



VOLUME 37 ISSUE 11
MARCH 2026

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ORDER OF LASHE'S

NEWSLETTER

A Word from President Cindy



Wow — what an absolutely amazing Parade and Ball we had this year!

Queen Melissa and Emblem Marissa, I hope your night was everything you dreamed it would be and more. Queen Melissa, you were breathtaking and represented our organization with such elegance and poise. Emblem Marissa, your entrance was unforgettable — because honestly, who wouldn't want to arrive riding in a champagne glass? You both represented us with beauty and grace, and we truly could not have asked for more. You were the definition of Elegant and Empowered!

A heartfelt thank you to our Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and committee members for your hard work and dedication this year. It truly takes a village to bring everything together, and when we work as one, we are unstoppable.

Our Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17th at The Locale. This is a MANDATORY meeting. If you are unable to attend, you must email me prior to March 17th in order to be excused. This meeting is especially important as we will elect the 2026–2027 Executive Board who will lead us through the upcoming year.

ALL STATUS CHANGE REQUESTS, INCLUDING RESIGNATIONS, MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ME PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The following ladies have announced their candidacy:

President – Tracey Taylor
Vice President – Donna Diaz
Treasurer – Mikie Ganus
Recording Secretary – Bridget Dixon-Moseley
Corresponding Secretary – Nicolle Rayborn
Parliamentarian – Christine Bramlett
Historian – Danetta Bean, Sonya Stephens
Board Seat 1 – Parade – Teresa Hunt, Marsha Herrin
Board Seat 2 – Ball – Cassie Knorr
Board Seat 3 – Ways & Means – Micky Farmer-Troia

SAVE THE DATE

Mar. 17, 2026, 7pm
Annual Meeting
The Locale

Apr. 14, 2026, 7 pm
General Meeting
The Locale

Mailing Address – P. O. Box 850176, Mobile, AL 36685

Please note: Announcing your candidacy is not required. It is simply a courtesy for those who wish to be included in the newsletter. Nominations may also be made from the floor, and you may still seek office even if your name is not listed above.

The best way to learn more about our organization is to get involved — and the best way to get involved is by joining a committee. As the new year begins, new committees will be formed. If you are interested in chairing a committee or serving on one, please complete a committee selection form and return it to me. The form is available on the website and on the OOL Facebook page.

Following the meeting, we will have a small celebration to toast our outgoing and incoming Executive Board. Complimentary champagne and finger foods will be served, and Hospitality will be open. I hope you will make plans to stay and celebrate with us!

2025–2026 Executive Board

Board Position	Member	Email	Phone
President	Cindy Bishop	LashesPresident@gmail.com	251-623-0642
Vice President	DD Payne	oolvicepresident@gmail.com	251-952-8902
Treasurer	Donna Diaz	ooltreasurer@gmail.com	251-421-1755
Recording Secretary	Mikie Ganus	Recordingoolsec@gmail.com	251-635-5548
Corresponding Secretary	Tracey Taylor	correspondingool@gmail.com	251-509-8072
Parliamentarian	Kendra Isenhower	oolparliament@gmail.com	251-623-9506
Historian	Gabby Smith	oolhistorian@gmail.com	251-404-1808
Board Seat 1 – Parade	Kanja Weldy	lashesparade@gmail.com	251-709-8435
Board Seat 2 – Ball	Nicolle Rayborn	lashesball@gmail.com	251-599-0521
Board Seat 3 – Ways & Means	Christine Bramlett	oolwaysandmeans@gmail.com	251-295-8355
Past President/Queen	Melissa Davis	lashes36queen@gmail.com	251-408-2514

Queen Melissa



These past nine (9) years on the Executive Board have been an amazing, interesting, and most educational time for me. My thoughts and words are not sufficient to express ALL my thoughts and feelings. **Most importantly THANK YOU for trusting me and allowing me to serve you and this organization.**

THANK YOU to each member no matter what your status, official title, or role in contributing toward making my Queen of the Night so special, memorable, and more than I ever expected. The vision of our membership embracing the elegance and empowerment of the sisterhood of the past and bringing forward to the present, you were all beautiful.

