

TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

March 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

BOARD REPORTS:

President – Dianne Honore

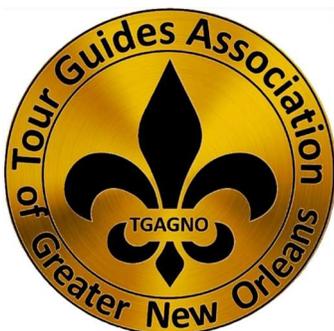
Springtime greetings!

Here we are, in post-Mardi Gras festival season New Orleans. While we faced a slower than usual slow season, businesses closing and rising costs, TGAGNOI still stands strong. Your hard-working board continues to successfully adjust sails on these waters of change, locally and globally. For that I am grateful and humbled. As President, I want nothing more than success for the organization which equates with achieving our mission and serving a fulfilled, education fortified and connected membership.

Regarding meetings, I have been serving in the Second Vice President role for roughly six months now. Programming and event planning are my background. I am foremost committed to bringing strong educational value to the frontline as well as include membership must-haves, per your voice over the past year, like food or snacks! Please be patient with shifts in programming, speakers, varied food sources, etc.

With that said, some meetings will be by entry fee, some suggested donations and a few free throughout the year. We must make up for serving food, paying speakers a fair wage unless they offer to speak for free. In this day it is not fair to not pay people for their services. We should also tip our hat to any venue that offers us space. To increase membership and position ourselves as one of New Orleans' best educational and networking organizations for tour guides and history buffs we must take these steps.

Looking back, dues have not increased in about 15 years, and membership is not as high as it should be. That fuels what we can spend on bringing good quality meetings to the membership. The board is attempting to increase fundraising and donation efforts as well as developing partnerships. We are also looking into grant writers. So, of course I am looking for volunteers to help with fundraising and such!



Licensed Guides – Authentic Experiences

Very important, if you register for an event please be committed to coming or letting us know as soon as possible that you cannot make it. This ensures food ordering or even chair set-up, etc. goes smoothly and not over budget. Again, please be patient, if a meeting is over your allotted time, please feel free to leave. We know you showed up and still love you for it!

On with the show! Our membership roster is finally going online after several Presidents have pushed for it. It's time! We are also attempting to settle in with the new accounting firm. Our trip is being planned by past President, Randy Bibb who promises to bring it forward yet go back to the original plan and purpose. The seminar will be an eye-opening day with new facts to fill your tour guide notebooks. I am adding optional small field trips to our education roster. For starters, we will be visiting the newest narrative at Laura Plantation and setting up workshops with history makers!

Thank you to everyone who participates, all our truly dedicated volunteers and members who believe in TGAGNOI! I do sometimes post on our TGAGNOI Social Media pages and hope you all enjoy. I am available for questions and thoughts. You can reach out via our membership email, and I will either open or it will be forwarded to me.

First Vice President – Randy Bibb

I want to thank Kathy Medina for offering to serve on the Trip Committee. How about you? Are you available to help out? Many hands make light work.

Standards and Education Coordinator – Frank Perez

The annual seminar is confirmed for July 11 at the Homewood Suites on N. Rampart. The theme will be “Hidden and Neglected Histories”. Be on the lookout for more information as we iron out the final details. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Treasurer – Kristi Blackwell

I am excited to see everyone at the general membership meeting to review the yearly budget, as well as the profit/loss information from this year's meetings.

Website/Social Media/Membership – Barbara Giangrosso

As Dianne noted in the January Membership Minutes, we are continuing to take important steps toward modernizing our operations. We're also working to streamline procedures to help reduce the workload on our already stretched board members. With those goals in mind, we are excited to announce the launch of our new online Membership Directory, soon to be available on our website.

This updated directory offers several key benefits:

1. **Real-time information:** New member details will be added to the website as soon as applications are processed. No more waiting months for an updated membership list.
2. **Search and filtering options:** Looking for guides who offer a specific type of tour—culinary, swamp, foreign language, and more? You'll be able to filter the directory to find exactly what you need.
3. **Access anywhere:** As long as you have your phone or another device with you, you'll have immediate access to the most current directory information.

Please note that (1) street addresses will NOT be published, (2) you will have an option to opt-out, (3) the directory will be accessible only via passcodes, which will change periodically, (4) the passcodes will only be given to current TGAGNOI members, (5) authorization and waiver forms will be required.

You will have a live demo of the site at our March General Membership Meeting. You will also be receiving an email with further information and instructions.

Please think about volunteering for Randy's trip committee. We had a lot of fun planning last year's trip. Unfortunately, many of those trip committee volunteers will not be available to work on it this year. Please think about offering some of your time and expertise!!!

*"You'll never know what heaven means until you've been down to New Orleans" –
Elvis Presley*

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2016

WYES-TV

6:00 p.m.

Financial updates

Membership Directory Demo

Announcements



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