

# TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

June 2026

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Dianne Honore

First Vice President – Randy Bibb

Treasurer – Kristi Blackwell

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Eshenour

Standards and Education Coordinator – Frank Perez

Recording Secretary – Dana Criswell

Newsletter Editor – Barbara Giangrosso

We are excited to welcome two new members to our administrative family – Dana Criswell and LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler. They have stepped up to the plate to offer much-needed help. We can't thank them enough.

### Dana Criswell – Recording Secretary

I became a tour guide after retiring from a long career at the University of New Orleans, where I taught English and served as an immigration advisor for international students and faculty. I conduct French Quarter and Garden District tours for the Friends of the Cabildo and literary tours for the Tennessee Williams Festival, but my principal work is with Save Our Cemeteries.

I served in this position for a year's term about 10 years ago, but had to step away to take care of a family member. I am very happy to be active in TGAGNO once again!

### LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler – New Member Committee Chairperson

We are excited to announce the formation of a new committee: the New Member Committee, which will focus on recruiting, celebrating, and retaining new members in our organization.

I am the Co-owner & COO of The Real: New Orleans, a Graduate of the City of New Orleans Civic Leadership Academy and a passionate advocate for the city's unique culture and history. I look forward to working with the committee to welcome and integrate our newest members.

### Kristi Blackwell – Treasurer

Hello TGAGNO members! As we enter into summer and the season slows down for many of us, I have looked into different monthly fees we were incurring and found some we didn't need, saving us around \$50 per month! Some may wonder where these fees come from, but please understand the age of technology with online presence, credit cards, and security does come at a cost!



*Licensed Guides – Authentic Experiences*

Highlight is, we are no longer paying for old services we no longer use and streamlined into bathing suit season!

### **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.

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 - even a small contribution of time would make a real difference.

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

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

The annual seminar is quickly approaching. If you have not done so already, please register via our website: [tourguidesnola.org](http://tourguidesnola.org). Registration is open only to TGAGNO members at this time. After June 27, it will be opened to non-members.

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

Coffee, tea, continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

### **Barbara Giangrosso – Interim Membership Registrar**

I'm really excited about our New Member Committee and about working with LeaLea—she's already off to an amazing start with lots of great ideas. As we grow, we want to make sure our newest members feel welcomed, celebrated, and supported so they stay engaged. We're aiming for a warm, inclusive environment where tour guides of all backgrounds feel like they belong. And of course, we plan to have plenty of fun along the way! Membership update: We have 121 total members, 86 Full, 20 Associate, and 15 Corporate.

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***"If there was no New Orleans, America would just be a bunch of people dying of boredom."** – Chris Rose*

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#### **NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday, June 18, 2026

WYES-TV

Dr. Mona Lisa Saloy  
Author, Scholar, Folklorist  
and Poet

6:00 p.m.



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#### **Contact Us**

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