TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

October 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President –

First Vice President –

Treasurer – Kristi Blackwell

Membership Registrar – LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler

Corresponding Secretary – Mary Eshenour

Standards and Education Coordinator –

Recording Secretary – Dana Criswell

Newsletter Editor – Barbara Giangrosso

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As we say goodbye to our 1st Vice President, we extend our sincere gratitude to Randy Bibb for his years of dedicated service to TGAGNO. Randy has served as President, 1st Vice President, Standards and Continuing Education Chair, and Nominating Committee. He has been an invaluable asset to this organization over the years. We wish Randy the very best and remain deeply appreciative of all he has brought to TGAGNO.

Kristi Blackwell, our Treasurer, has assumed the responsibilities of the Executive Board President, until the end of the year. Effective January 1, 2027, the 2027-2028 board will begin their term of office.

ANNUAL FALL TRIP

We had an absolutely wonderful time on our trip to the Louisiana Capitol Museum and Bayou Lacombe Choctaw Nation. We thank Randy Bibb for doing a fabulous job coordinating everything. In addition, Randy would like to thank the following:

Hosts Global - for funding the transportation
Patty Smith - for arranging the transportation and reaching out to Hosts for funding.
Craig Henry - for arranging the beignets and coffee from Cafe du Monde.
Cafe Du Monde - for beignets and coffee
Dana Criswell - for getting the wine and snacks and for being my transportation.
Dana's husband, Joe - for his assistance with coolers and transportation.
LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler - for the FABULOUS restaurant recommendation and setting it up for us.
Don & Harry - for pralines and the tassel-twirling burlesque entertainment.
To Everyone (and you know who you are) who helped to load the bus, serve the wine, distribute snacks, handle the 50/50, collect gratuities for the drive, pick up the trash, unload the bus, and on and on and on. And to anyone else I may have inadvertently omitted.

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD OCTOBER 15, 2026

Elections for our 2027-2028 Executive Board will be held at our next general membership meeting on October 15 at the Preservation Resource Center**. IF YOU WISH TO PLACE A VOTE, YOU MUST BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING.!!** We have a full slate of candidates (even overflowing one might say) this year. The slate of candidates can be found at https://www.tourguidesnola.org/october

We wish to express deep appreciation to the Nominating Committee for all their hard work and dedication – Mary Eshenopur, Milton Carr, Pauline Pastore, Mary Ellen Grace, and Emma Gross.

Kristi Blackwell - Treasurer

Hello Membership, Kristi Blackwell here! As interim President, I'm happy to carry the mantle until our next president is elected. That said, I'm very excited about our upcoming election and the amazing candidates that have stepped up to help TGAGNO move forward!

As your Treasurer, as of today, we have a budget surplus of $762.43. Please note, we will have an additional reimbursement coming in from our recent trip, so the surplus will increase. The surplus is great news as we sail into the last quarter of the year!

LeaLea VanWinkle-Gisler – Membership Registrar

October Membership Krewe Minutes: Say hallelujah, we've actually had days where the high was below 95 degrees!!! Fall is fabulous in New Orleans and with TGAGNO.

I want to backtrack a bit and say: THANK YOU to all who attended and worked so hard to make our Fall trip so wonderful!!! Get ready because we're working on a possible late spring trip.

Now, Be Active & A Part of all the great things we have happening:

October 15 - Monthly Membership Meeting. All monthly meetings are important but this one is where we vote for the new Executive Board. Vote! Vote! Vote! We are delighted to be meeting at Preservation Resource Center. Hope to see you there.

October 16 – WYES Presents Morgus Madness – while this is not a TGAGNO produced event, WYES is a valued partner of TGAGNO. This is their largest fundraiser of the year.
Tickets: https://www.wyes.org/events/

October 31 – Halloween 🎃AND Daylight Savings Time Change We will all need that extra hour of sleep!

Sneak Peek: November 19 - Meet & Greet at The Pink House will be fun, informative, and a great opportunity to visit with each other!

TGAGNO is rocking! See you soon!

Barbara Giangrosso – Newsletter Editor/Webmaster/Social Media

OCTOBER MEETING - Our **next general membership meeting** will be held on Thursday, October 15, at the Preservation Resource Center. We will hear from Sara Lowenburg and Russell Blanchard on all the latest happenings with PRC and Save our Cemeteries. Also, Executive Board elections to be held at this meeting.

