

**ORDER OF LaShe's
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 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 6:54 p.m.

Aubreigh's Army-Brook Nichols & Mandy Robinson:

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Brook Nichols is Aubreigh's mom and founder of Aubreigh's Army Foundation #328. With her was Mandy Robinson Aubreigh's God Mother and a member of All Things Aubreigh.

Aubreigh was diagnosed with cancer in the fifth grade. The community came together, and a little girl started a movement. In 2018, Aubreigh started the viral Lemon Face Challenge to bring awareness to her cancer. She first challenged Nick Saban, and he accepted. The challenge went as far as Japan. Aubreigh lost her battle on August 15, 2018.

Brook wanted to continue her daughter's legacy with Aubreigh's Army Foundation. They continue to raise funds to fight DIGP.

One of the ways that Aubreigh's Army gives back is through their partnership with Women's and Children's Hospital for a toy drive each December. Items include arts and crafts items, dolls, toys, cars, stuffed animals, gift cards, etc. The hospital reaches out to them every year to help families in need. They thanked the organization for allowing them to be the September Spotlight Charity.

Lisa Bullock announce that the membership could go forward and take the Lemon Face Challenge. Members were given a lemon wedge place in their mouth and then squeezed it. If they made a face, they were charged with donation to Aubreigh's Army.

Lisa then "passed the hat" to collect donations for Aubreigh's Army.

Guest Speaker Concluded 7:05p.m.

Meeting Called to Order 7:06 p.m.

New Members: Introduction by Lynlee Evans

No new members to pledge this month.

Pledge-Kendra Isenhower

Reading of the Minutes: August 19, 2025, General Meeting

- Jennifer Ridgeway made a motion to dispense with the reading of minutes. Bea Taylor seconded the motion. The majority voted in favor; two opposed; motion passed.

Officer's Reports

- Vice President-DD Payne:

- Member count: 300 Active, 2 Founder Emeritus, 8 Active Non-Riding, 30 Honorary, 24 Costume Honorary and 95 Associates.
- We will vote on 4 new members tonight.
- The ladies voted in last month will pledge at the October General Meeting.
- There are currently 17 ladies on the waiting list. DD received 2 applications. She is ready to take new applications. Let's build that waiting list up!
- New members remember that we have the mandatory new member orientation January 11, 2026.
- Rosters are posted online as well as on the board in the back.
- DD that if you joined in 1989, please stand and remain standing. If you joined in the 1990's, please stand. If you joined in the 2000's, please stand. If you joined in the 2010's, please stand. If you joined in the 2000's, please stand. That should be everyone. DD asked that we all look around at all the beautiful ladies standing around you. Introduce yourself to people around you if you do not know them. These are the LaShe's, and the strength is our membership. We all bring something new and exciting to the table. We are, who we are, because of each and every one of you. It is not always easy. But thank you for all that you do to keep us growing and getting better by the day. Give yourself a round of applause.

- **Treasurer-Stacey Jessee:**

- Reminder-this is a dues month. If you have not paid your dues, please do so now. You can see the lovely ladies at finance or scan the QR code or pay online through our website. Finance can verify your account balance if needed.
- Stacey read August 2025 balances.
 - Wells Fargo Operating-Beginning Balance \$105,055.75, Ending Balance \$98,897.57
 - Wells Fargo Savings- Beginning Balance \$230,704.07, Ending Balance \$230,706.03
 - MOOLs Trustmark Savings-Beginning Balance \$5,927.81, Ending Balance \$6,428.03
 - Trustmark Building Fund-Beginning Balance \$46,613.33, Ending Balance \$47,730.92
 - Trustmark Building CD-Beginning Balance \$177,709.97, Ending Balance \$178,375.57

- **Recording Secretary-Donna Diaz:**

- 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 or you can email Tracey.
- Do not forget to check out Hospitality. Paula has Foosackley's chicken fingers and chips for sale if you need sustenance!

