

SWLA Krewe of Good Times

Article 1 - Mission

SWLA Krewe of Good Times is a non-profit, social organization with the sole purpose of bringing good friends together to celebrate life and good times year round. We will be referred to as The Krewe of Good Times. Hereafter, known as Krewe.

Article 2 - Membership

1. Membership in Krewe implies acceptance of and adherence to the standards set forth in the KREWE BY-LAWS, and the Code of Conduct.
2. Failure to maintain reasonable standards will be cause for disciplinary action, which may or may not include termination of membership. If membership is terminated, there will be NO refund of dues!
3. Potential members must be nominated by a Krewe member, in good standing, and then voted in by the Board of Directors each year.
4. Krewe membership is open to residents of the State of Louisiana, who are at least 21 yrs. of age on or before March 1.
5. The membership will be maintained at no more than 150 members, not including the founding members. This number will be reviewed as deemed necessary by the "FOUNDING" President.
6. The Board of Directors may remove any member of the Krewe as a result of **any infringement** of the Krewe By-Laws, any negative acts towards krewe or non-payment of dues, without refunding of their yearly dues.
7. Written complaints can be brought to the President or Vice President and the Board will discuss the complaint and decide if any action should be taken. The President or Vice President will inform the complainant of the Board's decision, if necessary.
8. It is the sole responsibility of the krewe member to keep the Secretary of Krewe informed of any changes in phone numbers, address or email address. Facebook, text, & e-mail will be our main source of communication.
9. Membership dues include 2 guest tickets to the Krewe's annual ball for each paid member. Dues do not include a voluntary gratuity of \$5.00 per rider to help float driver with fuel expenses.

Article 3 - Fiscal

1. The fiscal year of the organization will be from May 1 to April 30.
2. The annual dues will be set by the Board of Directors and may be changed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular meeting. Founding President must be present and final decision will be hers.
3. Dues will be paid from March 1 through April 30.
4. Members who have not paid their dues in full by April 30 of the appropriate year may have their names deleted from the roster of members.
5. At the Board's discretion, a 30 day extension may be given.
6. Founding members, after the first **(3) three years** of the Krewe's existence shall have their dues reduced to the regular membership dues, provided that the Krewe is financially stable.
7. To aid in determining whether the reduction can be made, the Treasurer will make a recommendation to the president, preceding the dues payment period for the year 2014.
8. If the dues are not reduced in 2014, the issue of dues reduction for the founding board of Directors will be reviewed on an annual basis until such a reduction can be made. Founding President must be present and final decision will be hers, & in the best interest of the krewe.
9. Membership dues will not be reimbursed for any reason. This includes the founding board members.

Article 4 - Board of Directors and Officers

1. The Board of Directors will consist of no more than (14) fourteen members. In the event of a tie the President will choose to either break the tie, or allow an additional board members.
2. The Officers, Sergeant at Arms, and (9) nine other board members.
3. The founding president, (Becky Benoit), will appoint the officers and committee chairpersons for the first (2) two year term, thereafter; officers will be decided by all board members.
4. One must be a member of the Krewe for a minimum of (2) two years before becoming eligible to be on the Board of Directors.
5. The Founding President will remain President and Founder Jeff Benoit will remain a Board Member for the life of the krewe, or until ready to step down from position. In the event the founding president is ready to step down from position, a new president will be appointed by the FOUNDING Board of Directors, as long as said founding directors are still in good standing with the krewe.
6. The officers MUST be board members.
7. The term of a Board member is a minimum of (2) two years, at which time, he/she can be considered for re-election or termination of office by majority vote of board of directors.
8. If a founding member retires or is terminated from the Krewe, a new member may or may not be chosen at the discretion of the President.
9. Replacement members must meet all qualifications and be in good standing with the krewe.
10. Voting will be conducted in secret ballot form.
11. Majority of those present is required to carry a vote. In the event of a tie, the President's vote counts twice.
12. **All** Board of Directors will hold in confidence such matters as deemed necessary.
13. Board of Directors must make every effort to be present at all Board meetings.
14. Once a member of the Board of Directors is terminated from the board, for any reason, He/she can NOT be considered for any position higher than that of a regular member, for the life of the Krewe.

Article 5 - Officer Duties

President: President will call for and preside at all meetings of the organization and will appoint any special committee chairperson. He/she will prepare the agenda for meetings. He/she oversees all functions of the Krewe as well as handles contracts and insurance. He/She will handle all aspects of the annual ball. In all voting matters, the President will vote last, in the event there is a tie, the President will be the deciding vote.

Vice President: Vice President will assist President and other officers in all affairs deemed necessary by the president. In the absence of the president, this officer will perform the duties of the President.

Secretary: Secretary is responsible for taking roll & keeping minutes at each meeting . A copy of minutes will be distributed to each board member as soon as possible after each meeting. The Secretary is also responsible for the current membership list, tracking the terms of board members and membership.

