

**ORDER OF LaShe's
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 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 6:50p.m.

Fostering Together Gulf Coast:

Director Rachel addressed the membership with some information regarding this organization. They serve foster children and families, mostly from the Mobile area. Their resource center is on Old Shell Road. They collect donations for kids such as diapers, clothes, etc. Foster children are generally placed in a home with nothing except the clothes they are wearing. The resource center provides these resources for free. Please consider donating items to the center. This weekend is the center's Back to School Bash. There will be activities and the backpacks for more than 500 children. There is a great need for foster families for some of these children. Fostering Together Gulf Coast strives to restore dignity and break addition and abuse cycle for these children so that they may find healing.

Anita Skipper:

She wanted to thank the membership for attending and donating to the benefit for her son who has cancer.

Break 7:00p.m.-to allow PR/Special Events to help gather backpacks for Fostering Together Gulf Coast.

Meeting Called to Order 7:05 p.m.

New Members: Introduction by Lynlee Evans

Melinda Maghupoy
Mary Ricciardi

Christie Gurka
Kelli E. Williams

Olivia Foster
Nikki Lesley

Pledge-Kendra Isenhower

Reading of the Minutes: June 18, 2025

- Gayle Bishop made a motion to dispense with the reading of June 18, 2025, minutes. Michelle Presley seconded the motion. The majority voted in favor; one opposed; one abstained; motion passed.

Officer's Reports

- **Vice President-DD Payne.**
 - DD is excited and honored to serve on the Executive Board after 11 years. Please reach out to the Board if you need anything.
 - Member count: 2 Founder Emeritus, 300 Active, 8 Active Non-Riding, 30 Honorary, 24 Costume Honorary and 88 Associates.
 - We will vote on 12 new members tonight. Please remember that these ladies are someone's friend or family. They have been on the waiting list for over a year. Having spoken to them, they are excited to finally become members.

- There are currently 22 ladies on the waiting list. Please encourage ladies that are friends and family to apply to become a part of our wonderful organization.
- **Treasurer Stacey Jessee**
 - Tonight, the second installment of dues can be paid at the finance table. The layaway committee is taking your payments in the back. QR codes are located around the building for making a payment with your phone.
 - Stacey gave a shout out to Danetta and the EOC committee for their hard work planning and executing the event on August 8, 2025. Tickets are very limited so be sure to get one from them if you have not already.
 - Stacey read June 2025 balances.
 - Wells Fargo Operating-Beginning Balance \$103,033.28, Ending Balance \$58,042.04
 - Wells Fargo Savings- Beginning Balance \$180,700.61, Ending Balance \$230,702.11
 - MOOLs Trustmark Savings-Beginning Balance \$5,927.42, Ending Balance \$5,927.61
 - Trustmark Building Fund-Beginning Balance \$44,405.96, Ending Balance \$45,498.78
 - Trustmark Building CD-Beginning Balance \$176,407.47, Ending Balance \$177,068.20
- **Recording Secretary Donna Diaz**
 - No report
- **Corresponding Secretary Tracey Taylor**
 - No report
- **Parliamentarian Kendra Isenhower**
 - No report.
- **Historian Gabby Smith**
 - No Report.
- **Board Seat 1, Parade Sara McKinley**
 - Parade planning is ahead of schedule. All sketches are in! The committee will meet on Thursday to plan the float pick/presentation at the August General meeting.
- **Board Seat 2 Ball Nicolle Rayborn**
 - The Ball committee continues to meet to plan the best Ball in Mobile. They are searching for just the right band and will announce when confirmed.
 - Nicolle has heard some rumors tonight that OVG has met with some organizations already. She will investigate and let us know. OVG will allow organizations to name the bartenders that they would like to use for the Ball this year. Email Nicolle by August 8, 2025, with the names of bartenders and their contact information that you would like to see at the Ball.
- **Board Seat 3 Ways and Means Christine Bramlett**
 - Tonight is the last chance to get your layaway order submitted.
 - Christine will reorder the Neoprene Beach bag and LaShe pearl pin-look for them in August. The Backpack coolers and cups are getting low-get them while you can. These will not be reordered.

