

TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

August 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

Dianne Honore – President

Greetings from the bayou,

First, I'd like to acknowledge the death of our beloved board member, cultural activist, author, and educator Frank Perez. Frank was a trailblazer. He co-founded the nonprofit LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana to preserve queer history. He taught tour guiding classes at Loyola where students always sang his praises as an educator. As the TGAGNOI Standards and Education Chair, he produced two brilliant seminars, the last of which was this past July. It spoke to his deeply devoted work in Hidden Histories and lesser-known stories that we should all embrace and tell on our tour guiding journeys. We will miss Frank. His balanced manner and quick wit always kept his comrades in check.

Frank's funeral visitation is on Saturday, August 15, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home, 3827 Canal Street. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that we please send donations to the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana.

Secondly, please come out and cool off with us at WYES-TV studios for our August 20th meeting. We will learn about a few Caribbean and Latin American connections to New Orleans. Caribbean-inspired grazing with a little history will be served up along with a raffle and 50/50! Registration is required.

Randy Bibb – 1st Vice President

I am pleased to announce that on Tuesday, September 29th, we will be taking our annual trip and this year we will start at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge. This will be a self-guided experience with the main focus being the *Grounds for Greatness: Louisiana and the Nation* exhibit. Here we will view a detailed segment on the Poverty Point World Heritage Site in northeast Louisiana. It investigates these exceptional prehistoric American Indian earthworks as well as the Mississippi River, from its environmental significance to its role in commerce, slavery and civil rights, with an emphasis on the 1896 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision of Plessy v. Ferguson. From that exhibit, feel free to tour the rest of this remarkable Louisiana State Museum.



Licensed Guides – Authentic Experiences

Lunch will be in Baton Rouge (place and menus to be determined) and then from there we will stop in Lacombe, Louisiana to visit the Bayou Lacombe Band of Choctaw Bayou and view the Lacombe Museum's Native History Department and Bochókwa Osáposhi (Bochokwa Gardens), an outdoor replica of traditional housing and agricultural practices. We will enjoy a tour along the historic St. Tammany Trace built along centuries-old Choctaw/Oklapisa trade routes and a demonstration of the Snake Dance hosted by Sierra Lagarde.

Meet us at 7 am for coffee and beignets at the Café DuMonde in City Park, depart at 8 am and return by 5 pm. The cost for the trip will be announced shortly at which time reservations will be opened. This is an exciting exploration of Indigenous Louisiana – don't miss it!

LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler – Membership Registrar

Membership Deets August, 2026

Hold On M-Krewe!

We're sizzling like bacon in a cast iron skillet. Not only is the weather baking us like a souffle from Commander's, TGAGNO is frying up great stuff!

First, our monthly membership meeting, August 20th is an outstanding program, be there.

Registration for the Fall Trip opens soon – get on the bus. M-Krewe let me tell you, the bus trip is fantastic! You meet folks who are extremely cool, looking at you Kristi, our fabulous treasurer. (She was my seat mate last year and I am so glad I got to know her.) You learn, you have fun, and we feed you: beignets, lunch, and adult beverages and snacks.

August also marks the start of reduced membership dues for **new** members. If you know someone who you think would enjoy our band of merry storytellers, bring them to the August meeting. We'll show them how cool it is to be part of the M-Krewe! Or point them to the website so they can join up immediately!

And stay ready, because September will continue this hot streak! We are gearing up for a Fabulous Fall.

See you next week.

Barbara Giangrosso – Newsletter Editor/Webmaster/Social Media

This is an election year for our Executive Board positions. A new board is voted in every other year. Terms of office are for two years. Some of our current board members will be returning; some will not.

Per our bylaws, a Nominating Committee of not less than three and no more than five full members will be selected by the general membership to organize the election of officers. This committee will be responsible for soliciting nominees for each Executive Board office.

We are pleased to announce that we have five nominees that will comprise the Nominating Committee. These nominees will be appointed at the August general membership meeting via a majority vote of the full members in attendance. They are:

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

Once they are officially voted in, they will hit the road running recruiting candidates for our Executive Board. We will have at least four, maybe more, open positions, so replacements will be necessary. Our board has nine available seats. We've said it before and we'll say it again. Filling these positions will be critical to the success of our organization. We will not be able to sustain activities with a board of just four or five people. Therefore, please look deep inside yourself and ask what you can do to help. If anyone is interested in submitting their name for one of the board positions, please contact one of the above-named individuals.

Please note that per our bylaws, board positions are only open to Full members. You can find a description of the Executive Board positions in our bylaws. There is a link to the bylaws on our website under the "About Us" tab. The Nominating Committee will announce the slate of candidates at the September general membership meeting, and then elections will be held at the October general membership meeting.

***"There is no place like New Orleans. It's a must-see city because there's no explaining it, no describing it. You can't compare it to anything."* — Anthony Bourdain**

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 20, 2026

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

WYES-TV
916 Navarre Avenue

"ROOTS, RHYTHMS, AND
TROPICAL FRUIT"



Contact Us

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