Treasurer: Treasurer is responsible for finances including membership dues, all expenditures, and keeping a balanced budget. This officer will collect and deposit all monies, pay all bills and maintain records of all financial transactions, which will remain accessible for the inspection of the president. A fiscal year budget must be prepared by the Treasurer. A typed year-end statement will be prepared and presented to all members at the annual members meeting. Treasurer will also be responsible for any tax-related filings that may be necessary.

Sgt at Arms: The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for assisting all above officers when deemed necessary. This officer will handle all RSVP's for all events. This officer will work closely with Secretary.

Article 6 - Committees

1. Each committee will need a Chair and a Co-Chair. Any member can act as Chair and Co-Chair for each of the following committees.
 - Historical/Membership Committee
 - Summer Family Picnic Committee
 - Halloween Bash Committee
 - Children's Krewe Committee
 - Gumbo Cook-Off Committee
 - Ball Committee
 - Float/Parade Committee
2. A detailed list of all committee duties can be obtained from the Founding President.

Article 7 - Krewe Royalty and Royalty Apparel

1. **King & Queen will be selected at the Summer Social by a random drawing from all current members, in good standing, and who wish to have their name included in the drawing.**
2. **Members who do not wish to have their name in the drawing must fill out the "opt out of court" form which can be found on the krewe website www.kreweofgoodtimes.com and return to the President before the annual meeting or their name will automatically be submitted in the drawing.**
3. **The drawing will be the responsibility of the President and will be completed at the Summer Social.**
4. King must be a male and Queen must be a female.
5. The Krewe's Royal Court will include a King, Queen, Captain, (2) Dukes, (2) Duchesses.
6. The identities of the new Royalty will be kept secret until revealed at the annual ball.
7. Members of the Board of Directors can be nominated as Royalty AFTER the first court year.
8. Once chosen for Royalty, member will not be eligible for any royalty for a period of (2) two years before being allowed to serve as royalty again, with the exception of the Captain.
9. Once chosen as King/ Queen, member will not be eligible for King or Queen for a period of (10) ten years.
10. Prince/s and/or Princess/es can be included in the Royalty, at the discretion of the King and Queen. He/she must abide by the same dress requirements as the royal court.
11. The Krewe will provide the Royal Collar, scepter, and crown for the King and Queen to wear during all Royalty presentations. These items will remain the property of the Krewe.
12. The King and Queen are responsible for choosing their Captain, 2-Dukes and 2-Duchesses.
13. The King and Queen are responsible for choosing **3 Ball themes** that they would like for the members to vote on at the annual Summer Social.
14. King & Queen MUST wear **FORMAL ATTIRE**. **King wears a BLACK TUX w/ WHITE or OFF- WHITE & Queen wears a WHITE or OFF- WHITE FORMAL.**
15. Royal Court will wear attire according to theme title, for year in question. **Odd** number year-**FORMAL**, **even** number year-**COSTUME**. Ex: 2012 - Costume, 2013 - Formal.
16. All Royal Court members are responsible for the purchase of their own attire.
17. Royal Court must remain in the back of the hall and remain masked until their identity is revealed during the Royal Court presentation.
18. Royal Court is to perform a skit for the entertainment of the ball, prior to revealing their identity.

Article 8 - Annual Ball

1. The Krewe's annual ball will be held in late January or early February, depending on availability of the ballroom facilities and the date of Mardi Gras.
2. **All attendees must be in full dress compliance with the year's attire.** Years ending in **odd #'s** will wear **FORMAL**. Years ending in **even #'s** will wear **COSTUME**. Ex: 2012-costume, 2013-formal. *This will not be up for yearly revisions to by-laws.*
3. Anyone attending the ball, *MUST be 21 years of age or older*, except during the Court presentation.
4. Individuals under 21 must, by law, leave the premises immediately following Court presentation.
5. If anyone under 21 is caught in attendance after presentation, they will be removed from ball along with the krewe member that invited them. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
6. Proper identification must be furnished upon request of the President, Board of Director and/or Security.
7. Any guest attending the ball, must be accompanied by a member of the krewe and abide by by-law rules.
8. Table Placement will be chosen in the following manner:
Founding Members, Royal Court, Board / Officers, and Members.
9. Members will choose tables according to their points, highest points choose first and so on.
10. **Members MUST be present at the King Cake Party to choose their own table.** If for any reason, you are late for the party or are not present, you name will be put at the end of the list and the President will choose your table for you once all other members have chosen theirs. You may assign another member to choose for you, but the member must have a written note from you giving permission for that member to choose your table. This note is for the Presidents records.