- Paula will also be bringing back Iron Bowl squares for \$35.00. There are payouts of \$350.00 every quarter. She will also sale Gumbo from Stevie's Kitchen. For every quart that you buy, Stevie donates \$8.00 to the LaShe's. Get your pre-order from Paula.
- Tracey read a card from Cindy and Katie Paul thanking the members for attending their mother/grandmother's visitation and the beautiful plant that they received.
- **Parliamentarian-Kendra Isenhower:**
 - We will vote on a bylaw change tonight. If it passes, it will not take effect until the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
 - Please wear your proper name tag for voting.
 - If you have comments, questions, or concerns, you must come to the front and use the microphone during open discussion.
 - If you have any bylaw changes, please submit them to President Cindy.
 - Kendra will return shortly to present the bylaw.
- **Historian-Gabby Smith:**
 - We have a new mini split air conditioner in the Historian Room. It has already made a huge difference in that room. It will help preserve our memories.
 - Our next project will be to paint the walls and ceiling in that room.
 - Under New Business, we will announce our photography bids that we have received for this year.
- **Board Seat 1, Parade-Sara McKinley:**
 - Floats are coming along nicely. The props are being placed on the sides. Our new Float Builder has gone above and beyond by working on safety railings. She is working on lights/electrical trying to stay on top of this.
 - There is no new news from the City or Police Department regarding any route changes. But Mobile PD is scheduled to attend the Parade Society meeting in October. Sara will keep us updated.
 - We will not be participating in the Venture Bowl Parade this year. It is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2025, which is the night of our General Meeting.
 - Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13, 2025. The Parade Committee will be hosting an event at the Float Barn. The official announcement will be made at the October General meeting. Stay tuned!!!
 - There are 146 days and 23 hours until we parade!
- **Board Seat 2, Ball-Nicolle Rayborn:**
 - Nicolle shared that our stage will be three feet tall this year instead of three inches with three tiers which will bring us closer to what we traditionally saw at our Ball. There will be two wing stages on either side of the stage for our bands.

- We are going back to individual rooms this year. We are working on this and hopefully we will even do a little decorating. Good news-no additional cost to our organization. Unfortunately, there will not be food and liquor in the rooms this year.
- Dressing rooms will move to the dressing rooms downstairs. This will be our pre and post ride gathering area. It will be easier for our Escorts to find us.
- Mark your calendar! Rehearsal will be January 21, 2026, at the Convention Center from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Due to our limited time, this will be business only-no alcohol or food. Everyone is free to go downtown once we have completed rehearsal.
- Invitations-Robin Brown is out of town. She will have invitation forms available at the October General meeting. It will also be on the website. Robin will have more information next month.
- **Board Seat 3, Ways and Means-Christine Bramlett:**
 - Christine has pre-order charm bracelets and a customized Order of LaShe's sweatshirt. She the ladies at the store to have your wrist measured for the perfect fit. The sweatshirt is available in many color combinations.
 - There are still some Dave & Buster's play cards. Purchase tonight for \$20.00.
 - The Top Golf fundraiser is on October 26, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Flyers are on the table along with sign up sheets. Sign up your team tonight.
 - Christine gave a huge thank you to her hard working committee and the organization for supporting Ways & Means.
- **Past President & Queen-Melissa Davis:**
 - Thank you for joining her and Emblem Marissa for their party. Let's keep having fun!

Committee Reports

- **Photography-Gail Filotei:**
 - Gail asked that membership send her any pictures they have taken at any of their events. She is gathering photos for our Queen and Emblem.
- **PR/Special Events-Lisa Bullock:**
 - Lisa hopes that everyone enjoyed the Lemon Face Challenge. Thank you to those that participated. We raised over \$800.00 for Aubreigh's Army foundation.
 - Lisa announced that our membership Queen & Emblem party will be absolutely magical! The party will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025, from 3:00 to 5:30pm. After the party we will take a festive stroll through our gorgeous venue, Bellingrath Gardens, and experience their 30th anniversary of Magic Christmas in Lights! Tickets will cost \$55.00 and will include food, two glasses of Ballatore, and access to the gardens. Tickets will be sold at our October and November General Meetings as well as on our website. All tickets must be purchased in advance-no tickets will be sold at the door. We only have 125 tickets available so grab yours fast before they are gone! Reach out to Lisa if you have any questions.

