

ORDER OF LaShe's
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2026

The Locale

Board Members Present:

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

Meeting Call to Order at 7:05

Cindy stated that there are no new members to pledge tonight, but that we would still move on to the Pledge

Pledge – Kendra Isenhower

Reading of the Minutes – November 18, General Meeting

- Jennifer Ridgeway made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes; Michelle Presley seconded the motion. There were 3 opposed and no abstain. Majority voted in favor so the motion passed.

Officers' Reports:

- **Vice President – DD Payne**
- We have 300 Active, 2 Founder Emeritus, 30 Honorary, 24 Costume Honorary, 8 ANR, 99 Associate members.
- Now is the time to get your friends and family on the waiting list! We have 14 ladies currently on the waiting list to start off next year! Voting will begin again in APRIL. Please get your application from me tonight and turn them in as soon as possible. Remember that additions to the wait list are made based on the date and time from which they are turned in.
- Any new member who did not attend the New Member Orientation should stop by and see Lynlee tonight. She has important information to share.
- Rosters are on the table at the back of the room, as usual.
- Don't forget 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.

- This year I begin to celebrate my 30th Anniversary as a LaShe. When I think about my journey, it brings me joy to think of the good friends I have made, the wonderful experiences I have had, and the person that I am today because of these things. I have been made better over these 30 years because of the Elegant and Empowered women in this room and the ones who are no longer with us. I know that so many of you feel the same way. My wish for this year's new members is that the LaShe's becomes as important to your life as it is for mine. You have become part of this family, and I can't wait to celebrate with you all over the next few weeks! It's going to be really busy. Enjoy every second of it!!!
- **Treasurer – Donna Diaz**
- I am not prepared to provide a Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss statement as I had hoped.
- The November corrections to the monthly report are now posted on our website. There was interest for the MOOL savings that I corrected. And there was a typo on the beginning balance.
- PNC Operating: Beginning balance \$179023.08. Ending balance \$81,028.09
- PNC Savings: Beginning balance \$155,815.45. Ending balance \$255,821.81.
- Trustmark Building Fund: Beginning balance \$51028.61. Ending balance \$52,112.87.
- Trustmark Building CD xxx9170: Beginning balance: \$115,756.21. Ending balance \$115,756.21
- Trustmark Building CD xxxx9188: Beginning balance \$5,074.39. Ending balance \$65,074.39 115,756.21
- Trustmark MOOL Savings: Beginning balance \$6,928.67 Ending balance \$6,428.89
DOUBLE POSTING THAT WAS CORRECTED.
- Trustmark Roof Loan: Beginning balance \$-113,353.43 Ending balance \$-111,742.57.
- There are no interest entries for the Trustmark CD's for December. As previously reported, from the existing Trustmark Building Fund CD, an additional CD was opened to secure the roof loan. The interest for these is added to the account on the 13th of the month. Since they were started in October, there was not interest to report. However, I put the November interest on the October statement. The interest I reported for November should have been posted for December.

- The bank statements are reconciled, and the audit committee has all of the documentation to audit the 3rd Qtr. Going forward, there may be some changes to these reports again. There are a few transactions that I am researching. I will keep you updated.

- **Recording Secretary – Mikie Ganus**

No Report

- **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. Otherwise, email it to me. Please do not remove the pages from the protectors. I won't see updates there.
- It's super important that you check the directory because I found some errors in floats, rooms, status, etc. and spent a few hours this week fixing them!
- Don't forget to check out Hospitality. Paula and crew really outdid themselves this month by bringing in a food truck! This is her last GM as Chairman, so everyone give her and her tireless committee a round of applause YAY!! Thank you for helping keep everything running smoothly!
- 21 Days until we ride!

- **Parliamentarian – Kenda Isenhower**

I would like to take a moment to thank Cassie for doing an amazing job as this year's Chairman for elections. This is no easy task and each month you took on the challenge with grace. Thank you to your committee as well. Also, thank you to all my sister LaShe's for allowing me to serve on the board this year. I cannot wait for the best parade and ball on Feb. 10th. Thanks ladies and I will be back shortly to present our proposed bylaw change.

- **Historian – Gabby Smith**

No Report

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

- 3 Weeks from today ladies, we will be hitting the streets. It is very important to read the Parade rules in their entirety. They will be in your ball packet and posted to the web and Facebook.

