

**Order of LaShe's
Annual Membership Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 2025
Ft. Whiting Reception Hall**

Board Members Present: Melissa Davis, Jamie Lowe, Cindy Bishop, Stacey Jessee, Lisa Bullock, Tracey Taylor, Mary Giadrosich, Gabby Smith, Bridget Dixon-Moseley, Kendra Isenhower

Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M.

Roll call- Recording Secretary, Stacey Jessee

Vice President Jamie Lowe announced the following Associates moved to active status:

- Katlin Suiter
- Brandy Lancaster
- Kaitlyn Dannelley
- Tamara Makin
- Lauren Decelle Dobson
- Sandra Gregory
- Genna Hunter
- Trisha Guy
- Lynlee Sinclair Evans
- Donna Anthony
- Emily Walters
- Jessica Anthony
- Taylor Lindsey Stewart
- Leslie German
- Rachel Robbins
- Regina Bush

Pledge- Parliamentarian, Tracey Taylor

President Melissa Davis: This meeting is a Special Meeting and at this time the Chair will entertain a motion to change the Order of Business to proceed with the voting of the constitution changes preceded by the Nomination and Election of Officers for the 2025-2026 year.

Anita Knapp made a motion to change the Order of Business to proceed with the voting of the constitution changes preceded by the Nomination and Election of Officers for the 2025-2026 year. Ashley Adams seconded. Majority voted in favor; three opposed. Motion passed.

Vote on two Constitution Changes:

Article III- OBJECT

The following constitutional amendment is proposed by four members in good standing:

Current:

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE III- OBJECT

The object of this Society shall be to present each year a Mardi Gras Street parade followed by a Mystic Ball (3-19-90)

Proposed:

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE III- OBJECT

The object of this Society shall be to present each year a Mardi Gras Street parade followed by a Mystic Ball. **The parade and/or ball may not be held in the event of catastrophic natural disasters, pandemics, government mandates, or if the Society will not have sufficient capital to meet all contractual obligations and remain solvent. The ball and/or parade can be suspended by a motion proposed at a general meeting and passed with a majority vote of those present and voting (One vote more than fifty percent of the votes cast.)**

Rationale:

The first part addresses conditions that have happened and just amends our constitution to make the exception. The second part adds the measures to not present a parade and/or ball if we do not have the financial means to do so. If we continue to liquidate our savings or other circumstances put us at risk, we should suspend the ball and parade to keep the organization solvent. The longevity and legacy of the society must take precedence over a ball or parade.

Parliamentarian Tracey Taylor read proposed changes.

President Melissa- Any discussion?

Janet Nicholls- If this organization goes down, we will be forced to shut down. Right now, we have a choice. Most important thing is that we remain solvent.

Gayle Bishop- I joined this organization to have a parade and ball. Maybe dues need to go up. Our dates will be cancelled for ball and parade if we cancel.

Laura Bethea- We may need to lower the standards of our ball and parade, but we will lose our night if we cancel.

Maxine Smith- We started at \$50 dues and have gone up since then. We may need to do a little more fundraising, but let's have a parade and ball.

Ashley Adams- We are not depleting our funds. We can afford to have a ball and parade.

President Melissa- Any other discussion 3X.

Voting Commenced.

Article VI- MEETINGS

The following constitution amendment is proposed by the Executive Board.

Current:

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VI- MEETINGS

Section 1. The General Meeting shall be held the third Thursday of each month, except during the summer months and conflicting Holiday seasons, when the Board elects to dispense with the General Meeting (3-19-90)

Proposed Amendment:

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VI- MEETINGS

Section 1. ~~The General Meeting shall be held the third Thursday of each month, except during the summer months and conflicting Holiday seasons, when the Board elects to dispense with the General Meeting.~~ Following the Annual Meeting, the Executive Board will set monthly General Meeting dates based on venue availability striving to maintain continuity of meeting the same weekday for the Mardi Gras fiscal year (April 1st through March 31st). The Board may elect to dispense with the General Meeting during the months of June through August and during conflicting Holiday seasons when an earlier date may also be scheduled.

