



ORDER OF LASHE'S

NEWSLETTER



A Word from President Cindy



Happy New Year! I am looking forward to all that 2026 will bring.

I want to start by acknowledging that we have had a tough year—but we made it to the finish line. Now it is time to come together and have a fantastic Mardi Gras season! Who is ready? I know I am—bring on the fun! **As I write this, we are just 35 days away from our Ball and Parade.**

January is an extremely busy month, so please be sure to mark all important dates on your calendar and keep your newsletter handy.

At this month's General Meeting, I will be announcing the Chairmen for the following committees: **Costumes, Elections, Spring Event, Hospitality, Layaway, and Evening of Chance.** Please join me in congratulating these ladies as they step into their new roles.

To all current Committee Chairs: please submit your end-of-year reports to me no later than **March 7, 2026.** Additionally, begin preparing your books and SOPs to be passed on to the incoming Chairmen. Be sure to include notes on what worked well, what did not, and any recommendations for future committees.

If you are interested in running for one of the ten Executive Board positions, please contact me and Tracey Taylor by **February 26, 2026,** to be included in the newsletter. While announcing is not required, it is a great way to get your name out there.

If you need to be excused from any upcoming **MANDATORY** events or membership requirements, you must email me at lashespresident@gmail.com in advance. This policy applies to all mandatory obligations, including Marshals. With many events approaching, staying informed is essential. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

SAVE THE DATE

- Jan. 11, 2026
New Member Orientation, 11-1pm
Float Spot Pick, 2-4 pm
Float Barn
- Jan. 12, 2026, 6-8 pm
Pop's Midtown
- Jan. 20, 2026, 7 pm
General Meeting
The Locale
- Jan. Bar Raffle
Room 10
- Jan. 22, 2026, 6-8 pm
Toomey's Night
- Jan. 25., 2026, 11-2 pm
Layaway Pickup
Float Barn
- Jan. 29, 2026, 6-8 pm
Port City Throws

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

Hope you had fun as Emblem Marissa, and I did at the Queen and Emblem Luncheon. **Thank you to Lisa and her committee for a wonderful job.** Thank you to everyone who played part in that special day! The countdown is on for the most fantastic Ball and Parade that each of those committees are working hard along with all the other supporting chairman.

There are so many puzzle pieces that are working together and falling into place. There are so many opportunities for us to socialize so pay attention to the calendars and FB notifications so we can **Let the Good Times Roll.**



Emblem Marissa

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Now to the fun that we've been looking forward to and planning all year- Mardi Gras 🍷💚💛 We are almost a month away from the best ball and parade!! I hope each and every one of you are just as excited as I am to see all the little details play out! I look forward to many lasting memories with everyone!

Thank you to everyone involved that helped put on the Queen and Emblem party at Bellingrath Gardens! Lisa Bullock and committee did an amazing job. I enjoyed getting to spend the day with those who were able to make it! Thank you for taking time out of your day to come celebrate with us! It's still so surreal to me to have this honor and privilege!





Vice President - DD Payne

The New Member Orientation is coming up, and it will be an amazing event! Be sure to see Lynlee and her Committee for a wonderful, informative, and FUN day for all our New Members!

To the New Members, please reach out to any of the people you meet at this orientation and ask lots of questions! You will have a lot more fun over the next few weeks if you are confident about what you need to do!

Please welcome to the LaShe's our pledges from the December Meeting...

Name	Address	Phone	Email
Kaylee Ann Wilkes	26955 Spyglass Dr. Orange Beach, AL 36561	334-224-9585	Kayleeannwilkes@gmail.com
Sarah Aloys Gaston	31235 Shambo Rd. Spanish Fort, AL 36527	251-366-2621	sarahagaston@gmail.com
Alexa Harvey	4374 Cypress Shores Dr. Mobile, AL 36619	251-459-3735	alexadpeacock@yahoo.com

Please add their information to your directories. And remember that I always have applications available at the meetings and on the website.

Finally, please remember that I have **PREGNANCY WAIVERS** available if you need them! See you all soon!

Treasurer - Donna Diaz

And just like that, it's that time -Let the good times roll! **If you have any outstanding monetary balances - With the exception of the Float Fees - get with me to make arrangements ASAP!** If you have not paid dues, layaway, assessment, room dues, etc. in full, you will not be allowed to pick up your costume, layaway or invitations.



Float fees are due by float load this year. All financial obligations should be taken care of by float load. If not, you will not be allowed to load your float or attend the ball and parade. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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



Recording Secretary - Mikie Ganus



I hope that each of you had a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year. It is now down to the wire, and our Parade and Ball are just around the corner.

In December, 38% of our Active/ANR/FE, 46% of our Associates and 6% of our Honorary/Costume Honorary members attended the meeting. This is about 36% of our membership.

