TOUR GUIDE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.
2027-2028 CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

LESLEY KANE – candidate for President

It is with a great deal of gratitude that I write this letter to thank the nominating committee for the opportunity to serve as Board President of TGAGNO. Having served on the board of Save Our Cemeteries from 2022 —2025, that opportunity has given me a deeper sense of the important role our organization serves for the Greater New Orleans tour guide community.

I have been a licensed tour guide since 2018. While I'm not a native New Orleanian, I was raised up and down the Mississippi River between St Louis and Natchez. I moved to New Orleans in 1996 (after driving back and forth from Memphis for six months, I knew this was where I belonged).

I truly believe that all roads lead to or from New Orleans and enjoy connecting the northernmost Caribbean city with guests from all over the world. I have led all sorts of tours with Lucky Bean, Gray Line, Two Chicks, Save Our Cemeteries, and occasionally lead private tours for national and international travel agencies.

Prior to tour guide life, I worked with the Greater New Orleans Foundation and The National World War II Museum (even way back when it was The National D-Day Museum. I have worked extensively with Board Members; assisted with coordinating special events (which also required being cleared through Secret Service twice); and have navigated my way through many a mailing list, spreadsheet and catering menus.

Between 2003-2008, my husband and I lived in New York. I worked as an Executive Assistant for Bessemer Trust, a private wealth management company; and as an advertising representative for *The New Criterion*, a publication of The Foundation for Cultural Review.

In a past life — B.C. (before children) — I was a professional singer, working with the dearly missed Jimmy Maxwell and his Orchestra. I was also the singing cocktail waitress at Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop where I served up cocktails and history lessons in between warbling with the late great Johnny Gordon. Why I didn't realize my calling was to become a tour guide back then is still a mystery to me!

In addition to my work experience, I served as co-chair on the music committee for the Preservation Resource Center's Holiday Home Tour for five consecutive years; served the community through the Junior League of New Orleans (now a Sustainer); occasional volunteer at the New Orleans Jazz Museum; and countless co-chair school events as a parent.

I know I have much to learn, however I would consider it an honor and privilege to serve as Board President for TGAGNO.

CANDANCE KAGAN – candidate for 1st Vice President

I am a native New Orleanian. My family has been in the hospitality industry for over 50 years. I worked as a tour guide for the past 16 years and have owned Spirit of New Orleans Tours for the past 10 years. Growing up in New Orleans and my love of history and for sharing the most European City in America with others inspired me to the tour guiding industry. I am a lifelong learner and committed to curating special experiences for our visitors.

DONNA SCHULINGKAMP – candidate for 2nd Vice President

I am writing to express my interest in serving as the 2nd Vice President of the Tour Guide Association of Greater New Orleans (TGAGNO). As a passionate ambassador for our city's rich history, distinct culture, and vibrant hospitality industry, I am eager to help with my participation in the association, which involves the planning of community engagements for the monthly meetings. New Orleans relies on its tour guides to tell our unique story to the world. As 2nd Vice President, my priority will be supporting the interests and standards of all licensed guides in the Association, by offering new and old locations to explore, and accepting suggestions from all members. I am a native born and raised in the City of New Orleans, generations of family history from the City and State of Louisiana, family members buried in our oldest Cemeteries (holder of a family pass), a graduate from both Delgado and FOC class, over 20 years' experience as a working tour guide, membership in nonprofit and for-profit organizations, which includes continuous education lectures. I am committed to advancing the mission of TGAGNO. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my experience, and dedication to New Orleans tourism can support the Association and our members. Thank you for your time and consideration.

RONI BOSSIN – candidate for Standards and Education Coordinator

I'm a licensed New Orleans tour guide and tour director, with a background that also includes law and program/operations management.

I see the Standards and Education role as an opportunity to create educational programs that strengthen both guides' knowledge and the craft of guiding itself. I'd be interested in developing an annual program that combines engaging Louisiana-related content with practical professional development—such as storytelling, public speaking, audience engagement, or other skills that help guides connect more effectively with their guests. I would also hope to involve other members in developing the program and bringing different ideas and perspectives to it.

CRAIG HENRY – candidate for Standards and Education Coordinator

I am very encouraged by the energy, excitement, and programming of TGAGNO over the past year. I am equally encouraged by the influx of new members who have brought new ideas and perspectives. As a part of a team, I would very much enjoy making fresh, new contributions to the organization that will benefit all members in their quest for knowledge and experiences.

A little bit about my background. I have been a licensed Tour Guide since 2019, and I am an active TG covering a wide range of tours including: FQ walking history, and cocktail and food experiences; Garden District walking history, and cocktail and food experiences; cemetery tours particularly the newly opened Lafayette #1; DMCs, Viking and custom tours.

I attended Delgado Community College Tour Guide track under Randy Bibb in 2019. I also attended the Friends of the Cabildo Tour Guide training in 2020. I completed both.

I have a strong commitment to community service and volunteering in support of the tour industry in our community.

