

TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

December 2025

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Dianne Honore

First Vice President – Randy Bibb

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Eshenour

Standards and Education Coordinator – Frank Perez

Newsletter Editor – Barbara Giangrosso

BOARD REPORTS:

President – Dianne Honore

Season's greetings!

Ending this year with a warm thank you to our members, sponsors, and partners throughout 2025. Your support and camaraderie have helped us complete this year on a positive note despite challenges.

These are steps that your 2025 board has made on your behalf:

- Attracted approximately 40 new members - a 40% jump from 2024. The largest increase in one year since pre-Covid years.
- New user-friendly website as well as a QR code for easy access.
- Hired an accounting firm to handle our books for accuracy and consistency.
- Developed cross connections with several local tourism entities.
- Enjoyed our first ever celebration of 40 years which brought its own successes: An open discussion with the City Council, acknowledgement by the Governor's office, exposure to people who didn't realize we existed or what we offer, and honored those who created and made TGAGNOI a success over 40 years.
- Increase in social media presence - raising awareness about our organization.
- Continued successful educational membership meetings and events.
- Continued ongoing outreach presentations to organizations on what we do and why.

We have faced challenges such as the lack of board and volunteer commitments as well as realizing that to move forward in a sustainable way we need to bury some old practices



and institute new methods. People often hold on to what worked in the past coupled with one's own beliefs and methodologies, disregarding new, possibly winning strategies. TGAGNOI has had most of the same difficulties over several years and boards now. In fact, to create this board, members were contacted A to Z, some twice, and once elected, not all were committed. Your present board was elected and does operate for the greater good of the organization. We are working to streamline some of the demands and are looking to add board service perks. Unfortunately, one board member, under pressure from family needing time and necessity, is facing the possibility of leaving by the end of this year. That would leave us without a quorum, and we cannot operate without a quorum.

I am hopeful that we can make 2026 a good year for TGAGNOI, giving future boards clearer paths and an easier, less burdensome trek into the future. We are implementing changes like going completely digital, building partnerships, networking for permanent meeting spaces, seeking greater visibility and opportunities for members, expanding volunteer efforts within our community, and improving and expanding educational opportunities.

Once again, thank you for your support. Wishing everyone health, happiness, and much success in 2026.

First Vice President – Randy Bibb

Last year, on July 9th, 2024, the TGAGNOI Board sent out a notice to the membership stating that the Board situation was critical. Three members of the 2023-24 board had resigned and the TGAGNOI Board, for the first time, was working with a shortage of personnel, requiring other chair members to double up on the workload. The notice says *“Today, the harsh reality is that TGAGNOI is on life support and needs a leadership infusion. Is there a doctor in the house?”* That was in 2024. I was not a member of the organization at that time. I rejoined the organization and volunteered to serve on the Board for this reason, to try to help an organization that was slowly killing itself.

But we are still in a crisis and there are, once again (for the second Board in a row) we have vacant positions. Several have blamed our current Board for the situation, but we must understand that TGAGNOI has been in trouble since before I was President in 2021-23. The crisis took root before my term, and that's why I worked to take action on resolving it. We have been reaching out to the membership for participation for four years now; my Presidency, Mary Eshenour's Presidency and now Dianne Honore's Presidency. Please rest assured that your Board is looking for solutions to keep the inevitable from happening, and the inevitable is the dissolution of the organization.

We do not have a Treasurer. We have disgruntled members requesting financial information from a vacant chair position; we are doing our best to resolve this situation, since we have no one who is able or willing to fill that seat. People have been surreptitiously discussing having present members of the Board removed from office, as though your Board has created the situation, and replacing them with new. If one can discuss joining the Board after removing 3/5 of its members, one can also discuss joining the existing Board to complete it.

President Barbara Robichaux said it and I reiterated it: It's not what you get out of an organization, it's what you put into it.

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Eshenour

By now all 2025 TGAGNO members should have received renewal information for the 2026 year. Each of you should have received a personalized form listing your contact information, educational courses, and tours. This form is a fantastic time saver for the Board. My first Board position was Membership Chair. I would have to sit at my computer with your paper form trying to read your handwriting to update your

information. Even with 39 years of trying to read 5th graders handwriting it was sometimes challenging. So, you know that when Tara Schroeder developed this personalized form, I was thrilled. Barbara Giangrosso has faithfully updated your info throughout the year and printed them for the mailout.

Look over your form. Then go to our website and let us know how you want to renew. There are two ways to renew and pay your membership dues – online or by mail. **All Full members must supply a copy of their current tour guide license. Anyone that wishes to purchase NFTGA liability insurance must have their payment received by December 15.** If you need more information about what the insurance covers, please refer to our website.

Social Media/Membership – Barbara Giangrosso

As Mary mentioned above, 2026 membership renewals are underway. Despite our challenges, we have had a great 2025. I would like to see this trend continue in 2026. I believe in this organization, and I think you do too based on the membership applications that are flooding in. This is year-end crunch time. Since I am wearing several hats right now, i.e., Social Media Focal, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Membership Registrar, I could use a little help. If you are interested in helping me maintain the membership records, please contact me at bgtours@cox.net or 504-457-4919. You will need to have very good Excel spreadsheet skills. Also, stay tuned. The Board is assessing current needs, and will be reaching out with more specific task-oriented requests for help.

Once again, visit our website www.tourguidesnola.org for lots of information on the renewal process and information on the tour guide liability insurance program. If you wish to purchase the insurance, renewal applications and payments must be received no later than **December 15**.

Speaking of the website, if you haven't seen it lately, check it out. I've been making some updates, adding new pages and features. If you have any suggestions about additional features you would like to see on the website, please let me know.

“Every time I close my eyes blowing that trumpet of mine, I look right into the heart of good old New Orleans.” – Louis Armstrong

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Thursday, December 11, 2025

5:30 p.m. – Dooky Chase's
Restaurant

Food, Cash Bar, Door Prizes,
Swiss Cake



Contact Us

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