It is a true honor to be your 36th Queen in this LaShe Life.

To my beautiful elegant and tenacious Emblem Marissa La'Shae. You rocked those Betsey Johnsons and kicked the night away after bringing the bubbles and Champagne to the floor. THANK YOU for being by my side through this RIDE!!!!

Looking forward to the upcoming years to see the progress of this organization because Ladies we have come a long way in these Thirty-Six (36) years. **Hope and prayers that we as sisterhood keep moving forward elegantly and encouraging and empowering each other.**



Emblem Marissa

I'm at a loss for words. Our Parade and Ball was amazing!!

I had several people tell me to make sure to soak every minute of the day in, because it was going to fly by. They were right, it did! Tuesday morning when I walked into the ballroom floor I was in tears looking at the stage. I had to hold back tears several times throughout the day, because everything started to feel sure real. It was finally sinking in that I'm the Emblem and get to represent this wonderful organization. Then MGM came in to play for us and lead us to the floats. Stepping into the cup with My amazing Queen and Mother Melissa was the best ride!! Even with her feeling not 100%, she still had fun, and I enjoyed getting to see her smile and laugh.

Talk about some core memories that were made that night. After coming back from the parade, we changed into our Ball attire. I didn't get to fully see her in her Queen dress until I came down and she was sitting in the chair with all my kids surrounding her. I had to take a moment to gather myself, because she looked so stunning! When she started walking the arena floor after the Marshals cut the curtain my heart began to race more, and the nerves started to set in. I knew then it was real, and this was really happening.

Thank you to my Room 9 and Float N sisters for helping me with Tableau and being my bubbles and fans! I hope y'all enjoyed it just as much as I enjoyed watching y'all! Then the kick! The most nervous I had been the whole night. I couldn't see too far in front of me, I was making sure I didn't fall and make a fool of myself, and the camera for the jumbo Tron right there was nerve-racking as well. But I made it around and loved hearing everyone cheers and clap! As I made my way to the moon and my husband/Marshal Nick and he dipped me and gave me a kiss the nerves went away.

I hope everyone feels as though I represented them with grace and elegance! **I'm very grateful for the honor to have served as your 2025-2026 Emblem Marissa!!**

Remember to leave a little sparkle everywhere you go!





Vice President - DD Payne

We will have no new members to vote on this month; however, the list is already growing for a great 2026-27 New Member Crew! Keep those applications coming in! And we have reinstatements to consider in April as well! Woohoo! We have sisters who miss us and want to come back!

If you would like an application, contact me and I will be happy to email you – you can turn it in at our meeting this month! If you would like to pick one up at the March meeting, I will have some with me! Even though the 2026 year is over...RECRUIT! To the new members who joined us this year, I truly hope that you had A YEAR TO REMEMBER! I promise, it only gets better and better!

I would like to give a final **HUGE thank you to Lynlee and the New Member Committee, Ashley (Room Captain Chair), and Bridget (Float Captain Chair)** for serving the OOLs so well this year! You were an absolute joy to work with.

Finally, remember that all status change requests for the NEW YEAR are due to President Cindy by fall of gavel at the Annual Meeting. Pay attention ASSOCIATES – some of you will be getting calls soon, maybe even AT the Annual Meeting!!!

Treasurer - Donna Diaz

What a wonderful parade and ball! It went by so very fast. Now we need to wrap up this year's business.

Ladies, check your email for any fines you may have received. Per our bylaws:

Article XI Finance Section 13. All fines incurred from January 1st, (fiscal year the parade and ball take place) through the night of our Annual Parade and Ball will be due 5 days prior to the Annual Meeting, unless otherwise determined by the Executive Board, due to the calendar year and the date of the parade and ball. At that time the Executive Board will give a specific date of when the fines are due. (6-21-12)

Article II Membership Section 3. In order to remain as a member in good standing, all monetary obligations must be paid as required. Failure to meet monetary obligations may result in disciplinary actions and/or placement on the Blacklist to be determined by the executive board. (7-20-17)

FINE PAYMENTS ARE DUE 3/13/26! Payments can be mailed to OOL PO Box 850176 Mobile, AL 36685 or paid online at:

Methods of Payment:

- Pay at the finance table at the General meeting.
- OOL Website – <https://order-of-lashes.square.site/>
- Mail your payment: P. O. Box 850176, Mobile, AL 36685

Thank you for your support this year. Your trust and kindness helped ease the stress of this uncertain year. Can't wait to see you all at the Annual Meeting!!





