

**ORDER OF LaShe's
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

November 18, 2025

The Locale

Board Members Present:

Cindy Bishop, DD Payne, Mikie Ganus, Donna Diaz, Tracey Taylor, Kendra Isenhower, Gabby Smith, Kanja Weldy, Nicolle Rayborn, Melissa Davis

Board Members Excused:

Christine Bramlett

Meeting Called to Order 7:04 p.m.

New Members: Introduction by Lynlee Evans

New members pledged:

Julia Lindbolm	Desiree Barbato
Payden Smith	Madeline Isabella Hirst

Pledge – Kendra Isenhower

Reading of the Minutes – October 21, General Meeting

- Bea Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, Gayle Bishop seconded the motion. The majority voted in favor, one opposed and no abstained; motion passed

Officers' Reports:

- **Vice President – DD Payne**
 1. We have 300 Active, 2 Founder Emeritus, 30 Honorary, 24 Costume Honorary, 8 ANR, 99 Associate members.
 2. We will vote on 1 new member tonight. After this evening, we will have a FULL MEMBERSHIP!!!! That means we will not be voting on any new members until after status changes for the Annual Meeting, but let's go ahead and start building up that waiting list!
 3. January 11th - Mandatory New Member Orientation is scheduled at 11am at the Float Barn. All New Members who have been voted in and pledged this fiscal year are required to attend. Believe me, it will be well worth the time. You will be

receiving more information soon from Lynlee and her committee and they have some GREAT IDEAS in the works! PQs and PEs, I will be reaching out soon for your assistance. Now, this is where we need your input...what do you wish you would have known your first year? What are you glad someone told you? Please bring your suggestions to Lynlee or me!

4. Don't forget that any pregnant ladies are not allowed to participate in the Grand March unless you have signed a pregnancy waiver. I have those tonight, please get one. And CONGRATULATIONS!!

 5. Finally, in keeping with the theme of the month – THANKSGIVING! As you all know, we should be thankful every day, but November always makes you take a little time to really think about it. Who or what makes your life better? In the almost 30 years that I have been in the LaShe's, I have (as have you) met many people who make my life better! But very often, I know that I take that for granted and don't always tell people what they mean to me. So, I have a Thanksgiving Challenge for each of you. Although you may have a very long list, during our break tonight find one of those people you are thankful for and TELL THEM! I already know who I'm coming for!
- **Treasurer – Donna Diaz**
 1. Thank you all for having patience with me. I have thrown myself into this position and am almost up to speed. Since November is a dues month, I focused on the membership balances. We took out the loan and per our assessment motion, all roof assessments are now posted to all member accounts. I visited the post office today to ensure all mailed payments were retrieved and posted. All payments via Square as of 2:00pm have also been posted. Next, I made sure that all of our bill payments were up to date and paid. And finally, reports. I am prepared to report to the membership in the fashion in which you all are accustomed. My plan is to provide this same report next month and hopefully provide a Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss statement as well. This will be done with the thought of phasing out manual spreadsheet reports to avoid mistakes. Before I read the bank account balances, I would like to say that the Wells Fargo account beginning balances are a little different from the ending balances reported in September. I believe there were some posting errors in September that have now been adjusted. I have reconciled all bank accounts and feel confident that these balances are correct.

 2. Wells Fargo Operating: Beginning balance \$104,908.33 (previously \$104,583.52) Ending balance \$2,936.76. This account was closed in November.

3. PNC Operating: Beginning balance \$100.00. Ending balance \$140,806.43
4. Wells Fargo Savings: Beginning balance \$230708.43 (previously \$230707.92). Ending balance 0. Account is closed.
5. PNC Savings: Beginning balance \$100.00. Ending balance \$155,811.86.
6. Trustmark Building Fund: Beginning balance \$48,833.95. Ending balance \$49,949.89
7. Trustmark Building CD: This was renewed as 2 CDs Ending balance for September was \$179,043.67 Trustmark Building CD xxx9170: Beginning balance: \$115,000.00. Ending balance \$115383.68
8. Trustmark Building CD xxxx9188: Beginning balance \$64043.67. Ending balance \$64,864.97 Total CD balances \$180,248.65
9. Trustmark MOOL Savings: Beginning balance \$6,428.24 Ending balance \$6,428.46
10. Trustmark Roof Loan: Beginning balance \$0.00 Ending balance \$115,000.00

- **Recording Secretary – Mikie Ganus**

1. First let me start off by saying Thank you again for having the confidence in me to serve once again on the Board. I will do my best to not let you down and to work hard for you.
2. In October, 48% of our Active/ANR/FE, 45% of our Associates and 22% of our Honorary/Costume Honorary members attended the meeting. This is about 45% of our membership. This is the time of year when a lot of information about the Parade and Ball is provided, and I know that you all want to be informed and up to date on what is happening with these events. To stay informed, please try to attend these meetings.
3. I know that you all know this, after tonight but we only have 2 more General meetings in order for you to get credit for your 3 meetings requirement.