- **Float Review-Summer Frahm:**

- Float Review still has perpetual raffle tickets available for \$25.00. There are five chances to win from \$50.00 to \$200.00.
- Please reach out to Summer with any ideas for new games that you would like to see at Float Review.

- **Recommendations-Faye Olensky:**

- Please place your ideas, concerns, and comments in the Suggestion box and the Recommendations Committee will take it to the board.

Unfinished Business

- **Roof:**

- The Board will meet with the Roofer on September 23, 2025, to discuss work on the roof.
- Cindy and Stacey are working to secure the loan. Once that is done, the \$37.00 assessment will be applied to your account. This amount along with all other financial obligations are due by December 31, 2025.
- Roof will be completed by Wade Roofing

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

New Business

- **Photography Bids:**

- Stacey Bizjak Photography
 - \$1,700.00
 - It is all inclusive digital download price.
 -
- Debra Garlo Photography & Videography
 - \$1,700.00
 - This bid is for Videography only.
 - Includes 2 edited USB flash drives. Any additional flash drives are \$35.00.
 -
- Dennis Palmer
 - \$1,800.00
 - He was our photographer last year.
 - Includes online gallery for viewing proofs and ordering.
 -

- The Board will review and update members with decision.

- **Elections:**

- **New Members vote-** Ballots distributed by committee, and members voted.
- **Bylaw vote**

Kendra told the membership that the bylaw ballot is two pages. If for some reason the pages become loose/apart, have the committee give you a new ballot or your vote will not count.

Haley made a motion for Kendra to only read the bylaw changes. Ashley Gillespie seconded the motion. Majority in favor, none opposed, none abstained; motion passed.

Kendra read the bylaw changes.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO GO INTO EFFECT BEGINNING THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR:

CURRENT: ARTICLE XI – FINANCE

Section 1. Annual dues for Active/Active Non-Riding members shall not exceed \$550.00 and will include one (1) costume, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; parading rights (Active), voting rights, and a number of Ball invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. (10-17-91) (12-14-95) (3-15-01) (1-21-10) (6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-18-23) (5-16-24)

Annual dues for Associate members shall not exceed \$500.00 and will include one set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; one (1) Associate Costume and a number of Ball Invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. (10-17-91) (12-14-95) (3-15-01) (1-21-10) (6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-18-23)

Annual dues for Costume Honorary members shall be \$275.00 payable \$137.50 by the May general membership meeting and \$137.50, by the July general membership meeting. Upon request, a Costume Honorary member will receive one (1) set of Spring Event invitations, if held; and one (1) set of Fall or Winter Event invitations, if held. Costume Honorary members will be required to participate in the Annual Ball; she will be provided a call out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation. (12-11-08) (6-21-12) (5-18-17) (5-16-24)

Annual dues for Honorary members shall not exceed the cost of a set of Annual Ball invitations and will include, upon the members request, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; and one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; as well as an Honorary call-out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation should she desire to participate in the Annual Ball. (3-15-01) (6-20-02) (6-21-12)

Section 2. Annual Active/Active Non-Riding and Associates dues can be paid in full by the May monthly meeting or in installments to be paid as follows: (5-18-17) (5-18-23) (7-20-23) (5-16-24)20

	Active/ Active Non-Riding	Associates
May General Meeting	\$137.50	\$125.00
July General Meeting	\$137.50	\$125.00
September General Meeting	\$137.50	\$125.00
November General Meeting	\$137.50	\$125.00

Honorary dues are due in full by the May meeting. (6-20-02)

NEW:

Section 1. Annual dues for Active members shall not exceed \$850.00 and will include one (1) member theme costume, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; complimentary beverages at the Annual & General Meetings, parading rights, voting rights, and a number of Ball invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. \$150.00 of the Active member's dues will be allocated to the Ball food and bar; \$50.00 will be allocated to the Building

Fund.