Recording Secretary - Mikie Ganus

Hello ladies!! I hope each and everyone of you had a fabulous time at our Parade and Ball this year. I know that I did. Thank you to all of you that work so hard to make those events so GREAT!! Now that we are beginning a new year, I want to remind you that the **March Annual Meeting is MANDATORY, and you must sign in to receive credit** for attending. If for some reason you are unable to attend, you must be excused, so please make sure that you email President Cindy prior to this meeting.

Please make sure that you pick up and wear the correct name tag at each meeting – your nametag will show your membership status, and only active and active -non-riding members are eligible to vote at our meetings.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Recording Secretary this year. Even though it was for a short period of time, I enjoyed every minute of it. I would like to wish everyone that is stepping up to run for an Executive Board position for this upcoming Mardi Season, GOOD LUCK!! Please understand that it is a HUGE responsibility but also an Honor to serve the organization in this capacity. Make sure that you are familiar with the requirements for running for the Executive Board and know what is required of you within that position.

Corresponding Secretary - Tracey Taylor

As I wrap up my time serving as your Corresponding Secretary, I want to take a moment to reflect on the positives this past year.

Several meaningful updates were made to improve communication and keep everyone informed and connected. The newsletter was refreshed with a cleaner layout, clearer sections, and more timely updates so members could easily find important information. Our website was also updated to be more user friendly, with improved navigation and easier access to forms, event details, and announcements. In addition, the meeting highlights were refreshed and shared after each gathering so members who could not attend could still stay engaged and informed about key decisions and upcoming plans.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Hospitality Chairman, Paula Harris, for always ensuring we had delicious food and refreshing drinks at our meetings. Your thoughtful touches made our time together even more enjoyable. **Thank you as well to our Sunshine Chairman, Melanie Suiter,** for faithfully keeping us updated with member news, celebrations, and moments when extra support was needed. Your communication helps strengthen the bonds within our sisterhood.

As we move forward, please take a few moments to review the directory and ensure your information is accurate and up to date. Staying connected starts with having the right contact information.

It has truly been an honor to serve in this role. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and dedication to our organization. I look forward to cheering on our next Corresponding Secretary and continuing to support our amazing group.





Parliamentarian - Kendra Isenhower

Hello Sister LaShe's! **Thank you all for making the parade and ball a wonderful experience!** It's difficult to believe that it is already time for our Annual Meeting!

We made it through a very busy but productive year! First, **the Elections Committee Chairman, Cassie Knorr, was wonderful** all throughout the year. She truly exemplifies what hard work and dedication to our organization is all about!! Thank you also to her amazing elections committee members. Each month you worked, making the process smooth and easy. Next, thank you to my Bylaws Committee. We had an outstanding crew who had many Bylaws and Constitutional amendments to review. These ladies showed up at a moment's notice and provided insight as bylaws were submitted.

To access the Constitution, Bylaws, & Standing Rules archive, you must be logged into our website—I have included the direct link here for you as well. [ARCHIVES LINK](#)

Finally, please **review the proposed constitutional amendments (see Appendix)** that were also published in the January newsletter. As a reminder, the Constitution may only be amended during the Annual Meeting. We only get one chance per year to amend the Constitution, so please read and consider the information provided.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you! It has been an honor and a privilege.



Historian - Gabby Smith

As we turn the final page on this incredible season, **I find myself filled with gratitude for everyone who helped bring our history to life this year.** It was truly a highlight to see so many of you touring our Historian Room during our Float Review event. Witnessing our members and guests engage with our archives is a powerful reminder of the legacy we carry forward together.



A special thank you is owed to Queen Melissa and Emblem Marissa for sharing your personal photos and cherished treasures. They provided a beautiful look back on this past year and enhanced our main display for everyone to enjoy.