Rationale:

This amendment provides the Executive Board with the necessary flexibility to schedule General Meetings based on venue availability while being mindful of the organization's budget constraints. By including language that emphasizes striving for continuity of meeting dates, the amendment reflects the organization's commitment to consistency while recognizing that venue availability and cost considerations may require adjustments. We recognize that the membership would like to have a defined weekday for meetings, if possible. Additionally, allowing the Board to dispense with meetings or reschedule during the summer months or conflicting holidays (Christmas/December, Mardi Gras) ensures practical scheduling, especially during periods of low activity or limited resources. This approach balances the need for regular, predictable meetings with the financial and logistical realities of securing affordable venues.

Moreover, this constitutional amendment aligns with the language of the following bylaw:

ARTICLE IX- MEETINGS

Section 1. The General Meeting of this Society shall be held monthly except during June through August and conflicting Holiday seasons, when the Executive Board elects to dispense with General Meetings, however, a minimum of seven (7) General Meetings (including the Annual Meeting) shall be held each year.

Parliamentarian Tracey Taylor read proposed changes.

President Melissa- Any discussion?

Charlotte Tingle- Could it be simpler to say we will let the Board decide when and where we meet? Let the Board make the decision about our meeting.

Laura Bethea- I understand the cause, but we have a lot of people who have a schedule. If we change dates, we may not have a quorum. Worst case scenario we have our meetings at the Float Barn.

Vickie Turner- Has had the same date on her calendar for 30 years, but we should be willing to be flexible.

Kanja Weldy- There is nothing that says it won't be the third Thursday, but we need to have the ability to be flexible.

Ashley Gillespie- If we have sufficient notice, we should be able to be flexible.

Gayle Bishop- It's been the third Thursday since 1990, but there is literally no other place to meet. We need to have a safe place to have the meeting.

Julie Johnson- We will have no revenue if we don't have a meeting.

Terri Tuite- She requests Thursdays off; not everyone has the same flexibility with work schedules.

Ashley Adams- We have nowhere to meet currently. We have to give the Board the opportunity to find a place for us.

Amy Coarsey- This is the only opportunity we have to change this for the upcoming year. We won't have anywhere to meet.

Gracie Overmeyer- What is the main reason we are having problems finding somewhere?

President Melissa- Ft. Whiting is doing a major construction job. The Striper's Den voted not to host anyone. The Locale is waiting on this vote to check on availability.

Much discussion regarding Striper Den rental. President Melissa guided the conversation back to the topic on the floor.

Charlotte Tingle- Can we go to the Grand Hall?

President Melissa- That is an option if we change our date.

President Melissa- Any other discussion 3X.
Voting Commenced.

Break at 7:57 P.M.

Meeting resumed at 8:18 P.M.

Announce Constitution Results.

Article III- Object- Vote Failed.

Article IV- Meetings- Vote Passed.

Election of Officers

Cassie Knorr and the Election Committee passed out voting booklets to all voting members. Voting members inspected voting books to ensure they were securely stapled, with no duplicates, missing ballots, loose staples, etc.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for BOARD SEAT 3- WAYS AND MEANS

- Lynn Pryor nominates Christine Bramlett

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Board Seat 3- Ways and Means?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Board Seat 3- Ways and Means are now closed.

President Melissa- Will the Recording Secretary please cast one vote for Christine Bramlett for the position of Board Seat 3- Ways and Means?

- Stacey Jessee, Recording Secretary, cast one vote for Christine Bramlett for the position of Board Seat 3- Ways and Means on behalf of the Order of LaShe's.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for BOARD SEAT 2- BALL.

- DD Payne nominates Heidi Shepherd
- Lucinda Wallace nominates Nicolle Rayborn

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Board Seat 2- Ball?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Board Seat 2- Ball are now closed.