Annual dues for Active (Non-riding) members shall not exceed \$850.00 and will include one (1) member theme costume, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; complimentary beverages at the Annual & General Meetings, parading rights, voting rights, and a number of Ball invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. \$150.00 of the Active member's dues will be allocated to the Ball food and bar; \$50.00 will be allocated to the Building Fund.

Annual dues for Associate members shall not exceed \$750.00 and will include one (1) Associate costume, set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; one (1) Associate Costume and a number of Ball Invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. 150.00 of the Active member's dues will be allocated to the Ball food and bar; \$50.00 will be allocated to the Building Fund.

Annual dues for Costume Honorary members shall be \$450.00 and will include one (1) member theme costume, one (1) set of Spring Event invitations, if held; and one (1) set of Fall or Winter Event invitations, if held; complimentary beverages at the Annual & General meetings and a number of Ball Invitations to be determined by the Executive Board. \$150.00 of the Active member's dues will be allocated to the Ball food and bar; \$50.00 will be allocated to the Building Fund.

Annual dues for Honorary members shall not exceed \$150.00 and will include, upon the members request, one (1) set of invitations to the Spring Event, if held; and one (1) set of invitations to the Fall or Winter Event, if held; complimentary beverages at the Annual & General meetings as well as an Honorary call-out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation should she desire to participate in the Annual Ball. \$50.00 of the Honorary Member's dues will be allocated to the Building Fund.

Section 2. Annual Active/Active Non-Riding and Associates dues can be paid in full by the May monthly meeting or in installments to be paid as follows:

Active/ Active Non-Riding	Associates
ACTIVE/ACTIVE NON-RIDING	ASSOCIATE
\$150.00 May General Meeting	\$150.00 May General Meeting
\$120.00 June General Meeting	\$100.00 June General Meeting
\$120.00 July General Meeting	\$100.00 July General Meeting
\$120.00 August General Meeting	\$100.00 August General Meeting
\$120.00 September General Meeting	\$100.00 September General Meeting
\$120.00 October General Meeting	\$100.00 October General Meeting
\$100.00 November General Meeting	\$100.00 November General Meeting

Installments may be paid in advance.

Costume Honorary dues can be paid in full by the May General Meeting or installments to be paid as follows:

1. \$150.00 May General Meeting
2. \$100.00 June General Meeting
3. \$100.00 July General Meeting
4. \$100.00 August General Meeting

Honorary dues are due in full by May meeting.

The following will also change with this bylaw passage (The dues changes will be addressed under finance instead of being redundant in Membership):

Current: Article II Membership, Section 11A:

Annual dues for Honorary members shall not exceed the cost of a set of Annual Ball invitations and are due in full by the May meeting. The Honorary member will be entitled to attend all meetings and receive publications and a set of Spring Event and Fall or Winter Event tickets. Honorary members who participate in the Annual Ball will be provided an Honorary call out ribbon and one escort invitation. (8-20-98) (3-15-01) (6-16-05)

New:

~~Annual dues for Honorary members shall not exceed the cost of a set of Annual Ball invitations and are due in full by the May meeting.~~ The Honorary member will be entitled to attend all meetings and receive publications and a set of Spring Event and Fall or Winter Event tickets. Honorary members who participate in the Annual Ball will be provided an Honorary call out ribbon and one escort invitation.

