

## Welcome to Carnival

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 84th Carnival Season. People, like you, make a difference in the success of our organization and all that it has to offer. Carnival is more than a Party with a Purpose – it is a special Memphis tradition that has endured since 1931 and truly has no peer. We welcome you to this annual celebration of commerce, community and charity and we hope you will take advantage of every opportunity to share in the week's festivities.

We started the year with the selection of the three Children's Charities – Madonna Learning Center, Peer Power Foundation and Red Zone Ministries. The work these three organizations do for the youth in our city is simply remarkable and we are honored to support them this year. Since 1999, Carnival has raised over \$1,750,000 with matching funds for children's charities and our goal is to cross \$2,000,000 this year with your help. All of the Grand Krewe's have worked tirelessly in support of Carnival and the three Children's Charities.

In December, King John Bobango and Queen Lockie Dearman were announced and began their reign by attending Grand Krewe Coronations. King John and Queen Lockie have embraced the Carnival spirit with boundless energy. In February, Carnival held the seventh annual "Krewes for Kids" fundraiser at the Memphis Botanic Garden. With an enthusiastic steering committee, this was our most successful fundraiser to date. We are very thankful to everyone who contributed to making this year's event an incredible success!

In addition to charitable activities, Carnival celebrates commerce during the annual Business & Industry Salute Luncheon. This year, we are proud to honor the Legal Industry in recognition of our King John Bobango. With 500 business leaders and Grand Krewe members in attendance at this year's luncheon, the public endorsement of the legal industry is overwhelming.



*The Johnston Family – Mary and Ann Grier (seated), McKnight, Rob, Jean and Warren*

On May 18th, the King, Queen and Boll Weevils spent the day visiting many local schools and charities and were greeted with a multitude of smiling faces. The Boll Weevils bring the gifts of laughter and enrichment to the lives of these children and it is special to witness their magic at work. Thank you Boll Weevils for all you do for Carnival!

As we begin Carnival week, my family and I are delighted to join with the members of our Royal Court and their families to celebrate. We wish you all the fun and excitement this week brings and hope you will meet new friends and make lifelong memories to share.

*Rob Johnston*  
President