- Served on the Board and as President of Save Our Cemeteries
- Served 2 consecutive terms on the Board of the Tour Guide Association of Greater New Orleans
- Served as Committee Chair for 3 consecutive years for the TGAGNO Annual Educational Trip
- Served as a committee member on the Friends of the Cabildo Marketing committee
- Serving as Chair of the FOC Creole Heritage Month celebration for October 2026

DONALD MEYER – candidate for Standards and Education Coordinator

Donald “Donny” Meyer is a native New Orleanian. A graduate of Redemptorist High School, Charity Hospital School of Nursing and the University of New Orleans. He became a licensed tour guide after completing a tour guide class at Loyola University in 2025. He went on to complete the Friends of the Cabildo tour guide class in 2026. He is a volunteer walking tour guide for FOC as well as a docent at the Cabildo. He is currently enrolled in the Professional Tour Guide Certification Program at Loyola.

Although he is a relative newcomer, his dedication to continuing education makes him an excellent candidate for the role of standards and standards and education coordinator for TGAGNO.

NATALIE NOYES – candidate for Standards and Education Coordinator

Natalie is thrilled to be one of the candidates for Standards & Education! Natalie is one of the evening and weekend tour guides covering topics ranging from haunts to history to LGBTQ+

New Orleans. They have a special place in their heart for the topics of divination, sex work, and death & burial customs (oh my!). Natalie has twice been the Educational Co-Chair for the American Mental Health Counselors Association, helping to foster fantastic continuing education to counselors throughout the United States both virtually and at the annual conference. They would love to bring the same enthusiasm for learning and organizational skills to TGAGNOI!

BARBARA GIANGROSSO – candidate for Corresponding Secretary

Barbara is a lifelong New Orleanian with deep roots in the Bywater neighborhood. She holds a Business Administration degree from the University of New Orleans and an MBA from Loyola University. After retiring from a career in accounting, she found her calling in tour guiding, graduating from both Delgado's and Friends of the Cabildo's programs. Barbara specializes in French Quarter, Garden District, and culinary/cocktail tours. She serves on the Friends of the Cabildo board, mentors new FOC guides, and has been a member of TGAGNO since 2017. Barbara is currently serving on the Executive Board as the Newsletter Editor

BRANDY THILL – candidate for Newsletter Editor

I'm Brandy, a licensed New Orleans tour guide. I lead cocktail history tours in the French Quarter for Gray Line and history walking tours for the Friends of the Cabildo. I also own New Orleans Estate Collective, an estate sale business. Before guiding, I spent over 15 years in business operations, mostly at tech startups. I moved here from Minneapolis about eight years ago. Estate sales and tours are very similar jobs for me. A house full of belongings or a city's history is waiting to be explored, and I get to dig into it and share that with people. I'm running for the board because this guiding community has been welcoming to me, and I'd like to give something back. I'm good at the behind-the-scenes work of keeping things organized and running smoothly, and I'd be glad to put that to use for our members.

KRISTI BLACKWELL – incumbent candidate for Treasurer

Kristi had been an outdoor and history tour guide around the US before happily making New Orleans her home over 10 years ago. Once she obtained her license, she continued her education by delving into the vast library of books written about the area, taking classes through FOC, and immersing herself in as many cultural activities and events as possible. As a person who feels service is important to every community, Kristi is excited to be a positive and cooperative member of the board. Kristi is currently serving on the Executive Board as the Treasurer.

DANA CRISWELL – incumbent candidate for Recording Secretary

Dana is a licensed tour guide enjoying her retirement from the University of New Orleans, where she served first as an English Department faculty member, then as assistant director for the Intensive English Language Program. Her love of history and all things New Orleans led her to start a post-retirement life as a tour guide. She first attended the Professional Tour Guiding class at Delgado Community College and then continued her training with the Friends of the Cabildo. She continues to conduct occasional French Quarter and Garden District Tours for the FOC, and for the last two years she has led literary tours for the Tennessee Williams Festival. Her principal tour work, however, is with Save Our Cemeteries. She currently leads tours in St. Roch Cemetery, Saint Louis No. 3, and Metairie Cemetery. Dana is currently serving on the Executive Board as the Recording Secretary.

LEALEA VAN WINKLE-GISLER – incumbent candidate for Membership Registrar

My favorite quote about New Orleans—and about myself—comes from Tennessee Williams' journal: "Here surely is the place I was made for." From the moment I first walked into the French Quarter, I felt at home. I often say I spent my entire adult life trying to find my way back to New Orleans. Today, I live in my dream house in historic Algiers Point, spending my days and nights walking the streets of The Crescent City, telling her stories and loving her more with every step.

I earned a B.S. in Communications while competing as an intercollegiate debater, finishing 3rd at the CEDA National Debate Tournament. After college, I built a career in hospitality management and live event production, eventually becoming a hotel GM and founding SHMC, the largest event production and catering company in a four-state region.

Returning "home" to New Orleans in 2015, I served as VIP Manager and concierge department head at one of the city's oldest luxury hotels, later joining the opening team of a global luxury property. In 2025, my partner and I launched The Real: New Orleans, offering concierge services, curated experiences, and tours. LeaLea is currently serving on the Executive Board as the Membership Registrar.