Current: Article II Membership, Section 20A:

Annual dues for Costume Honorary members shall be \$275.00 payable \$137.50 by the May general membership meeting and \$137.50 by the July general membership meeting. The Costume Honorary member will be entitled to attend all meetings and receive a set of Spring and Fall or Winter event tickets, if held. Costume Honorary members will be required to participate in the Annual Ball; she will be provided a call out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation. Costume Honorary members are not required to attend General Meetings nor the Annual Meeting. Attendance at rehearsal is required. (5-18-17) (5-16-24)

New:

~~Annual dues for Costume Honorary members shall be \$275.00 payable \$137.50 by the May general membership meeting and \$137.50 by the July general membership meeting.~~ The Costume Honorary member will be entitled to attend all meetings and receive a set of Spring and Fall or Winter event tickets, if held. Costume Honorary members will be required to participate in the Annual Ball; she will be provided a call out ribbon and one (1) escort invitation. Costume Honorary members are not required to attend General Meetings nor the Annual Meeting. Attendance at rehearsal is required. (5-18-17) (5-16-24)

REASON:

The costs to fund our parade, ball, float barn and misc. expenses has continually increased. While we need to look for ways to save money and cut costs, we still must be able to fund our expenses without assessments and more importantly, without eliminating our reserve emergency savings. We also need to replenish and grow our building fund which was used to fund the roof of our float barn.

Currently, rooms must pay the organization for the ball and parade food and bar. This will cease that need and Room dues may not be necessary at all if rooms have a fundraiser or just collect from each member should they have a need. If rooms would rather have dues to cover room expenses such as luncheon, sunshine, meeting costs, etc. they could be \$20-\$50, as voted by each room. The existing room dues requirement is only a Standing Rule and can be amended after the passage of this bylaw. An example is below.

Example: Room dues, if determined necessary by the room, are to be set annually by majority vote of room members present at the first room meeting following the OOL General Meeting in which members approve the current fiscal year budget. Room dues and room fundraiser proceeds shall only be used for room related expenses approved by majority vote of all room members. Room dues shall not exceed two

hundred dollars (\$200.00) per year. (10-21-04)(11-15-07)(9-20-12)(4-16-25)

(At some point in the future, the allocation to the bar and food may be paid back to the rooms if rooms can once again hire individual caterers and absorb their own bar as in the past.)

Current dues	\$550.00
Room dues max now:	\$200.00
Current:	\$750.00
Savings depletion:	\$118.00
<u>Building Fund:</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$918.00</u>

This proposal is only an increase of \$100.00 from our current organization/room dues structure and includes an allocation to replenish/grow the Building Fund which is our goal. We passed and included a \$55,000.00 decrease in savings in the 2025/2026 budget in lieu of an assessment which is \$118.00 per member just to meet the budget without any additional inflation of costs. This breakdown shows that we actually need a larger increase based upon our current budget and expectations but this will hopefully strike a balance between getting the needed increase and finding ways to eliminate waste within the budget.

Cindy called for discussion.

Laura Bethea-We do need a dues increase. This proposal has too much in it. Laura does not agree with allocating the funds. She does not agree with the Board determining the amount of ball tickets we are given-it should be determined and put in writing. Regarding the building fund, what is it going to take to act on that building fund? If we increase this dues at this amount, there is no guarantee that you will not be accessed.

Cindy told the membership that this bylaw change was presented by four members in good standing, not the Board.

Pam Pettis-We are being assessed to for the building fund, why should we allocate funds if we did not take any out of the building fund? To get a building is will cost a million dollars. We have \$200,000.00. Do your honestly think we will ever have a building? How are we going to maintain it? How are we going to afford insurance? Where will get the funds to furnish it? So assessing us \$50.00, every person for the building fund, that will never exist, is crazy.

Cindy said we are taking a loan out for the roof and not taking money out of the Building Fund. We will not have access to that money for that five year term.

Marsha Herrin-She has found a mistake. For annual dues for an ANR, member shall not exceed \$850.00 and will include one... Marsha did not read the whole thing. She pointed out that it stated that it included parading rights for ANR members. ANR members do not have parading rights. Last year, we paid \$170.00 per member for the Ball food and alcohol. In the proposed change, it says \$150.00. This year OVG has gone up 20%, How can we go backwards?

Cindy reminded everyone that the budget for this year is calling \$180.00 per member.

