

# WELCOME TO CARNIVAL

**W**elcome to Carnival 2002! We look forward to hosting you during Carnival Week to cap off what has already been an outstanding year. When I committed to being President of Carnival a couple of years ago, I knew I would be in for a lot of work and a lot of fun. Certainly, those expectations have been met. What I could not foresee was just how much my wife, Ann, and I would enjoy meeting and getting to know the fabulous Grand Krewes that help make up Carnival. Tonight and throughout the week you will see our Krewes in full regalia. What you don't see is how hard they work to make Carnival, and Memphis, better for everyone. From fashion shows, to sock hops to karaoke and more, the Krewes have been raising money to support Carnival's Children's Charities Initiative. This year's honored charities are featured in this Program, and I would invite you to read about them.

As many of you know, Carnival is founded and operates on the basis of three "C's" - **Commerce**, **Community** and **Celebration**. While everyone is familiar with the Celebration part of Carnival, many are not so familiar with Carnival's role in Commerce and Community. As for **Commerce**, Carnival annually hosts a luncheon for and honors the people and businesses who are the leaders in Carnival's honored industry. This year's industry is Financial Services, which, of course, is represented by King Ralph of the House of Horn, who in his spare time serves as Chairman and CEO of First Tennessee National Bank. At our Business and Industry luncheon, we honored Allen Morgan with our highest award, the Cook Halle award, named in honor of the founders of Carnival. Allen's recognition resulted from the huge impact he and Morgan Keegan have had on the Memphis economy, as well as his service to the community, including Carnival, where he served as President in 1976. Also honored were Jack Moore, CEO of Union Planters (as well as a past King), and A. Maceo Walker, Sr. and Jesse Turner, Sr., founders of Tri-State Bank, one of the oldest African-American owned banks in the U.S.

While Carnival's role in the area of Commerce has been significant, perhaps Carnival's least known but most significant efforts have been in the **Community**. The establishment of the Children's Charities Initiative a few years ago has served to take Carnival to a new level in supporting our Community. The impact Carnival has had on the charitable community has been more than what we could have imagined. However, long before the Children's Charities Initiative, Carnival has provided a way for people from all walks of life to gather together and just have fun with each other - and that is a big part of what being a community is all about. This year marks a particular milestone in Carnival history, as the Court of 2002, as well as the Grand Krewes, are more diverse than ever. We hope this just marks another chapter in Carnival's history of bringing the Community together through frivolity and merriment.

Thank you for coming, and enjoy the week!!



*back: Ann, Annie, Liza  
front: Bo and Bobby Leatherman*