This month is your last chance to meet your three-meeting requirement for the General Meetings this year. There are still a lot of you that haven't met this requirement. Remember to sign- in because this is the only way that we can accurately keep track of how many meetings you have attended. Also, if you have not met your three-meetings this year, please contact President Cindy. If you have any questions about the number of meetings you have attended thus far, please reach out to me before the meeting and I will answer your questions.

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF MEMBERS Section 1. Active and Active (Non-riding) members shall attend meetings and participate in the deliberation of the Society. All Active, Active (Non-riding), and Associate members must attend three (3) General Meetings during the year or a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be imposed. (9-16-93) (6-21-01)

It is very busy and exciting time of the year, so I hope to see all of you at our meeting on January 20th.

Corresponding Secretary - Tracey Taylor

Important: Be sure to check the **member directory** and submit the update form if any of your information has changed. Keeping our directory current helps us stay connected!



Be sure to mark the upcoming important dates in your calendars! For your convenience, I created a list of dates and uploaded them on Facebook and our website.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!!



Parliamentarian - Kendra Isenhower

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are so close to the best parade and ball!

We will be voting on one bylaw change at the general meeting and at the annual meeting we will be voting on two constitution changes. Please see the appendix for the three proposed changes. I am excited to hit the streets with all of you!



Historian - Gabby Smith

Hey Ladies! 🎉 Happy Mardi Gras!

Get ready because the party is almost here! Don't forget to check the Photography insert for all the important details about our fabulous group photos on the night of the ball! 📸🌟

And listen up! You absolutely **DON'T** want to miss out on the chance to **pre-purchase your Ball Photo Packages at the General Meeting!** Prices are going up on the night of the ball, so seize this opportunity and save some cash!



Let's make some amazing memories together!



Board Seat 1 Parade - Kanja Weldy



Woo Hoo!! We will be hitting the streets very soon! Along with all the fun the parade brings, there are also rules to be followed. **The Parade Rules will be in your ball packet, available on the website and our Facebook page.** It is very important you read them in their entirety. Please avoid frustration, a fine (or worse) by knowing and following the rules.

If you will need the assist bus to get to and from the floats, please let me know. This is for those who struggle to make the walk or have a medical reason to require assistance. It is not just a "ride". Keep in mind, the driver is limited to following MPD instructions.

If you have teenagers that wish to help with float load for tips, please sign them up. Please give us their names, ages, and sponsor name. We usually have about 4 teams per bay. They will need to arrive early and have their own dolly/cart. Riders – these young people work hard and work for tips. Please bring cash to take care of them. An average of \$2-3 per bag is customary but your generosity is always appreciated.

A few reminders for load day (2/8/26 - 9:30-2:30): **No boxes of any size or type are allowed on the floats or in the barn.** Do not even bring them to the barn as our dumpster cannot accommodate your boxes. When you arrive, a Parade member will direct you to the roll up door closest to your float location. Pull in – unload your throws – and move your vehicle. You may then come back to arrange your throws, hang beads, socialize, etc. If you can, please provide some throws for our Grand Marshal - a bin will be set up to collect donations. REMEMBER: All financial obligations including float fees must be paid to load your float!

Keep an eye on our correspondence and our FB Page for any updates, reminders, times, etc. It's that time of year where info comes out fast and furious!

Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!



Board Seat 2 Ball - Nicolle Rayborn

We are down to the final weeks before our fabulous ball! The ball committee is polishing the last details to ensure everyone has a wonderful evening. With so much going on, please be sure to read your newsletter & check the OOL Facebook page. They have everything you need to know, but don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

If you are pregnant, see Vice President DD to sign a waiver to participate in the tableau and ball.



Rehearsal schedule:

Board/Q&E – 2:00-3:30pm	Members – 3:30-5:00pm	MOOL – 4:00-5:00pm
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If you are unable to attend, you must submit a written notice to President Cindy to avoid being fined. Also, OVG does not allow outside food or beverages to be brought into the Convention Center. Don't forget to bring your escort and sign in at the door!

Your ball packet containing the rules and ribbons will be distributed at layaway pick up on January 25, 2026. Be sure to read the rules and ask questions if something is not clear. You are responsible for knowing and understanding the rules for both you and your guests.

The Ball Committee is inviting the floats to decorate their tables in the main exhibit hall again this year. **Decorating for rooms and float tables will take place from 9:00-11:00am the morning of the ball.** Rules were distributed to both room and float captains. There will be a bar set up with Bloody Mary's, mimosas, & beer, too, so come start celebrating the day with your sisters!

