

Quotes

We can do no great things...only small things with great love. *Mother Teresa*

Nobody can prevent you from choosing to be exceptional. *Mark Sanborn in The Fred Factor*

A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and gets to bed at night, and in between he does what he wants to do. *Bob Dylan*



Member Application Form Enclosed!

As the coffers of the CTPA seem fat enough and in response to member feedback, dues are not being raised in the coming year.

We are, however, implanting two new tactics. One, we are sending the member forms out in late November in an attempt to get members to write dues checks before the holidays. Previously we mailed forms in mid-December and many people told us that the form got lost in the “holiday shuffle” of cards, papers and events!

Second, we are trying a new strategy to encourage timely payment of dues. Early Bird rates are \$35 or \$50. Those who delay in writing checks will pay 2006 “regular rates”-- which are equivalent to the 2005 fee plus a \$10 late fee—\$45 or \$60.

The message here is: **Don't delay! Pay and mail your dues by the “Early Bird” January 15, 2006, date!**

**Send in your “Early Bird”
2006 Member dues
by January 15 to keep the CTPA news
and program information coming!
A member application is in this mailing.**

A Message from the President

I “ascended” to the Presidency of the CTPA in a special election in August 1995, and have seen the membership grow from 35 to more than 185. The number of meetings and events each year has evolved too—from four to six a year to more than twelve!

More than any other year, 2005 has been a year of unprecedented growth. I am very excited about the diverse and interesting backgrounds of some of our newest members. We have many long-time Chicago Architectural Foundation (CAF) docents joining our ranks, historians, some International Tour Management Institute (ITMI) grads, authors and writers, a few new “foreign language” guides and a good number of Chicago Greeters.

If you find value in being a CTPA member, please tell your friends about us! Give them the enclosed CTPA Fact Sheet or refer them to our recently updated website, chicagotourguides.org or tourguidesofchicago.com.

The CTPA Fact Sheet and member application form can be downloaded from our website and there is also detailed information about the CTPA guide certification test. In addition, we just added links to download our past newsletters—which should be a boon to members who have joined since those issues were originally published!

If you think something—anything—about the CTPA could be improved, please tell me or another CTPA board member. We have been having two board meetings each year and will add at least one more in 2006. There are so many things happening in our “guide world” that we just cannot cover all CTPA business in a few hours twice a year anymore!

Also please note that the CTPA Officers are in the middle of their two-year term which will expire January 31, 2007. That means that in Fall 2006 we will hold elections. Who would like to serve on the Nominations Committee? Who is up to the challenge of being a CTPA Officer or Committee Member? Who wants to run for President? ☺ Please let me know

A Message from the President, Continued

More good news (I think) is that **Esther Banike, CTG**, is tossing her hat in the ring to run for National Federation of Tourist Guide Assns.-USA (NFTGA) Vice President.

Esther insists that she will continue to assist with our CTPA educational programs and not let NFTGA business interfere with her CTPA Vice Presidential duties and obligations (or I would not have written her a letter of recommendation)! See the article below for more details.

As we close out one year and enter another, **I hope you will enjoy a blessed holiday season and greater success in 2006!**

Donna Primas, CTG & CTPA President

CTPA and the NFTGA—Go Esther!

The CTPA was involved in the formation of the National Federation of Tourist Guide Assns.-USA (NFTGA) and a number of CTPA members have attended NFTGA organizational meetings since 1998. Certified Tour Guides and CTPA members—**Jenifer Robertson, Courtney Ashley, Bev Livingston, Esther Banike** and **Donna Primas**—have represented the CTPA at national gatherings of U.S. guides. Bev, Esther and Donna have served on the NFTGA Board. Donna and Esther have presented workshop topics at NFTGA conferences in San Antonio and Boston. **Jim Louis, CTG**, attended the first NFTGA conference held in San Antonio in 2002. **CTPA Candidate Guide Terry Hall** is on the current NFTGA nominations committee.

Our organization and these individuals have invested resources, time and energy in the NFTGA and we have had high hopes for its future. Unfortunately, in the last few years the CTPA Board feels that the NFTGA has not lived up to its potential. The organization which began with such promise has floundered during the current officers' term of office.

We have proposed to the NFTGA Officers that the NFTGA waive dues payment for 2006, and work diligently to renew member association confidence. It is our hope that with the election of new NFTGA officers in 2006, communication among members associations will be more robust and an infusion of energetic leaders armed with "can-do" spirit will get the organization back on track.

To this end, the CTPA Board is supporting Esther Banike in her bid to be slated as NFTGA Vice President. I know you all join me in wishing Esther good luck and success should she be elected.

SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming Events & Meetings

As we have done the past few years, we have scheduled quarterly CTPA meetings, which will all take place at the Chicago Park District Fieldhouse on Chicago Avenue (at the corner of Lake Shore Drive).

These meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and participants are asked NOT to enter the building nor arrive any earlier than 6:25 p.m.—for the safety of the children who are in after school programs at the site. The building must be vacated by 8:45 p.m., so there can be no running past that time!

These meetings are open to anyone and everyone—member or not—and are usually well attended. They are a great place to get to know other people and network!

We do ask that attendees **RSVP** by a deadline—usually a few days prior to the meeting. We also **ask for volunteers to bring refreshments.**

Continuing a new tradition begun this fall, in 2006 **we will be asking for volunteer greeters**—to supervise the sign-in and agenda distribution process, make coffee, etc. Many hands make for light work—so keep please let us know how you are willing to help when you call to RSVP.

Write these quarterly dates on your calendar and look for future mailings with more details.

- **Wednesday, January 11**, 6:30 p.m.,
- **Tuesday, March 21**, 6:30 p.m. *2006 Member Directories are distributed!*
- **Tuesday, June 6**, 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, October 11**, 6:30 p.m.

Remember, we will not have any December meeting, so **see you NEXT YEAR!**

**The 2006 CTPA Annual Education Day
will be a Day Trip to Springfield,
including the New Lincoln Museum!**

WFTGA Plans Conference: Egypt 2007

January 21 to 26, 2007, the World Federation of Tourist Guide Assns. (WFTGA) will hold its 12th annual convention "from the ancient world to the modern world," with the theme "Tourist Guiding: The Evolving Professional." Estimated fees to attend are approximately \$940, plus airfare. More information will be forthcoming in summer 2006. Check the WFTGA website periodically to get further details: www.wftga.org.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!