It has been a privilege to document our journey and to serve as your Historian this past year. I also had the honor of working with two amazing and hard-working women: **Marissa McManus (Costume Chairman)** and **Gail Filotei (Photography Chairman)**. You both did an incredible job handling your roles; you were so easy to work with, and I am so glad I had the opportunity to be your Board Rep. ❤️ Thank You ❤️





Board Seat 1 Parade – Kanja Weldy



I hope everyone enjoyed the ride!! The weather was amazing, a decent crowd showed up and you ladies rocked it again with generous throws.

I have made several notes and recommendations for next year but still welcome any feedback regarding floats, the walk-over, the ride and anything parade related. I will share with and put together good notes for our next Parade Chairman. Unfortunately, I will be suggesting the board next year allocate more funds for the Parade.

Our new float builder was wonderful. We need to keep her! She was great to work with, the artistry was beautiful, and she is very conscientious, but she was hired to construct a re-design of our theme floats, not repair them. Our floats are aging and need some repairs. Many bead racks are loose, stairs need tread, members want step ups, etc. Our permanent floats also need work. We need to invest in these improvements for the safety and consideration of our members. We were able to stay within the constraints of the budget in our line up, but this is getting harder. We had some really fun fillers this year along with a few bands. Keeping the “Boom Boom” in our parade is getting more expensive as band costs are escalating. We also need to consider this when making our line up and approving our budget. Please think about these things when the board presents the next budget.

I cannot end my year without thanking the committee. Thank you for supporting me when I took over this position. Thank you for your attendance at parade meetings and to those who attended the Parade Society meetings. I appreciate your hard work especially at Float load. Thanks to those who donated time and supplies. I also want to thank Mikie for sitting at the barn for several hours while tires got aired and replaced while I was working. It takes a team and thank goodness we have one!

Let's get ready for an early one next year - Bring on 2/2/27! Laissez les bons temps rouler



Board Seat 2 Ball – Nicolle Rayborn

What a night! I hope everyone enjoyed an unforgettable evening celebrating our LaShe Life: Elegant and Empowered. The golden LaShe stage created a breathtaking backdrop, and Queen Melissa and Emblem Marissa's sparkling entrances are sure to be remembered for years to come.

The Ball Committee worked tirelessly this year, and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and support. As with any large event, we encountered a few last-minute challenges including with OVG's workorders, and several adjustments had to be made on the day of the ball. Each year brings new lessons as we continue to learn the ins and outs of our venue and refine what works best for our organization.

A special thank you goes to Robin and her committee, whose hard work made the entire invitations process seamless.

Another thank you goes to you, the membership, for supporting the jumbotron ads shown at the ball. Through the purchase of 9 business and 23 personal ads, we raised over \$1000 to help offset the cost of the jumbotron. I loved seeing all the photos of the true sisterhood that runs deep in our organization.

Lastly, thank you for placing your trust in me as Ball Chairman. Serving in this role—working on your behalf, honoring our traditions, and helping bring this year's vision to life—has been a privilege beyond words. It has truly been my honor to serve.





Board Seat 3 Ways & Means - Christine Bramlett

As this LaShe year comes to a close, **I just want to say thank you. Truly.**

Thank you to our membership for your enthusiastic support of the Ways & Means store, our fundraisers, and our shopping nights. Whether you grabbed a last-minute ball essential, pre-ordered a sweatshirt, bought a charm bracelet, sponsored a bay at Top Golf, or showed up to shop during our giveback nights — you made a difference. Every purchase, every ticket, every shared flyer helped us support the bigger picture of what makes this organization so special.

Our shopping nights were strong, our Top Golf fundraiser was a success, and our store shelves stayed moving all season long — and that only happens when membership shows up the way you did.

I also need to personally thank my incredible Ways & Means committee. These women showed up month after month to set up, break down, restock, count money, solve problems, and keep things running smoothly. And during the Top Golf fundraiser? Their hustle was unmatched. From securing sponsors to organizing raffles and prizes to handling the day-of logistics, they gave it their all. There is absolutely no way I could have made it through this year without them.

