

TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

September 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President –

First Vice President – Randy Bibb

Treasurer – Kristi Blackwell

Membership Registrar – LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Eshenour

Standards and Education Coordinator – Frank Perez

Recording Secretary – Dana Criswell

Newsletter Editor – Barbara Giangrosso

As we say goodbye to our President, we extend our sincere gratitude to Dianne Honore for her years of dedicated service to TGAGNO, first as Standards and Education Coordinator and later as President. Her leadership, commitment, and many meaningful contributions have helped sustain, promote, and strengthen our organization.

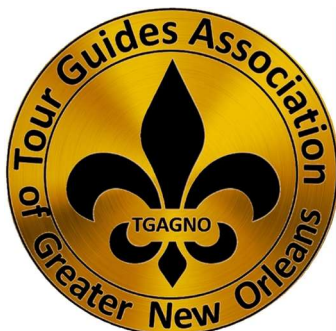
Dianne “Gumbo Marie,” a seventh-generation New Orleanian from the Tremé neighborhood, has long been a cultural force in our community. Among other things, she has been a professional nurse, tour guide, and Big Queen of the Yellow Pocahontas Hunters Black Masking Indian tribe. She also founded the Black Storyville Baby Dolls, the Amazons Benevolent Society, and Unheard Voices of Louisiana. Her work has left a lasting imprint on our community and earned her numerous honors.

We wish Dianne the very best and remain deeply appreciative of all she has brought to TGAGNO.

Randy Bibb – 1st Vice President

The trip is coming! Many thanks to Patty Smith, for her work on the transportation, Holly Valenti from Hosts Global for underwriting the transportation and Craig Henry for securing donations of coffee/beignets at Café duMonde and for reaching out to New Orleans & Company for additional funding.

On behalf of the entire organization, I’d like to extend our best wishes to Dianne Honoré with hopes for positive outcomes and gratitude for her amazing work, time and efforts that she has donated to the organization. I’m also grateful to be serving as your President again; many thanks to the Board for entrusting me with this position. Elections are coming for a new board – we have had a rocky past but now we anticipate a brighter future.



Mary Eshenour - Nominating Committee Report

Members: Milton Carr, Pauline Pastore, Mary Ellen Grace, Emma Gross, and Mary Eshenour

What a change serving on the Nomination Committee has been this time!

In the past when the Nominating Committee contacted members, they heard all of the reasons why members could not serve. All valid reasons, but it often left the organization with empty board seats.

This year, the Nominating Committee met, divided up the names of all eligible candidates (i.e., all Full members), discussed the job qualifications for each board member, and began to place calls. Imagine our shock when members started to volunteer! The committee has tried to reach out to all of the Full members. If for some reason, we missed talking to you, there is still time. Please contact one of the committee members to add your name to the slate of candidates.

This is the very first time the Nominating Committee will be presenting a full slate of candidates with multiple candidates for some of the positions!

Timeline for Election of 2027-2028 Board

- **Thursday, September 17** Presentation of the slate of candidates to the membership
- **The week of Sept 20** Short bios for all of the candidates will be emailed to the membership
- **Thursday, October 15** **Election of Slate**

Click here: <https://www.tourguidesnola.org/bylaws> to see TGAGNOI's By-Laws Article X Election and Installation for complete procedure. ***Nominations may be accepted from the floor with the approval of the nominee.***

Candidates without opposition will be declared elected by acclamation. Offices that have multiple candidates will have ballot voting. ***Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the Full members present at the October meeting.***

- **December meeting** Installation of 2027-2028 Board

Barbara Giangrosso – Newsletter Editor/Webmaster/Social Media

Our next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept 17, at the LSU New Orleans Library. Our speaker will be the noted historian and genealogist, Jari Honore, who will speak about 19th century civil rights. This is sure to be a very interesting presentation. Be sure to register at <https://www.tourguidesnola.org/september>.

Also, at this meeting, the Nominating Committee will be announcing the slate of candidates for the upcoming board elections.

Trivia Quiz

This month I'm including an activity for our members - something new and fun. How well do you know your organization? Answer the questions below. Submit answers to nolaguideinfo@gmail.com.

Everyone who correctly answers all the questions will be put into a drawing to win their choice of books from our library. (Thank you, Patty Smith for the book donations!) Depending upon how many correct responses I get, I will then determine how many prizes to give out. (Hint: All the answers to these questions can be found on our website.) Submit entries no later than Sept. 30.

1. What year was TGAGNO founded?
2. How many Presidents has TGAGNO had since its founding?
3. How many committees does TGAGNO have?
4. Including this issue, how many issues of our newsletter, "Membership Minutes" have been published?
5. What is not a mission of TGAGNO?
 - a. Represent and promote the common interests of tour guides in the Greater New Orleans area
 - b. Provide a forum through which members can continue their education and exchange information
 - c. Promote private, public and governmental awareness locally of the tour guide role
 - d. Establish a channel of communication between tour guides and the tourism industry.
 - e. Advocate to the city to raise the per tour guest limit to 50.

"A New Orleans credo: When life gives you lemons - make daiquiris." — Chris Rose

**NEXT GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

September 17, 2026

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

LSU New Orleans
Earl K. Long Library

"19th CENTURY CIVIL
RIGHTS"



Contact Us

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