- The theme poster and charm that you usually see sold by layaway will be sold by Ways & Means along with the charm bracelet.
- Dave & Buster's play cards are \$20.00. Wednesday is half priced game day! Please support the organization and get your cards tonight.
- Save the date! Ways and Means will host a Sunday Funday at Top Golf on October 26, 2025.
- Christine thanked the committee for their hard work and the organization for supporting Ways and Means.
- **Past President & Queen Melissa Davis**
 - Please make plans to attend the Queen & Emblem party hosted by Queen Melissa and Emblem Marissa on August 22, 2025, at the Locale. Please see details in the newsletter and plan to attend.

Dolly quote, "it's hard to be a diamond in a rhinestone world."

Committee Reports

- **Float Review-Amy Spinella (for Summer Frahm)**
 - Float Review will have a perpetual raffle fundraiser. Only 100 tickets will be sold for \$25.00 each. They will be sold in August and September. In September, October, November, and December a ticket will be drawn for \$50.00. In January, the draw will be \$100.00 and at Float Review the draw will be \$250.00. Each month, the name will go back into the bucket to potentially drawn again. Remember to buy your tickets in August and September.
- **Roof Committee-Kanja Weldy**
 - Kanja will give her report under New Business. Please review the information that she has placed on each table.
- **Recommendations-Faye Olensky**
 - Please place your ideas, concerns, and comments in the Suggestion box. This is not a bitch box- place ideas and suggestions. The committee will be meeting next month. You may also send your suggestions to my email or call me.
- **Photography-Gail Filotti**
 - Let her know if you want pictures taken at your events.
- **Layaway-Haley Clough**
 - Layaway is set up in back taking orders. Tonight is the last night.
 - If you spend at least \$500.00 on layaway and pay in full, you will receive a free set of ball tickets.
 - Layaway is tax free with a 25% deposit at the time the order is placed.
 - New Associates-get your OOL theme pins and theme beads for the Ball at from layaway
 - Haley has Marshal order forms.
- **EOC-Danetta Bean**
 - The committee is working hard to make sure that the EOC is wicked. They are offering business and personal ads to showcase on a monitor. See a committee member if you are interested in an ad.
 - Ticket #179 will be raffled off tonight. See a committee member to purchase a raffle ticket for \$5.00.

- The committee needs donations for prizes, which will be appreciated.
- Costume contest-Unleash your inner villain and come dressed as your favorite wicked, villainous, or evil character. Prizes will be given for most creative and captivating costumes.
- **PR/Special Events-Lisa Bullock**
 - A huge thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to our June Spotlight Organization, Camp Seale Harris. Through your generosity, we raised over \$1,000.00 to support the camp, surpassing our goal of \$500.00. Additional donations were made directly to the camp, pushing our total even higher.
 - You certainly showed up for our July Spotlight Organization, Fostering Together Gulf Coast. Tonight, we provided a total of 65 bookbags, helping 65 children begin the school year with the supplies they need. This also helps reduce some of the stress the start of the school year causes foster parents as well.

Thank you to the rooms who participated in the committee's challenge. Lisa will announce the Room that collected the most bookbags and gets out of working food at Float Review at the August General meeting.

- **Hospitality-Tracey Taylor**
 - Shout out to Paula Harris and her committee for all the hard work they do every month. Margaritas, Mojitos, Tacos, Blackberry Crown and Prizes-if you love these, see Paula in the back. Paula will raffle a bottle of Blackberry Crown a little later. Tonight, the food was donated by Aztecas so please support them. Go back and see Paula for tickets.

Lisa Bullock announced that she found a set of keys in a Walmart bag full of can tabs for the Ronald McDonald house. If you have lost a set of keys, see Lisa.