Serving as your Ways & Means Chairman has been a whirlwind — but one filled with laughter, teamwork, and so much pride in what we accomplished together. **Thank you for trusting me with Board Seat 3 this year and for supporting every crazy idea along the way.**

Here's to another incredible season ahead. 🍀💜💛

2025–2026 Committee Chairmen

Committee	Chair	Phone	Email
Associate	Lynlee Evans	601-408-0338	lynlee.evans@yahoo.com
Audit	Jan Barbato	251-680-8329	janbarbato@aol.com
Costume	Marissa McManus	251-300-0646	oolcostumes2026@yahoo.com
Evening of Chance	Danetta Bean	251-447-3897	eocchairman@gmail.com
Election	Cassie Knorr	251-605-5389	Catherine.knorr18@gmail.com
Float Barn	Jennifer Jordan	251-725-2977	jreneej@icloud.com
Float Captain	Bridget Dixon-Moseley	251-447-1291	oolfloatcaptchair@gmail.com
Float Review	Summer Frahm	251-281-6406	summerrpatton@gmail.com
Hospitality	Paula Harris	251-422-3738	Paulaharris8069@gmail.com
Invitations	Robin Brown	251-454-2550	OOLQ33@gmail.com
Layaway	Hayley Clough	251-622-2944	hclough@gmail.com
PR/Special Events	Lisa Bullock	251-599-8700	lisablawson@gmail.com
Photography	Gail Filotei	251-259-6331	oolphotography2526@gmail.com
Recommendations	Faye Olensky	251-689-4464	lashesrecomm@gmail.com
Roof	Kanja Weldy	251-709-8485	oolroof2025@gmail.com
Room Captain	Ashley Adams	251-422-0909	OOLroomcaptchair@gmail.com
Sunshine	Melanie Suiter	251-232-1334	oolsunshine1989@gmail.com
Mother MOOL	Cindy Bishop	251-623-0642	LashesPresident@gmail.com



Associate - Lynlee Evans

Thank you to everyone for such a magical ball & parade! Congrats to the 70 associates who were given the opportunity to ride in the parade this year!

Shoutout to all my associates for being inquisitive and adapting when needed. Love to all my little besties!



Costume - Marissa McManus

Wow ladies!! You all looked amazing in your costumes! I loved getting to see everyone's spin on pulling the costume together! Thank you for working with me this year and making us the best dressed women on the streets of Mobile. I hope you all felt fabulous.

Looking forward to seeing what the Costume committee comes up with for the upcoming year!

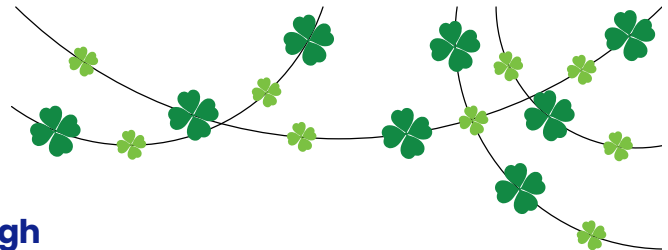


My Sister LaShe's,

Hospitality - Paula Harris

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as Hospitality Chair this past year again!! I could not have done it without my wonderful team and the best Board Rep Tracey Taylor!! Love you big!!

Congratulations to the new Hospitality Chairman and wish you nothing but success!! If I can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!!

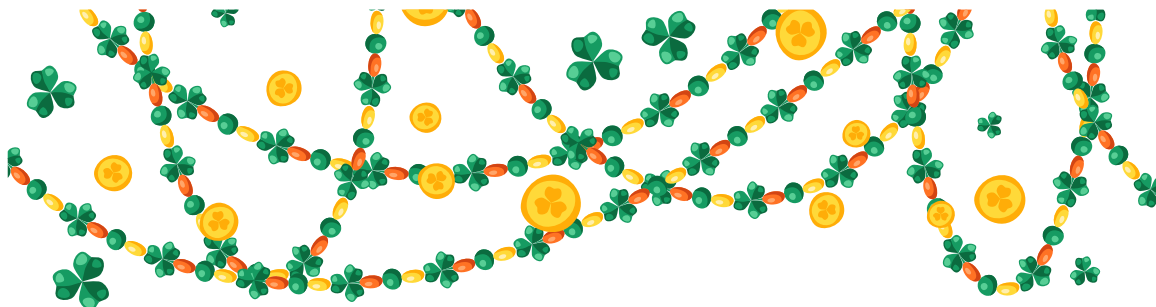


Layaway - Hayley Clough

I hope everyone had a great carnival season and thank you all for a wonderful year this year!

