

TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

April 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Dianne Honore

First Vice President – Randy Bibb

Treasurer – Kristi Blackwell

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Eshenour

Standards and Education Coordinator – Frank Perez

Newsletter Editor – Barbara Giangrosso

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Enclosed is our 2025 end-of-year financial report. As you'll see, we closed the year with a deficit of **\$30.28**—about as close to break-even as it gets. The Board worked diligently throughout the year to stay on budget and reaching that point was no small achievement.

You will also find the proposed 2026 budget enclosed. At this time, our projected year-end balance is **-\$3,453.69**. A significant portion of this deficit (**\$2,400**) reflects the cost of hiring an outside accounting firm to help bring our financial records up to standard.

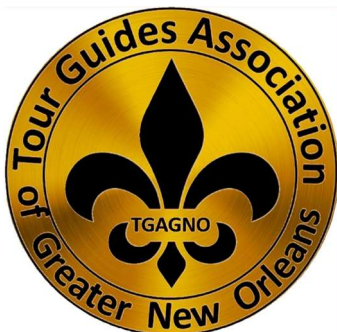
The Board has been actively exploring ways to improve our bottom line. Current considerations include:

- **Discontinuing the accounting firm** and transitioning to in-house bookkeeping solutions; **Kristi Blackwell** is researching software options we can manage ourselves.
- **Implementing small admittance fees** for select meetings.
- **Increasing membership** to boost revenue.
- **Fundraising.** **TGAGNOI** will be part of GiveNOLA Day this May 5. More information on this will be available soon.

Although membership dues have remained unchanged for 15 years, we are committed to exhausting all other options before considering an increase.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We're delighted to hear how much members are enjoying the new online membership directory. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Transitioning to a digital format has not only improved convenience — with quick access, timely updates, and easy filtering — but has also resulted in meaningful cost savings for TGAGNOI.



Licensed Guides – Authentic Experiences

Last year alone, printing and mailing the physical directory cost \$764.17. The new platform delivers a better experience while allowing us to use our resources more efficiently.

If any of your information needs to be changed, please contact **Barbara Giangrosso**. Updates can be made quickly and easily.

ANNUAL FALL TRIP

Good things are taking shape for our upcoming trip, and we're excited about what's ahead. A big thank-you to **Kathy Medina** for stepping up to help with the planning.

Now we'd love to have **you** involved as well. We truly need a few more hands. If you're willing to help out, please reach out to **Randy Bibb**—even a small contribution of time would make a real difference.

Randy is currently exploring several possible stops for the trip, including the Baton Rouge indigenous mounds, the Bayou Lacombe Choctaw Tribe, the Laura Plantation, and the Carville Hansen's Disease Museum. These are early ideas, and we'd really appreciate help shaping the details.

If you're able to lend a hand, please let Randy know. Your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual seminar is confirmed for July 11 at the Homewood Suites on N. Rampart. The theme will be "Hidden and Neglected Histories". We have four speakers lined up. Lunch will be served. Be on the lookout for more information as **Frank Perez** irons out the final details. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We regret to announce that our planned field trip to Laura Plantation on May 30 will need to be rescheduled. The new tour narrative which was our primary focus is not available on Saturdays. At this time, we are considering incorporating a stop at Laura's as part of our annual fall trip. Stay tuned. We will make it there one way or another!

Dianne Honore will be presenting on April 18 at UNO as part of the Louisiana Creole Research Association's program: "Women: Culture Carriers in Creole Louisiana". This is free and open to the public. Dianne will speak on "Matriarchal Influences: Louisiana Creole Women in the 19th Century". Katy Morlas Shannon, whom you might remember from our 2025 Fall Lecture on the "Forgotten Women of Colonial Louisiana" will also be presenting. A third speaker, Melissa Daggett will talk on "Race & Property in Creole Louisiana". Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. UNO Earl K. Long Library, Room 304. This is not a TGAGNOI – sponsored event, but TGAGNOI members are more than welcome to attend.

*“One of these days the people of Louisiana are going to get good government –
and they aren’t going to like it.” – Huey P. Long*

**NEXT GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

Thursday, April 16, 2026

UNO Earl K. Long Library,
Room 304

6:00 p.m.

Dr Ryan Gray, UNO Professor
of Anthropology



Contact Us

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