Before tonight, I had 111 Active/ANR members that have not met this and 51 Associates. If you want to know if you are one of these members, in the sign in book next to your name is the number of meetings that you have attended thus far, of course it's not including tonight. If you do not think you will make your 3 meetings, you will need to be excused by the President.

- **Corresponding Secretary – Tracey Taylor**

1. 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. Otherwise, email it to me. Please do not remove the pages from the protectors. I won't see updates there.
2. Our website host, Wix, is no longer going to support the embedded calendar unless we have a paid Google for Business account, which we do not. I am researching how to best post upcoming dates as the calendar is going away on December 1st. I'll either post a link or just go old school and make a list of dates. Either way, I'll post an announcement when I decide.
3. Don't forget to check out Hospitality. Paula and crew really outdid themselves this month by bringing in a food truck! We get 10% back from all sales. YAY!! Thank you for helping keep everything running smoothly! Also, she has gumbo to pick up tonight and if you need to pay for that or the Iron Bowl squares, please see her.
4. She read a card from Laurie Dueitt thanking us for the plan we sent. She added Kolbi Wright to that thank you card.

- **Parliamentarian – Kendra Isenhower**

1. Tonight, our organization will be voting on a proposed bylaw change.
2. All members are reminded to wear the correct name badge prior to the start of the voting process.
3. During the discussion period, any comments, questions, or concerns must be presented from the front microphone to ensure clarity and proper procedure.
4. If you have additional bylaw changes you wish to submit, please submit them to President Cindy.
5. I will return later this evening to review the proposed change.

- **Historian – Gabby Smith**

No Report

- **Board Seat 1, Parade – Kanja Weldy**

1. In case you missed the announcement, we will be putting our Emblem float in the Venture Bowl parade that will be downtown Tuesday, 12/16. This is open to all members, regardless of status, and you can reserve your spot for \$50. This also allows you access to the "Maskers" pre-parade party that afternoon.
2. Because this is a short parade, we are also going to try something fun and allow pairs in the Step ups. This let us add 4 additional rides, so we began the night with 24 open ride spots. Once the spots are purchased, no more will be available so sign up now if you want to ride. (Or I am pleased to announce all spots have been purchased). I will send out more details to the riders in the coming days.
3. As for the most fabulous of all Parades, there are only 84 days until we hit the streets. The committee is meeting Thursday, the float builder is hard at work, and we can't wait for all the things living the LaShe life brings! Everything will be fast and furious from now until.

- **Board Seat 2. Ball – Nicolle Rayborn**

1. As noted in the newsletter, the date and time for rehearsal has changed. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the Convention Center in the main hall. The MOOLs, Board members, & the Q&E are from 2-3:30pm and the membership is from 3:30-5pm. Members can bring their escorts for the ball. Remember to send in your excuse to President Cindy if you cannot attend. Please remember that no outside food or drink may be brought into the Convention Center.
2. Just in time for Thanksgiving, some good news to be grateful for! OVG shared with the organizations that we will receive the monetary credit from

the city like we did last year. No final values have been provided, but it should be similar to last year.

3. I continue to work with OVG regarding food & beverage. A few rooms have reached out with questions regarding both. I put together answers for their questions and want to share those with everyone.
- Outside catering is not permitted: All food & beverage is coordinated through OVG.
 - All rooms will receive food-opting out is not available this year.
 - Menu: All rooms will enjoy the same base selections, with 1-2 specialty items per room. Food selection was determined by the Ball Committee and OVG based on the main menu provided by OVG. Food will also be served in the Pre/Post Ride area for members and escorts, and in the main area downstairs for all guests. Each area will have unique, but similar selections.
 - Room Servers: We're confirming with OVG whether servers will be stationed in each room.
 - Replenishment: Food will be replenished as needed until we reach our designated price point of \$38,000.
 - Portions by Room Size: Amounts will be scaled based on the number of members (all classes) assigned to each room.
 - Dietary Variety: We are working to provide a variety of options. However, OVG did not offer specific menus for gluten-free, vegan, or allergen-sensitive diets.
 - No Extra Fees: Room food is included with the \$180 paid by each member. There is no extra charge for food in each room. This fee includes food in your room, shared areas, and full bar access. The organization will cover the remaining costs. F&B Budget = \$114,000; Tentative Cost = \$100,280; Member contribution = \$82,980. As President Cindy stated in the November newsletter, invoices will go out to the Room Captains shortly after November 30. Half is due in December & half in January to the organization.
 - Room Furnishings: Each room will be furnished with 3 round tables and 30 chairs. Lynn Pryor questioned the set-up with regards to Room 14. Nicolle stated that any extra furniture other than that basic layout that was provided will cost extra. Nicolle will discuss this further and get back to her.
 - Non-alcoholic Beverages: Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Sprite Zero, and water will be available at all bars.
 - Decorations Welcome: Yes, you may decorate your room! Guidelines will be shared by the Room Captain Chair
 - A mega bar with 4 bartenders will be located just outside the rooms. Bars are also located in the Pre/Post Ride area, outside the DJ room, near the bell tower area, and multiple bars in the main area downstairs.
 - Don't forget to pick up your invitations form. Completed forms are due by December 15th General Meeting.

