

# TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

January 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

You know what's powerful?

Being a part of Louisiana's largest organization of tour guides and history ambassadors! Thank you for taking the first step into an engaging, fun-filled new year by joining. Whether a licensed tour guide, associate or corporate member we are part of a collective community, focused on education and building positive alliances.

Your board has hit the ground running, working to create a net positive 2026. We are rolling out an online membership roster for all interested. You will be sent a separate email with details on how to be included. We also have great in-depth educational and networking opportunities planned.

A few of these include:

\*Screening the award-winning documentary *Ancestral Artistry* with a master craftsman panel discussion

\*In February, a US 250th anniversary talk with Joseph Dunn, Honorary Consul of Canada in New Orleans and Kendric Perkins, Education and Outreach Specialist for the Historic New Orleans Collection

\*A meet and greet with tourism professionals and supporting resource organizations

\*April meeting at the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies with Dr. Ryan Gray, UNO anthropology professor

\*Annual Seminar focused on Hidden Histories!

We are working toward a sustainable presence in tourism. Streamlining processes, continuing to move into the digital age,



*Licensed Guides – Authentic Experiences*

addressing work-load issues for the board, developing outreach strategies.

Yes, it sounds like a lot. For that our doors are open to volunteers, committee members and a couple of unattended board seats.

Kathy Dean, our Volunteer Chair, is working on a roster of volunteers for **special events**. Please email us with your interest so we can add you to the list!

We also need meeting assistants for a welcoming committee, food and beverage procurement and set-up/tear-down at meetings.

Unattended board seats: Recording Secretary, Membership Chair, and Second VP.

I look forward to seeing you all at meetings and events throughout the year. If you cannot make it out to meetings, remember, the Membership Minutes are designed to keep you informed and up to date on what's happening in the organization. Feel free to reach out by emailing me or any board member at [nolaguideinfo@gmail.com](mailto:nolaguideinfo@gmail.com).

Thank you for all you do.

### **First Vice President – Randy Bibb**

A big, hearty thank you to Kristi Blackwell for stepping up and serving as our Treasurer. This is a first step in saving the organization. Involvement is crucial and we all need to be involved in some way. Now, we need to get our committees formed. You will be hearing from us as we reach out to you for the following committees:

Monthly Meeting Committee

Trip Committee

Bylaw Committee

Community Outreach Committee

Volunteer Committee

Later in the year you'll be hearing from your board as we form a nominating committee for your next board. For 2026, let's all make a commitment and pitch in to make TGAGNOI stronger than it's ever been before.

### **Treasurer – Kristi Blackwell**

As the person that has just donned the title of Treasurer, I plan to connect with ASU to verify what information they need to effectively serve us. As the liaison between them and the membership, in the future I will have information available concerning accounts and budgets. I look forward to helping this amazing organization move forward and to serving you!

## Website/Social Media/Membership – Barbara Giangrosso

Our 2026 membership drive is officially underway! We have an exciting lineup of meetings, speakers, and events planned for the year ahead, and we need your help to grow our community.

Please share this invitation with anyone interested in joining our organization. As of today, we have 84 members (57 full, 17 associate, and 10 corporate), and we are working hard to reach last year's total of 134.

Additionally, don't forget that **NFTGA tour guide insurance** remains available until January 29—a vital benefit of your TGAGNO membership. For more details on coverage and eligibility, please visit the NFTGA Insurance Information page on our website: <https://www.tourguidesnola.org/2026-nftga-insurance-faq>

Please welcome our newest board member, Kristi Blackwell. Kristi has graciously accepted the role of Treasurer. She will be working closely with Accounting Services Unlimited, LLC, the accounting firm we contracted with to prepare financial statements and maintain accurate financial records. Please read all about her, as well as all the other board members, on our website at:

<https://www.tourguidesnola.org/team-4>. While you are there, please check out the board positions that remain vacant.

Speaking of the website, I have added a donation page and will be updating the calendar as soon as meeting dates are nailed down. Stay tuned. If you have any suggestions about additional features you would like to see on the website, please let me know.

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*“Leaving New Orleans also frightened me considerably. Outside of the city limits the heart of darkness, the true wasteland begins.” – John Kennedy Toole*

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### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 22, 2026

5:45 p.m. – WYES-TV

*Ancestral Artistry Screening*

50/50, light bites



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### Contact Us

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