Candidates gave speeches in the order of their nomination.

- Heidi Shepherd gave her speech
- Nicolle Rayborn gave her speech

President Melissa- Ladies, please case your ballot for Board Seat 2- Ball.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for BOARD SEAT 1- PARADE

- Sharon MacKinnon-Bederka nominates Sara McKinley

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Board Seat 1- Parade?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Board Seat 1- Parade are now closed.

President Melissa- Will the Recording Secretary please cast one vote for Sara McKinley for the position of Board Seat 1- Parade?

- Stacey Jessee, Recording Secretary, cast one vote for Sara McKinley for the position of Board Seat 1- Parade on behalf of the Order of LaShe's.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for HISTORIAN.

- Robin Brown nominates Gabby Smith
- Nancy Thompson-Truitt nominates Cindy Walley

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Historian?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Historian are now closed.

Candidates gave speeches in the order of their nomination.

- Gabby Smith gave her speech
- Cindy Walley gave her speech

President Melissa- Ladies, please case your ballot for Historian.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for PARLIAMENTARIAN.

- Kanja Weldy nominates Kendra Isenhower
- Nancy Thompson- Truitt nominates Marsha Herrin

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Parliamentarian?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Parliamentarian are now closed.

Candidates gave speeches in the order of their nomination.

- Kendra Isenhower gave her speech
- Marsha Herrin gave her speech

President Melissa- Ladies, please case your ballot for Parliamentarian.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

- Waneva Ivey nominates Bridget Dixon-Moseley
- Kim Knorr nominates Tracey Taylor

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Corresponding Secretary?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Corresponding Secretary are now closed.

Candidates gave speeches in the order of their nomination.

- Bridget Dixon-Moseley gave her speech
- Tracey Taylor gave her speech

President Melissa- Ladies, please case your ballot for Corresponding Secretary.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for RECORDING SECRETARY.

- Gail Filotei nominates Lisa Bullock
- Robin Brown nominates Donna Diaz

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Recording Secretary?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Recording Secretary are now closed.

Candidates gave speeches in the order of their nomination.

- Lisa Bullock gave her speech
- Donna Diaz gave her speech

President Melissa- Ladies, please case your ballot for Recording Secretary.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for TREASURER

- Faye Olensky nominates Stacey Jessee

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Treasurer?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Treasurer are now closed.

President Melissa- Will the Parliamentarian please cast one vote for Stacey Jessee for the position of Treasurer?

- Tracey Taylor, Parliamentarian, cast one vote for Stacey Jessee for the position of Treasurer on behalf of the Order of LaShe's.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for VICE PRESIDENT

- Melanie Suiter nominates Cindy Bishop

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for Vice President?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for Vice President are now closed.

President Melissa- Will the Recording Secretary please cast one vote for Cindy Bishop for the position of Vice President?

- Stacey Jessee, Recording Secretary, cast one vote for Cindy Bishop for the position of Vice President on behalf of the Order of LaShe's.

President Melissa- At this time the Chair will entertain nominations for PRESIDENT

- Lynn Pryor nominates Jamie Lowe

President Melissa- Repeats three times: Are there any other nominations for President?

President Melissa- If there are no objections, nominations for President are now closed.

President Melissa- Will the Recording Secretary please cast one vote for Jamie Lowe for the position of President?

- Stacey Jessee, Recording Secretary, cast one vote for Jamie Lowe for the position of President on behalf of the Order of LaShe's.

President Melissa- Has everyone eligible voted who wishes to vote?
Election Committee collected all ballots.

Break at 9:21 P.M.

Meeting Resumed at 9:39 P.M.

Annual Reports

Vice President- Jamie Lowe

- We currently have
 - 300 Active
 - 31 Honorary
 - 22 Costume Honorary
 - 8 Active Non-Riding
 - 2 Founder Emeritus
 - 67 Associates
 - 71 Waiting List
- This year we welcomed 24 new wonderful ladies into the LaShe's. Heidi Shepherd and her committee did an excellent job making sure these ladies were informed and prepared.
- Ashley Adams and Faye Olensky worked tirelessly this year keeping up with the ever-changing float and room rosters. Thank you, ladies, for your commitment and dedication to the society.
- To the Executive Board, thank you ladies for your love, support and encouragement this year.