- Our floats will be complete with painting and leafing by the end of the month and ready for you to show off at our Float Review Open House. Summer is planning a really fabulous event so please invite your family and friends.
- I hope everyone is getting their throws bagged and ready. Please make sure you don't have any illegal throws. Please do not throw paper money, anything sharp, and anything with an organization or business name - we only throw OOL items. Make sure any item that comes in a box is put into a bag before you come to the barn - No boxes of any type are allowed on the float or at the barn.
- Float load is Sunday, Feb. 8th. Captains and committee chairman may load from 8am-9:30. Members load from 9:30-2:30. When you arrive, you will be directed to the roll up door closest to your float. You should unload your throws and move your car before you go and set your throws up and hang beads, etc. on the float. There will be some teens working for tips to help you with your throws. Please be generous. If you have teens that wish to help, please get with me and/or Danetta to put them on the list. Danetta is the Parade Committee member tasked with coordinating our float helpers. All workers must be on the list in advance to load for payment.
- If you need to be excused from the Parade, you must write the President. You may not ride if you are pregnant. We will be walking from the Convention Center to the Civic Center location at 5:40 pm. If you struggle with the walk and need the "Assist Bus" for transportation to and from the floats, please get with me and/or Mary Westbrook. You can sign up tonight or request via email. Mary will be riding with you and will be working with Ruth, our driver, to make this service more helpful to you. If you rode last year and have any specific feedback, please share. Please keep in mind that we are subject to MPD instructions.
- Keep an eye on the Facebook page, website and your email for any updates, important information and reminders. Thank you and I have just one question: ARE YOU READY TO RIDE?
- **Board Seat 2 – Ball - Nicolle Rayborn**
- Can you believe we are down to the last meeting before the ball?! Are y'all getting excited??
- Last reminder that rehearsal is Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the Convention Center in the main hall. The Board members, Queen, & Emblem are from 2-3:30pm, the membership is from 3:30- 5pm, and the MOOLs are from 4:00-5:00pm. Escorts are welcome. Remember to send in your excuse to President Cindy if you cannot attend and that no outside food or drink may be brought into the Convention Center.

- If you need special seating for your guests at the ball, please send me an email or come see me tonight. There will be a list at the entrances to the ball. I am working with OVG to ensure that there will be elevator access to the exhibit hall for those who need it.
- For those of you who are not riding in the parade this year but want to come watch, your ribbon, if you have one, or a special wristband, if you don't, will get you back into the venue. Wristbands will be available the day of the ball when we gather back at the Convention Center in the afternoon. These are only valid for reentry during the parade. They will not get additional guests into the ball.
- Layouts for the Convention Center were posted on Facebook and sent to all Room Captains. A large print out is in the back of the room. A menu and answers to food questions from the rooms were also sent out to all room captains. Decoration rules were sent to all rooms and float captains. The only update is that all floats will have 5 tables instead of the usual 4. This ensures that all members have a place to sit.
- The Convention Center will have a designated area set aside for those of you who would like to carry a cooler to your float. It must be duct taped shut and cannot be opened while in the Convention Center. You may pick it up when we leave to walk to the floats.
- You may have noticed in the newsletter and on Facebook that we are trying something new for the ball by selling jumbotron ads like we did for the EOC. Personal ads are \$25 and Business ads are \$50. This includes outside businesses. The proceeds will help defray the cost of the jumbotron (\$6000 that was included in the sound & lighting budget this year). You are welcome to give a shout out to your bestie, congratulate the Q&E, or tell the world how awesome your room or float is. Tracey has kindly offered to help with the formatting of your ad at no additional cost. All ads and payments are due by 02/01/26 (Rehearsal).
- To answer a few questions that came in from the membership, we are not over budget for sound & lighting as we budgeted \$12,500 and paid \$9900 to Sound Associates. That included \$6000 for the jumbotron. The ads are to help generate income outside of our membership dues and fundraisers. Business ads made up a large portion of the ad income for the EOC. While the city prohibits us from displaying commercial advertising on our floats, we are free to advertise at the ball. Another organization has been advertising at their ball for some time. For the last two years, we have been fortunate to receive a credit from the city that goes towards the production costs at the Convention Center. It was a little over \$19,000 this year and is not guaranteed from year to year. We need to find a way to fill that gap in the future. Ads are one way to start addressing it.
- There was a question about whether or not masks are required in ads. Since we unmask at the conclusion of the tableau, the Board felt that masks could be optional for ads at our private event.
- Budget update: see insert

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

- Happy January, ladies! We are officially in crunch time, and I'm happy to report the Ways & Means store is alive and well.
- First, a huge thank you to our new members, you absolutely helped clear out some inventory during orientation. Y'all did not hesitate, and I love to see it. And another big thank you to our riders, who also showed up for the store during float spot picking. Every purchase truly helps, and it does not go unnoticed.
- As we head into the final stretch, I really want to highlight our last fundraisers of the season: shopping nights. We had a solid turnout at Pop's last week, and I'm hopeful we'll see even more of you this Thursday night at Toomey's. This is always one of our best opportunities to earn money back for the organization while doing shopping you were probably going to do anyway.
- And don't forget-next Thursday at Port City Throws is your final chance this season to shop and help LaShe's earn a rebate. If you've been putting it off or waiting for the right time, this is it. Bring a friend, bring your husband, bring your shopping list, and make a night of it.
- As far as the store goes, we are stocked with ball must-haves, discounted items, and a few limited pieces you won't want to miss. We'll be set up at every opportunity from here on out, so please stop by, grab what you need, and help us sell through what's left.
- Thank y'all so much for your continued support of Ways & Means. Let's finish this season strong!