- **Board Seat 3, Ways and Means – Christine Bramlett:**

Christine was excused.

- **Past President & Queen – Melissa Davis**

No Report

Committee Reports

- **Ways & Means – Victoria Schumann**

In Christine's absence – she announced how successful the Top Golf event was and they made \$5658.86

- **Float Barn – Jennifer Jordan**

There was a huge crater in the yard at the Barn and she reported that it has been fixed and thanked several members for their husbands donating their time and materials for this project and there was no cost to us.

- **Layaway – Hayley Clough**

1. This year is flying by so quickly and we're only 84 days away from our fabulous parade and ball! Things with layaway are moving along! Most of our shipments SHOULD be in by the end of the year so we're ready for layaway pickup which brings me to my next point. Mark your calendars!!
2. Layaway pickup will be Sunday, January 25 from 11-2 at the float barn! We are doing a drop-dead date for pickup again this year. That date is Sunday, February 1. We will be set up from 11-1 at float barn. That's just one week after regular layaway pickup and will be your last chance to pick up your items. If you do not pick up your items by the drop-dead date, you forfeit your items with no refund or credit so please arrange for a friend to pick them up if you cannot get them! I really do not want to sell your stuff, but I will if I have to.
3. Layaway will be set up from 11-12 at Float Review to sell any leftover items and we will be set up all day for float load as well! We should have some cups, light up items, and maybe some beads leftover! Be looking out for a message from me closer to January about having some workers for bag and tag and pickup. As always, thanks for your support of layaway and thanks to all the amazing ladies that have helped me all year

- **Float Review – Summer Frahm**

1. This event is 90% complete
2. They are taken donations for the Basket of Cheer and Food
3. The Amazon Wish List will be placed out on the Facebook page
4. We have 10 rooms and they are requesting to have 4 members to work food and children's games in 45 minute increments. Here is a breakdown:

7 rooms will work food (3 will be excluded based on liquor donations) Room 14 was excluded due to winning the backpack challenge, but they will still draw for a time but PR Special events will work that slot

4 rooms will work children's games (6 will be excluded based on Amazon Wish List donations.

5. They will be selling food cards at the December meeting.

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

1. **Our November Spotlight Organization:**

Our November Spotlight Organization is Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile. We will "pass the hat" now to take up donations for this worthy organization to provide a Thanksgiving meal for the families. There are currently 30 families residing in the House while their child is undergoing care at USA Children's and Women's. That's a lot of families who will not be home for the holidays and doing this provides them with something special. Any additional donations received over the cost of the Thanksgiving meal will be utilized by the House to stock their pantry. If anyone would like to serve at the House that day, please plan to be there 12:30 to start serving at 1:00PM.

2. **December Spotlight Organization:**

At this time, I will also ask that those drawing for VOA residents head to the back. We did have some additional residents this year. Thank you to the rooms along with the committee chairs who stepped up to sponsor them. Lynlee, Faye, and Cindy, if yall would please joint draw for board, pq/pes, and committee chairs.

3. **Queen & Emblem Party:**

Reminder that tickets are on sale now for the Queen & Emblem Party. There is a table set up in the back. The cost is \$55 and will include food, 2 glasses of

Ballatore, and access to the gardens. They are also available for purchase through our website. All tickets must be purchased in advance, and this is the last general meeting before the party - no tickets will be sold at the door.

- **Unfinished Business**

(is there any unfinished business 3x times)

- **New Business**

1. Election Committee – Voting on New Applicants – 1 New Member
2. By-Law Change – Kendra read the By-Law change. Cindy asked for any discussion (3 times) and ballots were handed out for this vote
3. Cindy called for any more new business 3 times

Break: 7:56 p.m.

Bar Raffle was held during the break.

Call to Order: 8:17 p.m.

Voting Results:

- **New Member:** 1 new member – Alexa Peacock
- **By Law change** – passed

- **Room Announcements:**

Room 3 – Melissa was asked to draw for their raffle 0 Cornucopia of Cheer – winner was Meg

Board Thanksgiving gifts – Marissa was asked to draw for these. Winners were Lynn Pryor, Mary Giadrosich, Anita Skipper, Cassidy ?, Payden Smith, Cassie Knorr, Janet Nichols, Robin Brown, not sure of the other 2

Gracie Overmeyer made a motion to adjourn and Waneva Ivey seconded. All in favor – Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:27

Respectfully Submitted,

Mikie Ganus
OOL Recording Secretary