MEET & GREET EVENT! Our **November general membership meeting** will be held on **Thursday, November 19**. We will be hosting a special Meet & Greet event. This will be an opportunity for you, especially new members, to meet some of our corporate members, who happen to be destination management and tour companies. Also, it will be an excellent opportunity for everyone to meet our newly-elected Executive Board members. Details are still being finalized. Stay tuned for more information!!

SAVE THE DATE! Our **Christmas dinner** will be held on **Thursday, December 17** at Briquette Restaurant, 701 S. Peters Street. We will have a delicious 3-course meal, complimentary glass of champagne, door prizes, and of course our Swiss Christmas cake! We will also have an induction ceremony for the newly-elected board members. Details still being finalized. Stay tuned for more information!!

TRIVIA QUIZ

This month's trivia quiz is going to expand upon the theme of our Fall trip – Poverty Point and our indigenous history. Answer the questions below. Submit answers to nolaguideinfo@gmail.com. Everyone who correctly answers all the questions will be eligible to win their choice of book from our library. Yes, I know, like y'all need another book, right? But we have some good ones!

1. Unlike most ancient civilizations that built monumental architecture, how did the people of Poverty Point sustain themselves?
    a. Through intensive, large-scale cultivation of corn and beans.
    b. By exploiting the rich natural bounty of the wetlands and forests.
    c. By domesticating large herds of bison and native deer in large pens.
    d. By relying strictly on food supplies imported from trade partners in Central America.

2. What was the main purpose of the large earthen mounds built by indigenous cultures in the lower Mississippi Valley?
    a. Underground root cellars for winter food storage.
    b. Defensive walls to keep out hostile European explorers.
    c. Platforms for ceremonial structures, elite residences, and burials.
    d. Astronomical observatories for charting solar eclipses.

3. French explorers named the city of Baton Rouge (Red Stick) after observing a tall painted cypress pole used by local native groups to mark what?
    a. The western boundary of the Spanish colonial empire.
    b. A traditional hunting and territorial boundary between two native tribes.
    c. The landing site of early European trading ships.
    d. The burial site of a revered tribal prophet.

4. What were the small, uniquely shaped baked-clay objects at Poverty Point primarily used for?
    a. Sacred amulets traded exclusively among elite tribal chieftains.

b. Thermal cooking stones used for stone-boiling and baking in earth ovens.
c. Standardized currency tokens used in international trade transactions.
d. Miniature architectural models of the concentric earthen ridges.

5. How extensive were the trade networks of the Poverty Point culture, as evidenced by raw materials like copper, soapstone, and galena excavated at the site?
    a. Restricted strictly to the immediate Gulf Coast shoreline via coastal canoe trading.
    b. Limited to local river valleys within a 50-mile radius of northeastern Louisiana.
    c. Transatlantic maritime trade with ancient civilizations in Central America.
    d. Vast continental networks spanning from the Greak Lakes to the Appalachian Mountains.

6. Around 1100 BCE, Poverty Point was mysteriously abandoned. What major environmental shift in the lower Mississippi valley do scientists strongly suspect triggered the exodus?
    a. A massive, prolonged volcanic eruption that covered Louisiana in ash.
    b. A catastrophic, multi-decade mega-drought that turned the wetlands into a desert.
    c. Intense, widespread regional flooding and shifts in the Mississippi River channels that disrupted local ecosystems.
    d. A sudden, massive ice age that froze the Gulf of Mexico solid.

7. After Poverty Point was vacated, what happened to the monumental earthwork tradition in the region?
    a. Earthwork construction ceased entirely across North America for over two thousand years.
    b. The site was immediately occupied and turned into a stone fort by Spanish explorers.
    c. The massive scale of construction paused locally, but smaller-scale mound building persisted through subsequent cultures like the Tchefuncte and Marksville.
    d. The remaining population moved to the mountains to build massive stone pyramids.

"New Orleans is like a big musical gumbo. The sound I have is from being in the city my whole life." *— Trombone Shorty*

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 15, 2026

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Preservation Resource Center

923 Tchoupitoulas Street

"PRC and SOC Initiatives"

Contact Us

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