Unfinished Business

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

New Business

- **New Member Vote**
 - Cindy asked that members stand to receive ballots for new members.
 - Votes were cast and collected by the election committee.
- **Roof-Kanja Weldy**
 - Kanja provided a handout with three options for funding our roof replacement-taking out a loan, using our savings or using our building fund. Another option was presented tonight: taking out a loan against our own money. Kanja and her committee find taking out a loan is not favorable. The Roof Committee has determined that using the Building Fund money to fund our roof is the best and most prudent way to improve and protect our existing assets.
 - Kanja moved that we use the funds necessary from our existing Building fund accounts to pay a contractor for the float barn roof replacement. If payment must be made prior to the maturity of the Trustmark Building Fund CD, we will use funds in our Wells Fargo Savings and immediately reimburse those funds upon maturity of the CD to avoid any penalty or loss of earnings from the CD. Cindy asked if there was a second. Suzanne seconded. Discussion began.
 - **Vickie Turner:** Do we have insurance that will help pay for this roof? Cindy stated that she can investigate that. Kanja said we would investigate insurance, but insurance is typically in response to damage. Kanja feels we would have a hard time proving we have a claim.

- **Les Simison:** We can borrow against the CD and pay 2% over what we are paying. If the CD is used, we will never get this money back. Kanja's presentation quoted a 10 year loan at 6.9% interest with a payment of 1379.00/month. Borrowing against the CD would be \$1,000.00 or less per month and only use the CD funds if we were not able to pay the note. Kanja said that the noted presentation was an example, and she is not sure we would qualify for a mortgage type loan. We would still have to pay the monthly note, and we would have to use the month deposit into savings, to pay the new note. We did use our money in 2009 to secure a loan for the roof repairs. The process of getting that loan approved was quite involved. Les said that you are securing the loan with your own money. I do not know of a banker that is going to turn you down for a loan using your own money. If we use the money, it is gone. We need to investigate this before we spend that money.
- **Nancy Hughes:** Is it going to be a fortified roof? Kanja said that the fortified roof is typically residential. They are on a tiered level like bronze, silver, etc. on shingle style roofs. We have a sheet metal roof. But we will ask them to use the right gage, washers, etc. in the replacement.
- **Peggy Pierce:** Is there any proof that there is hail damage to the roof? Cindy said she knows some of the damage is bullet holes not hail. She is going to check into it. Peggy asked, what is the balance of the CD? \$177, 068.20. If the ladies vote to take the \$120,000.00 out of the CD, will we continue to deposit the \$1000.00 to rebuild the building fund? Cindy said that if we use the Building fund to replace the roof, we will continue to deposit the \$1,000.00 into our Building fund account. Peggy does not think we should use those funds because if we come across a good deal for a building, we will need those funds. Kanja commented that if we do find a building with a loan, that CD would not be available because it would be tied up with the loan. If we add the new roof and add value to our barn, we could use that property as collateral for a loan on a building.
- **Vickie Turner:** Can we table this vote until we have a qualified roofer get up there and say whether he thinks our insurance will cover any of it. Cindy said that we have had several roofers look at it. She deferred to Melissa as she had them come out. She had 4 separate companies come out and look at the roof. No one mentioned storm damage. Bullet holes are normal for our roof. It occurs in July and January. They shoot guns instead of fireworks in that neighborhood. Kanja said she would amend her motion to say provided insurance will not pay and they call our agent and ask for an adjuster to go out see if we have a claim.
- **Janet Nichols:** We should investigate other banks, take a little time before we spend all the money that we have in savings. Janet does not believe that insurance will pay for it. There is a significant difference in residential and commercial. Most of our problems with this roof are lack of maintenance. Tabling this may be our best idea so that we can gather more information.
- **Danielle Fletcher:** She is a licensed insurance adjuster. She said if there is hail damage on there, they cannot deny that claim just because of the bullet holes. If it is only bullet holes, then they may deny it. But there is a possibility that there is hail damage. Danielle can provide us with the date that it happened in Mobile.
- **Cindy** reread the motion because it has been amended: Kanja moved that we use the funds necessary from our existing Building fund accounts to pay a contractor for the float barn roof replacement. If payment of the roof must be made prior to the maturity of the Trustmark Building Fund CD, we will use funds in our Wells Fargo Savings and immediately reimburse those funds upon maturity of the CD to avoid any penalty or loss of earnings from the CD provided that the insurance does not pay. Suzanne seconded the motion. Cindy asked for more discussion.
- **Ashley Adams:** Referred to the assessment included in the handout from Kanja which was \$258.62 per OOL member. Ashley acknowledged that this suggestion exceeded the cap of \$150.00 per our bylaws. However, an assessment of \$150.00 would help with this issue.
- **Suzanne Miller:** Thinks Kanja did a wonderful job of gathering information. She is on the committee and must add that there is a timeline that the committee felt should be followed. We do not want to risk damage to the figureheads which do not belong to us and could potentially cost us. We can talk about an assessment to rebuild later. We need to move on

