments. If this passes, we can budget for the next three and we only owe a little bit more for this one.
- **Linda Hiltz:** Why can't vote on these as separate issues? Jamie stated that this is how it was presented to us.

Les Simison made a motion to close the discussion of this Bylaw. Suzanne Miller seconded the motion. The majority were in favor, one opposed; motion passed.

Discussion closed.

Membership voted - Election committee collected ballots.

- **PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT #4**

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Current

Section 4. Applications for membership are to be presented to the Vice-President, on the appropriate OOL application form with the non-refundable fee and signed by two (2) members in good standing. The Vice-President will record the date and time the application is received and place the applicants name on a prospective member list in the order their application was recorded. The Vice President will then turn the application over to the President to deliver to the Secret Committee. Those favorable from the Secret Committee are returned to the President for Board Review and if the Board passes on them, they are eligible to be presented to the organization. When an opening(s) exists, eligible ladies shall be brought forward from the Prospective member list in the order in which they were recorded and presented to the organization membership at a General Meeting and voted on by secret ballot. Five (5) negative votes automatically exclude a candidate. If a candidate receives four (4) negative votes, an investigation by the President is in order. Members so voting must appear before the President within one week (7 days) to explain reason for negative vote or the candidate will be accepted into the organization. The rejected persons shall not be presented for membership more than three (3) times. Any applicant rejected (3) times shall be debarred as candidates. (10-17-91). The Recording Secretary shall record only the names of those elected to the membership. (10-17-91) (05-17-18)

Proposed

Section 4. Applications for membership are to be presented to the Vice-President, on the appropriate OOL application form with the non-refundable fee and signed by two (2) members in good standing. The Vice-President will record the date and time the application is received and place the applicants name on a prospective member list in the order their application was recorded. The Vice President will then turn the application over to the President to deliver to the Secret Committee. Those favorable from the Secret Committee are returned to the President for Board Review and if the Board passes on them, they are eligible to be presented to the organization. When an opening(s) exists, eligible ladies shall be brought forward from the Prospective member list in the order in which they were recorded and presented to the organization membership at a General Meeting and voted on by secret ballot. **Twenty (20) negative votes automatically exclude a candidate. Five (5) negative votes automatically exclude a candidate. If a candidate receives four (4) negative votes, an investigation by the President is in order. Members so voting must appear before the President within one week (7 days) to explain reason for negative vote or the candidate will be accepted into the organization. The rejected persons shall not be presented for membership more than three (3) times.** Any applicant rejected (3) times shall be debarred as candidates. (10-17-91). The Recording Secretary shall record only the names of those elected to the membership. (10-17-91) (05-17-18)

Reason

Five is not a fair representation of our membership and is much too low of a number of members to keep an applicant from membership. This also removes the language of an investigation by the President because there was no associated result if someone did appear before the President. If you vote no, you consider your reason valid, and the President and/or board should not get to decide if your reason is "good enough or not". It also removes the limitation on the number of times an applicant can reapply. If someone wants to pay the application fee, let them.

Jamie called for discussion:

- **Kanja Weldy:** This rule is broken. Five people is too little to keep someone out. In my mind, there are only two reasons to vote no on a prospective member: 1) Embezzlement or some other crime that you know for a fact that they did. If that is the case, you could go to the Board, and they would never come up for a vote. 2) If this person gained membership, your joy would be stolen. But what we hear, it is the mean girl mentality keeping them out. I hope you pass this. Next time you vote, think about who you are hurting. The person you are keeping out has been on that list for two years. That is who you are hurting, not their sponsor.
- **Laura Bethea:** I agree with everything Kanja just said except the 20 votes. We are not hurting for membership. I have never voted no to anyone. I won't start today. Twenty vote

- requirement against is uncalled for. Most societies don't require twenty votes.
- **Tyger Bullock:** I know someone that didn't get voted in because of her last name. They did not know who she was, they just assumed. It is easy to influence five people. It is not as easy to influence twenty people. This better represents the organization.
- **Prudence Meadors:** I want to endorse what Tyger just said. Twenty people are less than 5% of this organization.

Jamie called for more discussion (three times)

Membership voted - Election committee collected ballots.

The election committee excused to count votes.

- **Jamie called for any Other New Business:**
 - **Kanja Weldy** asked for any members that had knowledge of construction or have connections to join her committee.
 - **Ashley Adams** presented a traditional gift to Queen Melissa and Emblem Marissa-their personalized thank you cards.
- **Jamie** called for the Ball Committee to prepare for theme reveal.

Break 9:00pm

Call to Order 9:35pm

- **Room Announcements**
 - Room 8-Ila Hamilton-Poker run May 31, 2025
 - Ila presented T-shirts to Queen Melissa and Emblem Marissa
- **Voting results:**
 - **New Members:** There are 30 new members. Seven ladies were rejected. The new members are:

Emma-Lee McLain	Kylee Toms	Molly Nichols
Morgan Williams	Cheralyn (CJ) Herrington	Bailey Mann
Victoria Imel	Mare Louise Cunningham	Leilani Holston
Niki Lesley	Emily Truchon	Amber Rowland
Amanda Rodriguez	Ashlynn Hale	Reaghan Turner Humphries
Brittany Docen	Teryn Colvin	Lisa Downard
Kelli E. Williams	Kristina Arata	Lexis Marvin
Autumn Horton	Robin L. Bunson	Anna "Oliva" Foster
Ashley Bass Greger	Lauren McKinley Tyson	Lori C. Giles
Aimee Gueret	Hayley Thompson	Tammy Jackson
 - **Bylaw results**
 - #1 Article VI-Standing Committees (regarding Costume Committee): **PASSED**
 - #2 Article II-Membership (regarding Float Rental): **FAILED**
 - #3 Article II-Membership (regarding Dues increase, etc.): **FAILED**
 - #4 Article II-Membership (regarding 20 negative votes): **FAILED**

- **Theme Reveal**

The skit was presented by the Ball Committee. The theme for the 2025-2025 season is **LaShe life: Elegant and Empowered**

Suzanne Miller made a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Stowe seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Diaz
OOL Recording Secretary