Being Layaway Chairman was tough but rewarding! Thank you to everyone who placed an order with me this year and supported layaway and most importantly, thank you to my wonderful committee! I could not have been successful this year without you!

I hope you are all ready for another amazing Mardi Gras year ahead!



Sunshine - Melanie Suiter

Congratulations to **Julia Lindholm** (Room 11) who was honored as a heart of Gold Honoree as a trauma ICU nurse.



Please continue to pray for the following Lashe Members:



- **Anita Skipper** (Room 14) and **James Skipper** (Marshal)
- **Brenda McDonald** (Room 10) husband **Michael McDonald**

Our condolences go out to **Kati Hartselle Watkins** (Room 2) on the loss of her youngest daughter, **Kalli Nelson** who passed away from SUDEP. May God be with you all during this time.

Our condolences go out to **Kimberly Lee** (Room 3) and **Steve Toland** (Marshal) on the loss of Kim's Mother, Past Emblem **Dorothy Toland** (Room 3). Dorothy was loved by so many and will be greatly missed. May God be with you all during this time.

It has been a pleasure sending out members' news each month.

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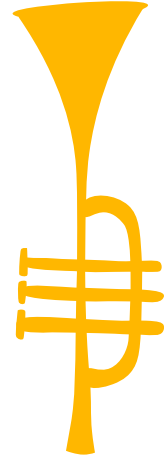


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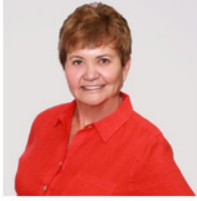
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Appendix

The following Constitution change will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in March:

The proposed Constitution change was presented by four members in good standing.

Constitution, Article VII – Queen and Emblem

CURRENT:

Section 2. The Emblem will be appointed by the Past President. This honor will be based on service and seniority. She must be a member in good standing and be of Active status. (3-23-95) (3-18-04)

PROPOSED:

Section 2. The Emblem will be appointed by the Past President. This honor will be based on service and seniority. She must be a member in good standing and be of Active status. ***The Emblem will not serve during her tenure as a chairman nor as an Executive Board Member.*** (3-23-95) (3-18-04)

REASON:

To uphold the integrity and effectiveness of the organization, the bylaw restricts the Emblem from serving as a chairman or Executive Board Member during their tenure. This separation is essential for several reasons: it prevents conflicts of interest by ensuring that the honorary role of Emblem, which recognizes service and seniority, remains distinct from active leadership positions that involve decision-making authority. By maintaining this distinction, the organization preserves the honorary nature of the Emblem, promotes broader participation in leadership roles, and allows individuals to focus fully on their respective responsibilities. Furthermore, this rule supports transparency and fairness, reassuring members that honors are awarded based on merit and service rather than current influence or power within the organization.

More
Below!



The following Constitution change will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in March:

The proposed Constitution change was presented by four members in good standing.

Constitution, Article VII – Queen and Emblem

CURRENT:

Section 1. The Past President will serve the Society as the Queen. (3-18-04)

PROPOSED:

Section 1. The Past President will serve as the Queen of the Society. (3-18-04) **A member may only have the honor of serving as Queen once. If the Past President has previously served as Queen for the Society, the membership shall elect a Queen to serve. The nominating and electing the Queen shall be based on service and seniority.**

REASON:

Any active member who meets the requirements outlined in the bylaws is eligible to run for an Executive Board position. Previous service on the Board does not disqualify a member from seeking the same position again.

Following the constitutional amendment, the President no longer serves as Queen during their term. Instead, the President assumes the title of Queen upon becoming Past President and remains on the Executive Board. If a member is elected President for a second term (consecutive or non-consecutive) and has already served as Queen, they will not assume the title of Queen again.