Article 9 - Ball Tickets

1. Each applicant will be given **(3) tickets** to the ball, one for the applicant and two for their guests. **This will need to be reevaluated according to venue selection for each particular year.**
2. **Everyone needs a ticket to enter the ball.**
3. **Each ticket admits (1) one person.**
4. **Depending on availability**, members may purchase additional tickets. In this event, tickets will be on a first come, first serve basis.
5. Additional tickets will be sold for **\$20.00 each**.
6. The total tickets provided to the **CURRENT** Krewe Royalty, Board of Directors, & Officers:

King - (6) six tickets

Queen - (6) six tickets

Captain - (4) four tickets

Dukes & Duchesses - (4) four tickets

Board of Directors / Officers - (6) six tickets

Article 10 - Float Eligibility

1. Float eligibility will be chosen in the following manner:
Royal Court - Board Members - Officers - Members (see Article 10 - #7).
2. Members will be chosen through a point system according to their participation throughout the year.
3. Every rider **MUST** sign a liability form and abide by all rules set forth for parades.
4. Each rider will have their placement marked on the float rails. That will be your spot for the **entire** duration of the parade(s).
5. King, Queen, DJ, Captain & 1 guest of Captain are the only ones allowed in the King/Queen quarters.
6. If any citation of fine is received, member responsible will be required to pay fine and may receive disciplinary action, which may result in termination of krewe without refund of dues.
7. **Spouses** of above mentioned are also eligible to ride in the Krewe of Krewe parade provided the spouse is also a Krewe member in good standing.
8. No one will be allowed on the float if they are not current members of the Krewe, for insurance purposes. **This will be strictly enforced!**
9. EVERYONE on the float **MUST** have throws. (beads, cups, doubloons, etc). **NOONE** will be allowed to ride the float & not participate in throwing beads.
10. Members are responsible for purchasing their own throws. **Approx. 2-3 CASES per person.**
11. In the event there are extra spots available for riders, the krewe will raffle off (2) two float rider tickets. Winner of tickets **MUST** be a current krewe member.

Article 11 - Point System

1. Committee Chairperson is responsible for keeping track of points for their event with a sign in sheet and turning in the sheet to the President, THE DAY OF THE EVENT!!!
2. If a committee chair is caught giving **unearned** points to a member, chairperson will be relieved of their duties as committee chair and **points will be stricken from record of all parties involved.**
3. Point system will determine float eligibility and table placements for the ball.
4. Officers and Committee Chairpersons will be awarded points for his/her position as follows:

TITLE	CHAIR	CO-CHAIR
Officers	150	---
Historical Chairperson	50	---
Float/Parade Chairperson	100	50
Ball Chairperson	100	50
Children’s Krewe Chairperson	50	25
Halloween Bash Chairperson	50	25
Summer Family Social Chairperson	50	25
Gumbo Cook-Off Chair	50	25

5. Membership participation points will be rewarded as follows:

Meeting	1 point PER HOUR
Work Days	5 points PER HOUR
Clean up after event	5 points PER HOUR
Krewe of Krewe Events	5 points
SWLA Mardi Gras Assoc. Events	5 points

Members will stop accruing points 2 weeks prior to the Annual Ball. Points will then be carried over into the following year. Point system will be reviewed annually.

Article 12 - Code of Conduct

1. All krewe members, **including board members**, must conduct krewe affairs in such a way that there can be no opportunity for unfavorable reflections upon the krewe, **either expressed or implied**.
2. Any communication, message, text, post, or other similar dissemination of **information** made on any social networking website or via any electronic medium such as text messages or email which, in the Board's sole discretion, **reflect unfavorably** upon the Krewe will result in disciplinary action as described in Article 2, #2 of the Krewe by-laws.
3. Only the **President, Vice President, and Historical Chairperson**, may act as spokesperson for the Krewe and then, only in the best interest of the Krewe. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!
4. **All krewe members must abide by all guidelines established within these by-laws written by the Board of Directors for Krewe of Good Times. This includes all Board Members!**
5. Failure to abide by these by-laws will be cause for disciplinary action which may or may not include termination of membership, WITHOUT refund of dues. **This includes board members**.
6. If a member of the krewe is caught bringing in under-age guests to the ball or any activity, NOT deemed as a 'FAMILY EVENT', such as, the Children's Parade & the Summer Family Social, the under-age guests & the paid krewe member will be escorted off the premises. The krewe member will then be terminated from krewe membership **without refund of dues or any monies involved**.
7. Krewe of Good Times will not tolerate **ANY unruly behavior (fighting)** at ANY krewe related activities. Any member or guest "responsible" will be escorted from the event and board members will determine future standings of members involved. Termination from the krewe may be necessary, and will be determined by the current board members. No refunds will be given!

Article 13 - By-Laws

- These by-laws will be reviewed as needed and may be revised or amended at anytime by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, **with founding President having the final decision, in the best interest of the Krewe. Excluding Article 8, #2. This will remain, to be fair to all members.**
- Proposed amendment from the membership may be submitted to the **PRESIDENT, in writing**, at any time to be considered by the Board of Directors at any board meeting.

Article 14 - Founders & Founding Board of Directors

For recording purposes, the founding President is, **Becky Benoit**.

The Founders of the krewe and the founding Board of Directors are as follows...

Founders of Krewe of Good Times:

Jeff & Becky Benoit

Founding Board Members, along with the above:

Sherry Abshire, Laken Abshire, Joanne Fontenot, Bernadette LeBlanc, and Eric & Mary Robinson.

Laissez les bons temps rouler

Revised: 3/13/2014