

# TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

May 2026

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This month, we start out with a very special message from one of our long-time valuable members.

### WFTGA 2026 CONFERENCE REPORT FUKUOKA, JAPAN

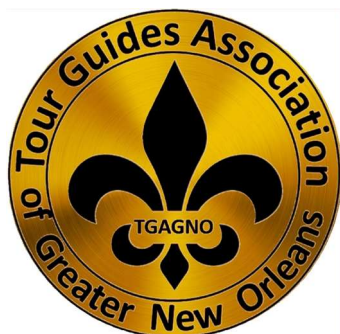
#### Impressions and Take-Ways By Julie Cornwell

In 2024, Patty Smith and I were among a group of seven colleagues from TGAGNO who attended the WFTGA conference in Sicily. It was such a great program that we committed to doing the next one in February, 2026, which would be hosted by the Japanese in Fukuoka. Fast forward through much planning and saving, and Patty, her son Matt (as a welcome accompanying person), and I embarked on a trip of a lifetime. We were sorry that others from TGAGNO didn't join us.

Since we doubted we would ever have this opportunity again, we chose to do both the Pre- and Post-Conference extensions. These were designed to showcase the host member country's culture and highlights. Immerse ourselves we did! Language, food, music, theater, volcanoes, hot springs, temples, shrines, gardens, memorials, factories, museums, famous people, and "regular" folk, bullet trains and motorcoaches, modern times and ancient history, wars and peace.

But if the trip was merely a fantastic vacation in an exotic destination, why should we TGAGNO members and tour guides care? Because of the conference itself and the planners, supporting staff and hundreds of attendees from 50 countries who do what we do, care about what we care about, want to grow as professionals- want to be recognized as professionals!

Are you curious about the structure of other places' tourist/tour guide professional requirements? How do others interpret sensitive topics (atomic bombings!)? What are other guides paid? How do other guides generate business? How are guides structuring their businesses, managing their accounting and business development? How can AI be a tool, and what are its hazards? How can you use your iPhone to take better pictures with and for your guests? Can you make your tours experiences rather than simple history recitations that can be found online? Would you like to have contacts who are interested and



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interesting, and want to share best practices (my new friends are in San Antonio, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden, Scotland, Ethiopia). No one has all the answers; everyone wants to learn. It is one of the most inspiring experiences a professional tour guide can have, and you will give as you gain. You can be certain that you will return home feeling more responsibility to be a good ambassador for your home, and to feel proud of the work you do.

Patty and I look forward to sharing photos and discussions at a future TGAGNO meeting. Stay tuned!

## **GiveNOLADay**

Well, GiveNOLADay was not as successful as we had wished. We had three donors, for a total of \$60. If anyone has any feedback on what we could have done better, please let us know. Several social media postings went out, emails were sent to current TGAGNO members, past TGAGNO members and several tour companies.

## **ANNUAL FALL TRIP**

Good things are taking shape for our upcoming trip, and we're excited about what's ahead. A big thank-you to **Kathy Medina** for stepping up to help with the planning.

Now we'd love to have **you** involved as well. We truly need a few more hands. If you're willing to help out, please reach out to **Randy Bibb**—even a small contribution of time would make a real difference.

If you're able to lend a hand, please let Randy know. Your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

The annual seminar is confirmed for July 11 at the Homewood Suites on N. Rampart. The theme will be "**Hidden and Neglected Histories**".

"Gypsies in New Orleans" - Randy Bibb

"Queer New Orleans" - Frank Perez

"Chinese in New Orleans" - Winston Ho

"Sex Work in New Orleans" - Quinn Bishop

Lunch will be served. Be on the lookout for more information as **Frank Perez** irons out the final details. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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***"In New Orleans, culture doesn't come down from on high, it bubbles up from the streets." — Ellis Marsalis***

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## PICTURES FROM FUKUOKA, JAPAN



### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Backstreet Cultural Museum

Private Tour

1531 St. Phillip Street

6:00 p.m.



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### Contact Us

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