

October 7, 2007

Krewe de L' Ecore Membership:

Well ladies and gentlemen the much promised and much delayed state of the Krewe financial address. While the board has been busy with the '07 – '08 Mardi Gras Krewe season, we now look back six months into the year and see some rather awesome events taking place, and some quite unexpectedly benefitting the Krewe. The Board continues to focus on you and your membership and we all attempt to serve the best interest and future of Krewe de L' Ecore. Sorry, we decided we couldn't be perfect when we signed on. I'll try to focus on finances, but as most of you know when I'm working graveyards my documents become an adventure.

Here goes. With 86 paid couples, that's yearly income of \$13,760.00. The perfect budget year allows us to add to a surplus but there are times when we see things occur and accommodate and then try to budget for the following year. It does appear that most of the Krewe expenses are fixed somewhat, as you will see. Of course our biggest event and expense is the Krewe ball. The 07'-08' budget is \$9267.75 for this event. WOW you said. Yep, when the Krewe has events' it does cost and the board attempts to make sure we give the membership the most bang for your membership dues. Here's a breakdown of some of the fixed expenses. Entertainment \$4000.00, Habibi rental \$1100.00, Photographer \$125.00, Cleanup & Security \$585.00. Our only expense that we can somewhat control is our ball decoration expense and this year's budget is \$1550.00 . That is down somewhat from previous years as Ruth and Roy White have done and continue to do a SPECTACULAR job designing, building, and coordinating this for the ball. We also have in this year's budget, court assistance money to aid our court in their preparations. \$600.00 for the K&Q, \$150 each for the D&D's. And if you remember we were covering this expense with proceeds generated from the gumbo cookoff, recently held at our annual BINGO. More on this later.

The Krewe BINGO attempts to break even / add a little to the surplus. This year we generated \$647.00 in card sales/split the pot. We also generated \$551.00 in the gumbo cookoff, which was a tremendous success and I personally think a great addition to our event schedule. Yes its not quite gumbo weather in August but it sure is a great beginning to the onslaught of football and hunting season and you guys really supported the cause. That \$551.00 helps defray the Court assistance expense that I previously mentioned , and also pays for the 1st and 2nd place entrants to represent the Krewe at the upcoming Moss Bluff Harvest festival November 15-17th. Please support the Moss Bluff community and support our Krewe entrants. Did you realize though that the BINGO expense ran \$699.04 this year? Our two biggest items are VFW rental and DJ costs. Pretty much on target and I think was another success. We really had some great prizes to give out and again since we are not perfect, we'll make sure next years BINGO is bigger and badder (bad as in a good way!).

Also another expense that sometimes seems to be uncontrollable or at least unexpected is our Mardi Gras parade expense. We are fortunate enough at the moment to have a place

for the float, but it is exposed to the weather 52 weeks out of the year. So there is always an issue with rot and dulled paint, and we are lucky to have a means in which to move the float during parades. A luxury that may not always be available. So we cross our fingers and hope that every year we do not have a major calamity with our float. The Board has addressed and continues to address many options in regards to storage options, etc. Bottom line is folks everything cost and the Board attempts to do what is best for the overall membership.

Ok last but not least, the two items that we really did not budget for the 07' – 08' Krewe season was our first event welcoming new members and gathering the Krewe family. I'm speaking of the crawfish picnic which again proved to be popular and fun for those of us that could make it. Again, cost of things like crawfish, rent, fun jumps, paper towels, etc. it's not cheap to throw a party. We attempted to keep the cost to each family down to a reasonable dollar amount and I think we did a great job. It was not a budgeted item, but we were able to dip into our reserves and pay the bills so to speak. It cost the Krewe \$1265.19 to have this party. Not bad when you consider that we had almost 50% participation and our first attempt at this event. With some of the other budget items more than likely returning some money back to overall budget, that number will more than likely be reduced as an expense item. Yes I will recommend to the board we place it in next years budget and have this event as an annual calendar event. The other item which has been launched and is proving to be a major success is our Krewe website. Cheryl & Darren Burns are doing a spectacular job as our webmaster. Now if we can just figure out a way to generate some income from it. LOL!!!! So far cost are very minimal and we will continue to improve on the site and make sure we can benefit from this effective communication tool. I'm looking into a way to generate some advertising dollars for our members. Please support this, as the membership needs to know who you are and what service or product you provide.

So all in all we remain very very close to budget. We started the fiscal year with a little over \$6200.00 surplus. The board continues to study membership dues and offer the membership the best service we can offer for what we charge. I am currently studying a fund raising event in the form of a GOLF tournament. With a successful, and membership backed event held in late March or early April of 08', I believe this will generate a nice return on our investment, so we can continue to keep our membership dues inexpensive, and continue to finance all of the Krewe's events. Please continue to support our events, the Board works hard to make sure each is a success, if you see a Board member please thank them for the hard work they put in for your benefit. Continue to visit the website <http://krewedelectore.com> for the news of the next event and talk to you soon,

Thank you,

Vince & Cathy Castille
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p.s. Whewwww! Ok that wasn't too bad was it?.....LOL!