this to get bids, construction dates, and finish before there is significant work done on our floats.

- **Barbara Evatt:** She is a realtor, and she found that building. There has been no maintenance done on that roof since 1990. It needs work and it needs a new roof.
- **Cindy** asked for further discussion.
- **Brenda McDonald: Even** if we get the insurance to pay for it, it will only be a percentage. The members should still pay the \$150.00.
- **Kanja** said that we had work done in 2009. We spent \$42,000.00 to repair the roof. We had a maintenance agreement which ended and have not done anything to it since that time.
- **Toy Hollinghead:** Asked if we could table this for one month and let the insurance look. Cindy said we have a motion on the table but did add that “if insurance did not pay” we would use the Building fund money.
- If we get a new roof, how do we protect it from the bullet holes? Are there alternate roof options available? Cindy said she is not sure, but we can ask the contractors that come out to do our quotes about this.
- **Jetty Presley:** We need a new roof. We should not use the money in savings. We should get a loan because at the end of that loan, our money is still there.
- **Wendy Howell:** Agrees that we should borrow our own money from the bank. They are paying us interest on our money. If we borrow our money, we will have to pay interest on the loan. It will be a wash.
- **Peggy Pierce:** Has anyone asked if these bullet holes can be plugged? We are not accomplishing anything if there continues to be holes in the roof. We will spend \$120,000.00 and will still have holes in the roof when the holiday rolls around. Cindy said there is a maintenance agreement in which they would come out and fix the roof when necessary. There will be an additional cost for that. Kanja said that typically, we get a possible two year warranty on the roof. After that, we can purchase a maintenance plan that will do repairs annually. We need to prove that we can pay for a new roof. Contractors will not continue to bid the job if we cannot pay for it. Cindy clarified that the bullet holes are not the only issues. The skylights are leaking. Those will be removed, not replaced.
- **Illa Hamilton:** Let’s slow down and talk about this with people that know more about this. Let’s get someone back up on that roof. We will have the adjuster out. This is urgent. Sara has videos of the leaks and Cindy will have her post them on our Facebook page.
- **Cindy:** Is there any further discussion (three times). Cassie will count off the votes. Cindy reread the motion:

Kanja moved that we use the funds necessary from our existing Building fund accounts to pay a contractor for the float barn roof replacement. If payment of the roof must be made prior to the maturity of the Trustmark Building Fund CD, we will use funds in our Wells Fargo Savings and immediately reimburse those funds upon maturity of the CD to avoid any penalty or loss of earnings from the CD provided that the insurance does not pay. Suzanne seconded the motion. 35 in Favor; 43 Against; 17 Abstained; Motion Failed.

- Cindy will get an adjuster to look at the roof. We will take a break so that the election committee can count votes and we will draw for raffles.

Break 8:21p.m.

Call to order 8:32p.m.

Announcements

- **No room** announcements
- **Voting results:**
 - **New Members:** There are 12 new members. The new members are:

Eva-Marie Hale
Skye Smith
Morgan L. Williams
Hilliary Blair

Nancy "Bitsy" Pate
Lauren Roach
Vicki H. Nicholas
Amber Brockwell

Amanda Michele Smith
Katelyn Portella
Lana Nichelson
Rebecca Smith

- **Blackberry Crown Raffle:** Tracey Taylor won the raffle.
- **EOC Ticket #179-**Ruthanne Warren won the raffle. There are 23 EOC tickets left to sell.

Michelle Presley made a motion to adjourn. Anita Knapp seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Diaz
OOL Recording Secretary