

# TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

October 2025

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Dianne Honore

First Vice President – Randy Bibb

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Eshenour

Standards and Education Coordinator – Frank Perez

Newsletter Editor – Barbara Giangrosso

### EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES!

TGAGNO's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is right around the corner. Let's take a moment to reflect on the impact this great organization has had on our tourists, our city, and our members.

As we commemorate 40 remarkable years of our tour guiding association, we celebrate a legacy rooted in authenticity, education, and enthusiasm. For four decades, our dedicated members have brought the city to life through engaging, fact-based tours that entertain while enlightening, consistently showcasing our community in the most positive light. Beyond guiding visitors, we've cultivated a vibrant internal culture—offering monthly meetings, enriching seminars, and immersive field trips that keep our members informed, inspired, and connected. Our commitment to excellence in tourism and storytelling has not only elevated the visitor experience but also strengthened the bond between our members and the city we proudly represent. Here's to honoring the past and continuing our mission with the same spirit for years to come.

### SAVE THE DATES

Be sure to keep these dates on your calendar:

- October 16th meeting at Tujague's. Cocktails, eats and a speaker.
- November 6th will be the big 40th gala held at WYES!
- November 20th membership meeting TBA.
- December 11th will be our annual Christmas party.

### First Vice President – Randy Bibb

Hey, everyone! Are y'all as hyped for the 40th Anniversary event as I am? It's going to be TGAGNO-rific!

Your board was unable to hold our October board meeting because a couple of us were unable to attend, and we would not have had a quorum. To quote past President, Barbara Robichaux "It's not what you get out of an organization, it's what you put into it." TGAGNOI NEEDS PEOPLE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD.

We need dedicated, committed people to serve the interests of the organization and move TGAGNOI into the future. Please consider it



*Licensed Guides – Authentic Experiences*

and contact one of your board members and volunteer to serve. TGAGNOI needs you! We have a Board of nine chairs, four of which are vacant. Please visit the [TGAGNO WEBSITE](#) for information on which spots are vacant.

### **Standards and Education Coordinator – Frank Perez**

Get ready for next year's seminar. The topic will be "Hidden Histories".

### **Social Media/Membership – Barbara Giangrosso**

The Fall Trip and Lecture was a huge success due to the thoughtful planning of the Trip Committee (Craig Henry, Marcia Curole, Mary Eshenour, Pauline Pastore, Barbara Giangrosso) and the enthusiastic participation of our attendees. Feedback has been great. "I enjoyed everything." "The Mississippi guides were very professional and friendly." "The places were interesting and well-prepared for us." "Loved the camaraderie!" "I learned a great deal."

In case you missed it, here are a few interesting historical tidbits that we heard along the way.

**Was New Orleans really founded by prostitutes?** Not quite. The "Mutinous Women" were often labeled as prostitutes unjustly. Corruption in the French legal system and societal prejudice against impoverished young women led to false imprisonments. When France sought to populate its new colony, these women were sent as easy targets for potential wives and mothers.

**How did Bay St. Louis get its name?** On August 24, 1699 – St. Louis's feast day – explorers Iberville and Bienville discovered and admired a "beautiful bay" along the Gulf Coast. In honor of the saint, they named it the Bay of St. Louis.

**Who's buried in the old Biloxi Cemetery?** Among others, two notable figures rest there: Joseph Lawson Howze, the first Black bishop to lead a US diocese and the founding bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi. Juan de Cuevas, the "Hero of Cat Island", defended the island during the War of 1812 by firing at British forces during the Battle of New Orleans.

**What makes Fort Maurepas historically significant?** It was the site of the original Louisiana French colony and served as the capital from 1699 to 1710. Named after Louis Phelypeaux, Comte de Maurepas, the Chancellor of France, the original fort was lost to fire in the early 1700s, leaving its exact location unknown.

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*"In the Spring of 1988, I returned to New Orleans, and as soon as I smelled the air, I knew I was home" – Anne Rice*

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## **NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

October 16, 2025

6:00 – Tujaque's Restaurant

Happy Hour with  
complimentary food and  
drinks

History of Tujaque's speaker



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## **Contact Us**

TGAGNO  
P.O. Box 56505  
New Orleans, LA 70156-6505  
[nolaguideinfo@gmail.com](mailto:nolaguideinfo@gmail.com)  
[www.tourguidesnola.org](http://www.tourguidesnola.org)

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