



Krewe's News

March 2012

March & April Meeting Schedule

Upcoming meetings of the Krewe will be held on **March 22**, **April 12**, and **April 26**. All meetings are held at the KC Hall (1912 Winnie) and begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Krewe Dues & Membership - Time to Join ...

Membership opens in the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius for 2012-13 on April 1. If you are a returning member, you may pay your membership dues in full (\$175) or choose to pay them in two installments of \$87.50. If you decide to use our installment plan, you must pay by April 1 with the balance paid in full by July 1. Current members who do not pay at least half their dues by April 1 will need to pay dues in full to remain in good standing. We are hoping to get our membership back to 150 this year; we were about 12 members short of our goal last year. If you have friends or know of anyone interested in becoming a member, please sign them up.

Our membership party will be held on **Saturday, April 14**, at the KC club-room at 7 p.m. The Krewe will supply the main course as well as provide a cash bar, and we ask members to bring side dishes and desserts. We will have a short presentation on our Krewe, and will bring our sound system for dancing. Mary Kees, membership chair, will have a flyer/card invitation available in the next few days for members to give to prospective members.



From the Krewe President...*Johnny Lidstone*

Krewe Members and Friends,

At the February 24 meeting, the Krewe talked about participation, expenses and things, in general, and decided to make changes to some of the way we do things.

Due to lack of participation from our Krewe members and a dwindling guest list, we decided we must make some changes the ball. The formal affair is no longer working, and putting on such an affair (\$8,000) for 145 people is not a good decision on our part. It has big expenses like the \$26/person breakfast buffet; hotel ballroom rental; bar staff, security, lighting charges; and costly bands. Krewe members agreed and gave the green light to form a ball committee. Committee was formed and is composed of Pat Collier, Mari Berend, Betty Dyda, Hope Cooke, and myself. First, we contacted the corporate office of Landry Hospitality, and they referred us to Landry's Fisherman's Wharf. We talked to the people at "the Wharf", and the "Harbor Ballroom" seems to be the perfect venue for our party. There is plenty of room for our coronation, plenty of room for a dance floor, buffet, and bar in addition to an outdoor balcony looking over the harbor and "Elissa". We also will have an additional room for the Royal Court members to make their final preparations for the coronation, and a private entrance into the ballroom. I propose we no longer refer to the event as the ball, but come up with something different like the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius "Mardi Gras Splash" or "The Mardi Parti". There is time to decide on a new name for the event.

The committee also would like to propose some changes to the Royal Court. Here too, there is a lack of interest and participation by Krewe members. A large portion of our present Royal Court is composed of past Kings and Queens, some who may have wanted to do it, but some who were merely asked to fill vacant spots. This is a huge expense for Royal Court members — a 5+ year commitment which makes it not possible or unattractive to many people. I suggest we begin the process of eliminating spots in the Royal Court this year. In July 2012 and July 2013, we not elect a Baron/Baroness. This would return our Royal court to what it once was — King, Queen, Prince, Princess, Duke and Duchess. I also suggest we cut the ladies and knights down to one couple who will serve the entire Royal Court. This will make the lady and knight position more special. Finally, I suggest we cut back on the long trains and put our ideas and energy into gowns and costumes, big mantles, and head pieces.

I think these are reasonable changes, and most important, will slash some of our big expenses. We still will have great events with as much if not more Mardi Gras flare.



Mystic Krewe of Aquarius
1311 Winnie
Galveston, TX 77550

Upcoming Krewe Events

Krewe Meeting & Election	March 22, 7 p.m.
Lone Star Triathlon	Sunday, April 1
Membership Dues Deadline (full or half)	Sunday, April 1
Krewe Meeting	April 12, 7 p.m.
Membership Party	Saturday, April 14, 7 p.m.
Krewe Meeting	April 26, 7 p.m.

Krewe Spirit Basket



The Krewe had a very successful fundraiser—the “Spirit Basket” raffle — that was held during Mardi Gras 2012. Thank you to Mari Berend and Hope Cooke for spearheading the fundraiser

Lone Star Triathlon

The annual Lone Star Triathlon will be held on **Sunday, April 1**. Our Krewe has been asked to work the bike course again. We need at least 30 volunteers. At last week’s meeting, we signed up around 23. They will not have the Saturday race this year, and another group will oversee registration. In past years, Lone Star has donated \$2,000 for our efforts; however, we expect their donation will be cut in half this year. It is an easy fundraiser. If you can volunteer, please contact Johnny Lidstone.

Krewe Election

At the March 22 meeting, the Krewe will elect four officers (president/captain, vice president, secretary and treasurer) and nine board members for the 2012/13 fiscal year. Pat and Shirley McGraw along with Sue Frewin will handle the election process this year. The ballot includes: Johnny Lidstone (president/captain), Ron Dyda (vice president), Fran Grabiell (secretary), and Chip Shearrow (treasurer). Nominations for board members include John Berend, Pat Collier, Linda Davidson, John Gonzales, Jimmy Kees, Michele Marion, Harry Millo, Pat Muldowney, Phyllis Santos, and Skippy Schaper. Please make an effort to attend this important meeting and vote.