We're excited to offer members—and the wider community—a fun new way to be part of the ball this year. For the first time, **we'll be displaying personalized ads on the jumbotron** before and after tableau, and you're invited to take part. Whether you want to send a shout out to your room or float, congratulate the Queen & Emblem, or simply add a little sparkle to the night, a **personal ad is just \$25.** Businesses can join the festivities as well—**business ads are \$50,** and outside businesses are absolutely welcome. Every ad purchased helps offset the jumbotron cost and supports the incredible experience we're creating together. It's a small way to make a big impact, and your message will light up the night in a memorable way. Please reach out to me to submit your ad or for more information.

The day of the ball we will **meet back at the Convention Center at 2:00 pm** to get dressed in our costumes, take pictures, grab a bite to eat, have a cocktail, and socialize before the parade and ball. All members will gather in the pre/post-ride area outside the member dressing rooms (106-107) before and after the parade. This is also where escorts are allowed to meet us after the parade. Food and a bar will be available for members and escorts and will remain open during the parade. **No guests are allowed in this area until after the conclusion of the tableau.** Non-riding members that leave to watch the parade need to wear their ribbon or wristband to be allowed back inside. MOOLs may wear their ribbon or green shirt for readmittance.

I can't thank my committee enough for all their support and hard work this year! They have been there every step of the way. I also want to thank the membership for their honest feedback about the ball planning process. Now it's time to celebrate our LaShe Life!



Board Seat 3 Ways & Means - Christine Bramlett

The Ways & Means store is stocked, organized, and ready for you at all upcoming events, including the January general meeting, rehearsal, float review, and float load. **We have lots of merchandise available and many items have been marked down,** so this is the perfect time to grab everything you still need (or didn't know you needed 😊).

One brand-new item is making its debut this month: **this year's theme poster! Only 25 were printed, so once they're gone, they're gone.** If you love collecting keepsakes from each year, you won't want to miss this one.

Between now and parade time, our focus is simple: making it easy and fun for you to shop while helping sell through our remaining inventory. Expect plenty of ball essentials, great deals, and a one-stop shop to check things off your to-do list.

Be sure to stop by the store at every opportunity—**quantities are limited,** there will be no reorders, and the best finds always go fast. Let's clear those shelves and get ready to shine this season! 🍷💜💛



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

Who's ready to get the festivities started? New Member Orientation is right around the corner, and I hope to see all the new members, past queens & past emblems, board, and committee chairmen there! Lots of information to share and lots of goodies to give out.



Save the Date: Mandatory New Member Orientation

 **Sunday, January 11, 2026**
 **11:00 AM**

 **OOL Float Barn, 453 Pillans St**



For the ball - all associates should walk out with the associates at the beginning of call outs. If you are a temp rider, you may circle back through and walk out with your float.

Costume - Marissa McManus

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Now to the time of year we plan for    Mardi Gras!!! I'm getting very excited to see everyone in their costumes!

The first date for costume pickup will be Sunday, January 11th from 2-4 PM during float spot pick. Please come with your float after picking your spot. This is for all ACTIVE, ANR, and COSTUME HONORARY!! Associates will be able to start picking up their costumes at Lay-a-Way. If you're not able to pick up, please have someone pick yours up for you!

February 1st- Rehearsal at Convention Center 3:30pm-5pm!
 February 7th- Float Review at Float Barn 12pm-2pm!
 February 8th- Float Load at Float Barn 9am-2pm!





Float Review - Summer Frahm

January general meeting is the last chance to donate! Liquor donations are low. **If you don't want to work food service, get those liquor donations in!** Thank you for all the Amazon donations. We will draw for food service times and games work at the Jan general meeting.

Get your teams ready for our field day! We'll have egg races, sack races, 3 legged races, and an egg toss. This is going to be fun!

Hospitality - Paula Harris

Hello My Sisters!! Hope everyone had a fabulous Christmas and a Happy New Year!! I would like to **thank Madison Harris, Jessica Anthony, Emily Walters** and of course my fabulous Board Rep **Tracey Taylor** for stepping in for me while I was on vacation!! Thank you, ladies, from the bottom of my heart.

Okay **Room 10** this is your month to shine for the raffle for hospitality.

The drink for January will be the **Hunch Punch** again. Don't forget about new member orientation, so bring your money. We will have **Bloody Mary's and Mimosas**.

Thank you so much for supporting Hospitality!!



Invitations - Robin Brown

🎫 Tickets & Pick-Up Details: Additional tickets may be purchased at the Finance Table. Please bring your receipt to the Invitations Table for processing. Invitations will be available for pick-up at the following events:

- January General Meeting
- Rehearsal
- Layaway Pickup
- Float Review (12-2 PM)
- Float Load (12-2 PM)



Layaway - Hayley Clough

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Not too much longer and we are rolling through the streets of Mobile! And I hope you're ready for layaway pickup!

Pickup will be Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 11-2 at the OOL float barn!
Drop dead date to pick up your items will be Sunday, February 1, 2026, from 11-1 at the OOL float barn.