- We currently have 71 ladies on our waiting list.

Treasurer- Cindy Bishop

- Wells Fargo Operating- \$59,030.63
 - Wells Fargo Savings- \$150,696.55
 - MOOLS Savings- \$5,279.37
 - Trustmark Building Fund- \$40,221.66
 - Trustmark Building CD- \$174,659.66
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- Thank you to the Finance Committee. Thank you for your hard work and dedication this year. I could not have done this job without each of you. A special thanks to Jan Barbato for being my head cashier, you have done an amazing job, and you are very appreciated.
 - Thank you to Cindy Walley as chairman of EOC. You and your committee worked hard to put on a successful EOC. Without chairmen and people willing to work for our organization, we could not continue to thrive.
 - This job as been extremely busy but also rewarding and yes, stressful. I have learned so much by being Treasurer. I am very happy I was able to do this job as I don't think I would be as prepared for the future as I am today. I would like to thank those out there (you know who you are) who have helped me through some of the tough times this year has brought. I appreciate each one of you. For those of you that listen to my rants, to those who sit with me hours on end because I can't find \$5 on the lovely spreadsheet that I complete each month. You are the best!
 - To the Executive Board, I am so thankful to have been a part of this Board. Working with each of you has been a pleasure. Thank you for all the support through the ups and downs of this year. It is much appreciated. I love you all.
 - The Annual Report will be available to the April General Meeting and will be posted on the website once completed. PLEASE take the time to review this before the budget discussion in April. We all know the LaShe's will have some challenges this year, and every member needs to be aware of our financial situation.
 - I challenge each of you to get more involved and on committees, it is the best way for your voice to be hears and for you to have the year that you hope for! I have made so many wonderful friends just be being involved.

President- Melissa Davis

- President Melissa spoke about what an honor it was to serve as the President this year. She said this year was challenging in many ways, but the Board never backed down from a challenge.
- Melissa thanked each member for supporting our fundraisers. Ways and Means, Layaway, EOC and Hospitality are projected to meet or be above our budgeted expectations because of the members' support.
- Melissa also thanked everyone for helping us make a difference in our community through the organizations we supported throughout the year.
- Melissa presented a brief synopsis of the remaining Board seats:
 - Recording Secretary
 - Corresponding Secretary
 - Parliamentarian
 - Historian
 - Ball
 - Parade
 - Ways and Means
- President Melissa thanked the committee members and chairmen who served this past year. She encouraged new members to join a committee.

Break at 10:00 P.M.

Meeting Resumed at 10:42 P.M.

New Business

Installation of New Officers

President Melissa read the results from the elections and asked the new Executive Board to come to the front to be sworn into office.

- **Election Results**
 - Board Seat 3 Ways and Means: Christine Bramlett
 - Board Seat 2 Ball: Nicolle Rayborn
 - Board Seat 1 Parade: Sara McKinley
 - Historian: Gabby Smith
 - Parliamentarian: Kendra Isenhower
 - Corresponding Secretary: Tracey Taylor
 - Recording Secretary: Donna Diaz
 - Treasurer: Stacey Jessee
 - Vice President: Cindy Bishop

- President: Jamie Lowe
- Past Queens/Faye passed the scepter to Melissa.
- Melissa is introduced as the 2025-2026 Queen. Queen Melissa.
- Past Queen Faye Olensky swears in the New Board.

President Melissa (now Past President) passes the microphone and gavel to Jamie Lowe, the new President, and President Jamie asked for a motion to adjourn.

Gail Bishop made a motion to adjourn. Nancy Lowe seconded. All voted in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 11:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Jessee, Recording Secretary