

TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

July 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Dianne Honore

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

We announced last month that LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler had volunteered to head up our New Member Committee. Well, we are thrilled to announce that in addition to that role, she has also agreed to fill the vacant Membership Registrar Executive Board position. Folks, that leaves only one vacant board position, the 2nd Vice President. Please consider helping us fill that gap! An excellent way to do so would be by serving as a programs assistant as Dianne mentions below.

Dianne Honore – President

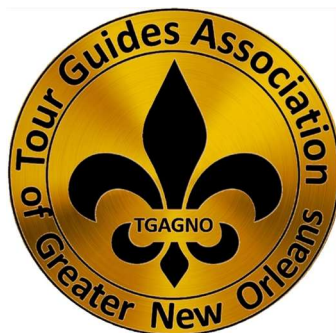
Welcome Summer!

It's hotter than past years, business is slower and cold water works far better than mint juleps - sometimes! Somehow, we in New Orleans will always find a way to work things out. We are half-way through 2026 and our membership totals are higher than last year at this time. We have continued to bring monthly educational programming with positive feedback. Most of all, we are shoring up our systems including easy-to-follow financial record keeping, an online directory, an updated website and new committed board members.

I have been serving in the role of President and 2nd Vice President, which is basically a programs coordinator chair. In January, I made a list of goals including staying on track by offering strong educational programming and promoting professionalism within our trade. It is our best foot forward, moving us into a more sustainable future with positive outcomes rather than a crash and burn, low-wage storytelling sideshow. Other goals included shifting board positions to reflect current trends, creating positive, accepting energy within the organization, opening pathways to more financial stability such as donations and grants, and increasing our membership through outreach programs and building networks.

So far, we are on track. We do have A LOT more to accomplish. I am so happy for our new members who graciously joined the board. Kristi Blackwell, our treasurer, has done an amazing job getting us back on track! Dana Criswell, who is taking on the recording secretary roll with flying colors! And Lealea VanWinkle-Gisler, our new membership chair who is coming out with a bang!

Now, to balance our super-hot weather, we need some super cool volunteer committee members to support the work of your board. We compiled a list of committees that need assistance. They are listed in this



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newsletter and on our website. And btw, I'd love a programs assistant 😊 yes, a shameless plug!

Look for more great happenings this year including a nice meet and greet - camaraderie among like minds, more community outreach, and hopefully, with logistical help we can take a couple short field trips!

Reminder, our annual seminar is this Saturday, July 11th and our big annual all day field trip will be in late September/early October. Randy is working tirelessly putting it together with Kathy Medina! Yes, I am super excited!!!!

Many sincere thanks to our standing board members who have worked very hard at what they do best to get us to this point! Barbara, Mary, Randy, and Frank!

Thank you to all members who show up despite the weather and your super busy lives. We love getting little notes via email even when you cannot make it out. You are connected and that is what matters.

Stay cool and support local.

LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler – Membership Registrar

Hello Membership Krewe! (From this point forward, we are the M-Krewe)

Welcome to **Membership Deets** - your place for all the news fit to "print" or at least fit to provide membership information and maybe even a little enjoyment. First let me say, THANK YOU, to the Board for honoring me with this position. I come to this with an optimistic (some might say delusional) view of what TGAGNO is and definitely what it can be going forward. In the next few weeks, you will be seeing more social media posts, social activities, and opportunities to be involved.

Upcoming Fun Deets for the M-Krewe: Here are three of the activities we're working on: Meet & Greet Social, Tour Guide Speed Dating, and our Fall Trip. We will be providing more Deets on these soon!

Starting August 1, 2026, we will start our 50% discount on membership dues. This is for brand new, never-before members. NOT renewals of past memberships. If you know anyone who might want to "get their feet wet", now is the opportune time. Full memberships will be \$30 and Associate memberships will be \$20.

As I began, let me end, saying thank you for this opportunity to serve. M-Krewe Rocks!

Randy Bibb – 1st Vice President

I'm working on our Fall trip and have some exciting things in mind. Springboarding off of last year's Indigenous People seminar topic, we are looking into exploring native American mounds and sites between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. I'll announce the details as soon as they are arranged and finalized.

Frank Perez – Standards and Education Coordinator

The annual seminar will be held this Saturday, July 11. Last minute registrations are welcome. If you or someone you know has not done so already, please register via our website: [tourguidesnola.org/Meetings & Events](http://tourguidesnola.org/Meetings%20&%20Events).

July 11, 2026. Homewood Suites, 317 N. Rampart, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Barbara Giangrosso – Newsletter Editor/Webmaster/Social Media

COMMITTEES! COMMITTEES! COMMITTEES! We have no shortage of committees. We just added a **new page to our website** that shows all the different ways you can pitch in and help out with our initiatives.

What is in it for you? A chance to meet new people, connect with other guides, build leadership skills, and help make TGAGNOI the best it can be. It will give you a meaningful voice in the policies and programs that support our organization. And it is a lot of fun! I worked on the Trip Committee last year and I thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie with my team mates. It was a blast!

Go to our new website page: <https://www.tourguidesnola.org/committees>. There is a brief description of all the committees. If you are interested in any of them, fill out the form at the bottom of the web page, and someone will be in contact with you. There are quite a few:

Business Development Committee
Bylaws Committee
Community Outreach Committee
Educational/Seminar Committee
Meeting Concierge Committee
New Membership Committee
Newsletter Committee
Nominating Committee
Research Committee
Sustainable Tourism Committee
Trip Committee
Volunteer Committee

***"I'd advise you to visit New Orleans before you pass away. Because if you die without seeing New Orleans, you've wasted half your life."* — Danny Barker**

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August - TBA

There will be no general
membership meeting in July
because of the Annual
Educational Seminar

Stay tuned for details of the
August meeting



Contact Us

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