If you do not pick up your items by the drop-dead date, you forfeit them with no refund or credit! If you cannot pick up your items, please arrange for a friend to pick them up! Layaway will be set up from 11-12 at Float Review to sell any remaining items and we will be set up all day for float load as well!





Photography - Gail Filotei

Happy New Year! Reminder, pre ordered ball photo packages may be purchased at our next meeting. I will be set up by the entry doors. Here is the **schedule for this year's ball pictures**. It may be a good idea to set the reminder in your phone now, so you won't be left out of any pictures.

DAY OF THE BALL GROUP PICTURES!!

Please arrive at the Convention Center (in Street clothes) and change into your costume and proceed to the main area for pictures. The schedule is below:

Arrive at the Convention Center between 2:00-2:30.

3:00: Queen, Emblem and Executive Board

3:15: OOLettes, Committee Chairmen

3:25: Float Pictures A-N

3:55: Marshals

4:05: PQ/PE, Charter Members and Honorary

4:15: Room Pictures (These will be taken in main area also)

REMINDER:

These pictures are only to be taken by Palmers Photography. **NO CELL PHONE PHOTOS ARE TO BE TAKEN!**

IMPORTANT: Please arrive a few minutes **BEFORE** the start time of pictures. The Photographer will move as swiftly as possible, and the schedule could adjust accordingly, and we do not want anyone to miss being included because they were not in the main area.

Pre-paid photo package orders/pictures will begin after Tableau on the stage.

All members will be photographed during Tableau. These pictures will be available for download or purchase at a later date.

PR/Special Events - Lisa Bullock

We had such a great time at the **Queen & Emblem party**. The lights at Bellingrath were a gorgeous backdrop, and Queen Melissa and Emblem Marissa were stunning! Thank you to all the rooms for the generous donations of Christmas presents for the VOA residents. **We filled up TWO buses! The VOA residents were so excited and thankful for their gifts this year!**



Thank you to my wonderful committee for all the help throughout this year – **Ashley Stone, Emily Koppersmith, Whitney Taylor, Kirstin Young, Kelli Altmyer, and Bridget Dixon-Moseley**. I could not have done this job without you all! Also, thank you to my previous board rep **Donna Diaz** for all your help throughout this year, and to my new board rep **Mikie Ganus** for finalizing all the details with me.

And finally, **THANK YOU** members for your support to all our spotlight organizations throughout the year! We have blessed many individuals this year! Merry Christmas to ALL and to all a **GOODNIGHT!!**



Sunshine - Melanie Suiter

Congratulations 🎉 to **Micky Farmer Troia** (Room 2) on her marriage to Nash Troia.



Please continue to pray for the following Lashe Members:



- Healing prayers for **Anita Skipper** (Room 14).
- Healing prayers for **Judith Pierce** (Room 5).
- Sympathy to **Cindy and Katie Paul** (Room 7) on the loss of Cindy's brother and Katie's uncle, Robert (Rusty) B. Minto Jr.
- Sympathy to **Kim Cromer Mansfield** (Room 8) on the loss of her grandmother, Betty Cromer.
- Continued get well wishes for **Jennifer Barrett's** (Room 5) sister who had a recent heart surgery.

Exciting news for **Amy Spinella** (Room 14) as she finished her cancer treatments and was able to ring the bell!!!

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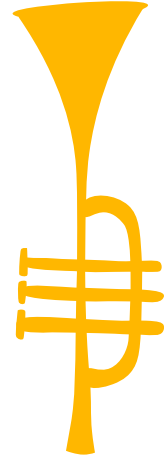


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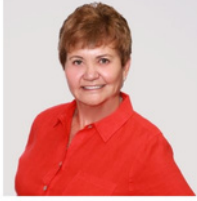
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Appendix

The following will be voted on at the January General Meeting:

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

ARTICLE III – NOMINATION, ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

CURRENT:

Section 5. To be eligible for nomination as President, a member must have served at least three (3) years on the Executive Board. One of these years must have been served as Treasurer or at one (1) of the Board Seats 1, 2, or 3. To be eligible for nomination for 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. (11-16-00) (11-20-14) (7-20-23)

PROPOSED:

Section 5. To be eligible for nomination as President, a member must have served at least three (3) years on the Executive Board. One of these years must have been served as Treasurer or at one (1) of the Board Seats 1, 2, or 3. 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. (11-16-00) (11-20-14) (7-20-23)

REASON:

The requirement of serving at least two (2) years on the relevant committee ensures that the member has sufficient experience and knowledge about the position they wish to fulfill. Currently the bylaw only states for board seats 1,2,3. With the Treasurer's position, they can have served on the audit or finance committee. With the Parliamentarian's position, they can have served on the Bylaw committee.

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.

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.