- **Past President – Queen Melissa Davis**

She announced her Grand Marshal, Chelsey Sayasane from Fox10 TV

Committee Reports

- **Hospitality – Paula Harris**

- She thanked the membership for participating and buying from the Food Truck.
- She mentioned that there was leftover alcohol from last year's ball

- **New Members – Lynlee Evans**

She thanked all of the PQs and PEs, Board and her New members committee for helping with the New Member Orientation

She announced the winner of the \$10 Starbucks card for entering the Associate Mask Contest and that was Kristy Gurka. The winner of the mask Contest was Lorie Giles. She will lead the Associates out for the Ball.

- **Photography – Gail Filotei**

- She reminded everyone to be at the Convention Center between 2:00 and 2:30. She will be posting on Facebook the photo times. Please, no cellphone pictures are to be taken during these pictures.

- **Layaway – Hayley Clough**

- Hi sisters! Our time is finally here! Only 3 weeks left until we're rolling down the streets of Mobile! First, I would like to thank my wonderful committee for their hard work all year and their hard work this up-coming weekend! I couldn't do it without you!
- Now for the fun part! Layaway pickup is this weekend! Sunday from 11-2 at the float barn. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know so I can have a headcount of workers. Plan to be at the barn at 9 AM Sunday morning! The marshals will have the grill going so feel free to bring something to throw on it and please check the weather and dress accordingly. I plan to have some coffee and hot chocolate available to keep us warm!
- My committee and I will be having bag and tag this Friday at the float barn! I've had a few people reach out to me about helping with this as well. If you would like to volunteer for bag and tag, plan to be at the float barn around 12 on Friday!
- Drop dead date for layaway pickup will be Sunday, February 1st from 11-1 at the float barn. Any orders not picked up by this date will be put back into the inventory for me to sell. Don't let your money go to waste and please pick up your items or have someone pick them up for you!
- Now for the bad news, we had 1 item delayed in transit. (Plus side it's only 1 item!) But our pearl and feather bead will not be ready for pickup until float review on February 7th. If you ordered this item or the member must have pack, you can pick up this bead at float review from 11-12 or anytime on float load day. The rest of the items in the member must have pack will be given to you at layaway pickup, you will only be missing this bead.
- Any leftover items will be available for purchase at float review on the 7th from 11-12 and all day at float load on February 8th. I should have some extra theme pins, cups, garters, plush, beads, and a few other things. Everything will be first come first serve though so be sure to come see me early! I will be able to take cash or card in person. Thank you all for a wonderful year and let's let the good times roll!

- **Costumes – Marissa McManus**
- All but 50 have been picked up. Associates will be available at Layaway pick-up
- **Elections – Cassie Knorr**
- She thanked her committee for all of their hard work this year
- **Invitations – Robin Brown**
- She reminded everyone if they have any issues with their invitations to please let her know. She also thanked her committee.
- **Float Review – Summer Frahm**
- She reminded anyone that wants to sign-up for a Field Day Team to do so.
- She announced that she has the Pre-Paid food cards available for purchase at \$10 each
- She announced the times and rooms for when they are to work both the Food and Games at Float Review. For the food, there should be at least 4 from each room working
- **Unfinished Business**
Cindy reminded the rooms that she needs your Election and EOC reps.
- **New Business**
- By-Law Voting – Hayley Cough made a motion to just read the change – One opposed and one abstained. Motion passed
- Kendra read only the change: Article III – Nomination, Elections and Term of Office

To be eligible for nomination for **Treasurer, Parliamentarian**, Board Seats 1,2 or 3 a member must have served at least Two (2) years on the Committee for the position in which they are being nominated for.

Several members had questions about this change such as can you serve on these committees and still work their way up. A few disagreed with this change and one question on whether or not we had already voted on this by-law such as this in the past.

- Cindy announced the New Chairman for 2026-2027

Elections – Summer Frahm
EOC – Danetta Bean

Hospitality – Jettie Presley
Spring Event – Victoria Schumann
Layaway – Jamie Dean
Costumes – Mickey Farmer

- **Break at 8:18 – Count Votes – Draw Raffle prizes**
- **Back to Order at 8:39**
- Vote Count – By-Law Failed
- **Room Announcements/Drawings**

Room 2 – In-Shore fishing and Wagon – winner was Nick Southwick

Room 1 announce that they are having their Annual St. Patrick’s Day bus trip on 3/14.
Please see Waneva Ivey to sign up

Michelle Presley made a motion to adjourned and Jennifer Ridgeway seconded. All in Favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41

Respectfully submitted,

Mikie Ganus
OOL Recording Secretary