Kanja Weldy-We need a dues increase. We are reducing \$60,000.00 to \$80,000.00 from our savings account each year. In three years, we will have no savings. What happens if we have an emergency? If we have a fire and we deplete savings, we will not have our deductible. If this passes, it could eliminate the assessment that we just passed. It was assessed by a motion, it can be removed by a motion. Nothing we do is permanent.

Cindy said that if this passes, it will not go into effect until the 2026-27 fiscal year. Regarding Ball rooms, we will not have food or bars in individual rooms. Nicolle will expand on that next month.

Cindy asked if there was any more discussion (three times). Cindy called for everyone to vote.

- **Banking Issue:**

- **Cindy** told the membership that Wells Fargo did a risk assessment of our accounts. As part of this process, they have notified us that they will be ending our relationship effective November 5, 2025. They did not provide specific details beyond noting that the decision was part of their broader risk management process. Please be assured that this is not a result of any action on our part. When we originally opened the account, we signed an agreement acknowledging that either party could terminate the relationship at any time. Importantly, we maintain full access to all our funds and this decision is not a reflection on how we manage our day to day operations, which have remained consistent for more than ten years during our banking relationship with Wells Fargo. We are already taking steps to establish a new banking relationship to ensure continuity. Once finalized, we will provide the update information. As part of the transition, there will be a short period during which we will temporarily pause deposits and transactions until the new account is fully active. Cindy wants to emphasize that this decision will not affect the process with our loan for the roof. Cindy has already been in contact with Trustmark, and we will be moving forward as planned. Thank you for your support as we work through this transition.

We received the official letter from Wells Fargo today and it did not give any information other than what she ready. They reached out and got no answer other than Wells Fargo does not need to give us a reason for this.

Cindy and Stacey reached out to PNC bank today. They were very happy with the information they received. Instead of only earning ½% in interest, we will earn 4% on our saving. Online banking is better and some other things that will help us run a smoother business. If you have any questions, feel free to come to the front at this time.

Barbara Evatt-She thinks we should shop other banks. She suggested Century Bank. Cindy said that she and Stacey have shopped other options.

Cindy asked that the costume committee get ready for costume reveal and we will draw bar raffle prizes. Thank you, Room 5, for the bar raffle prizes.

Break: 8:08 p.m.

Call to Order: 8:32 p.m.

Voting Results

- **New Members:** There are 4 new members. The new members are:

Jalynn Chance Julia Lindblom Jamie Snow Sondra Wacker

- **Bylaw Results**

Bylaw change regarding dues increase **FAILED**

Costume Presentation

- **Committee** presented costumes
- **Marissa** reviewed costume accessories and shoes.
 - Accessories are sheer tops under the costumes-nude, black, rhinestone or pearl. Bloomers can be black, silver, color of costume. Tights or panty hose are optional.

Suggestions for specific floats:

- Elvira/Morticia-black wigs and fishnets
- Princess Diana-tiara, pearls
- Jackie O-short white gloves.
- Audrey-black gloves, cigarette holder with fake cigarette, pearls.
- Marilyn-big bow on the back.
- Rosie the Riveter-red bandana, peals.
- Burlesque-garter, sexy tights, corset added to the front.
- Marie Antonette-powdered wig, gloves.
- Retail therapy-shopping bags.
- Dolly-wigs, western boots.
- Shoes:
 - Silver, Black, Glitter, Rhinestone, Sandals, Boots, Tennis Shoes-Color of Costume, Converse-Color of Costume, Heels, Toms, Hey Dudes.
 - Absolutely NO House Shoes, Flip Flops, Crocs, Vans.

Room Announcements

- **Room 11**
 - Room 11 is planning a bus trip to New Orleans on October 25, 2025. The cost is \$60.00/person. See Ruth Ann to book a spot.
- **Room 9**
 - Room 9 is currently selling tickets for 30 for 30 tickets.

Lynlee Evans made a motion to adjourn. Haley Clough seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Diaz
OOL Recording Secretary