

Chicago Tour-Guide Professionals Association (CTPA)

2008 FACT SHEET

updated 6/20/08

Purpose: To promote and maintain high standards of proficiency, excellence and integrity within the tour guiding profession.

Founded: June 29, 1990.

Incorporated: February 1991 as a not-for-profit corporation.

Membership: Membership is open to tour guides, individuals who would like to become tour guides, destination management company owners and principals, event planners, transportation companies, others serving the tour industry or individuals who are interested in sharing information about and promoting tourism in the metro Chicago area. Members regularly work with convention groups and visitors to the city, providing meet and greet assistance at the airport, conducting general city highlight tours as well as specialized tours for business, educational or entertainment purposes. Many CTPA guides have special abilities such as fluency in a foreign language or advanced training in areas such as music, the arts, architecture, history, technology or business.

Current #s	Member Category	Description	Type of Entity	Works in Tourism	Annual Fees	Votes?
41	Certified Guide	Experienced guides who have passed the CTPA certification test	Individual	Yes	\$45	Yes
128	Candidate Guide	Guides who have not taken the test or may take it when eligible	Individual	Yes	\$45	Yes
25	Friend	Individuals who do not seek employment in tourism	Individual	Does not seek work or retired	\$45	No
51	Associate	DMCs, event planners, venues, shops, transportation & hospitality companies	Organization-uses/hires guides	Yes	\$60	No
1	Honorary	Recognized for their support of the CTPA and/or guides	Individual or Organization	Yes or No.	Free	No

Membership Fees for 2008:

- Dues are assessed for a calendar year. **“Early Bird” fees must be postmarked by January 15.**
- Fees are used to produce and distribute the Membership Directory, Newsletter and Meeting Announcement mailings and cover other expenses of the organization as needed.

<u>EARLY BIRD must be POSTMARKED before JANUARY 15</u>	<u>Regular Rate (January 16-June 30)</u>	<u>Half Year Rate (July 1-December 31)</u>
\$35 - Early Bird Individual Member	\$45 - Individual Member	\$22.50 - Individual Member
\$65 - Early Bird Joint (2 Individuals/same location) Member	\$80 - Joint (2 Individuals/same location)	\$40 - Joint (2 Individuals/same location)
\$50 - Early Bird Company (Associate) Member	\$60 - Company (Associate) Member	\$30 - Company (Associate) Member

Optional CTPA Logo Name Badge-\$7 Associate Members (outside the U. S.-\$100)

Member Benefits:

- **Annual Directory of Members published each March**, includes a short self-written biography about one’s education, training, abilities and/or availability. The Directory also includes a list of guides with foreign language skills, a summary of the history of the CTPA and information on the organization’s professional affiliations (NFTGA-USA and WFTGA).
- **Newsletter and Meeting Announcement Mailings** (as needed throughout the year).
- **Participation in Meetings, Optional Educational Programs, Spotlight Events and “Show Us Your Neighborhood” tours.**
- **Inclusion on Mailing Lists / Special Privileges and Invitations.** Adler Planetarium, Sears Tower Skydeck, John Hancock Observatory, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Field Museum of Natural History, Shedd Aquarium and others have invited the membership to enjoy special invitations and privileges.
- **Eligibility to take the CTPA Certification Test.** This mastery test may be taken after a year of guiding experience. Upon successful completion, the individual is a “Certified Tour Guide.”
- **Representation in the National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations-USA (NFTGA) www.nftga.com & the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) www.wftga.org**

Officers: Officers are elected and may serve multiple terms. The current officers’ term will end January 31, 2009.

President	Donna Primas	Phone: 630/717-9004	primascopy@aol.com	Fax: 630/717-9055
Vice President	Esther Banike	Phone: 630/985-5566	larryesther@aol.com	
Treasurer	Lijana Baehr	Phone: 312/654-8647	skalabrina@aol.com	
Secretary	Sharon Sylvester	Phone: 708/370-1745	sharonsyl2@hotmail.com	

Committees: Committee Members are appointed by the President and serve for one year. Committee Chairs serve for two years and are members of the Board of Directors. The CTPA President is an ad-hoc member of all committees. **Active committees: Education, Certification, Membership,** and (in an election year) **Nomination.**

Meetings & Events:

- Meetings (with a business component) and Spotlight Events (social affairs) take place 6 to 10 times per year and have an educational focus. In general, meetings are held at venues around town to expose the membership to new locales, renovated facilities and special exhibits and seasonal opportunities.
- Meetings are generally scheduled early in the week (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesdays) at or after 5:30 p.m. (to allow the membership to finish a 9-to-5 job and get to the meeting location.)
- Many locations that host meetings also furnish refreshments—coffee/cookies, soda/chips, wine/cheese, etc.

2007	Meetings, Events, Tours and Special Invitations
Wednesday, January 17	Board Meeting followed by Quarterly Meeting at Lawry's The Prime Rib, Author's Presentation by Candidate Guide William R. Host and Brooke Ahne Portmann about <i>Early Chicago Hotels.</i>
January 22 - 26	WFTGA 12 th biennial conference in Cairo, Egypt – 12 members and guests from Chicago attended!
Monday, March 19	Directory assembly followed by a Quarterly Meeting at Lawry's The Prime Rib – Directory Distribution and reports of the WFTGA Conference in Cairo, Egypt.
Wednesday, March 28 & Thursday, March 29	Special Field Museum Previews – <i>Treasures of the Titans.</i>
Tuesday, April 24	Special Field Museum Previews – <i>Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries.</i>
Wednesday, May 2	New Member Orientation "Fireside Chat" with CTPA President Donna Primas, CTG.
Tuesday, May 29	Lecture and tour of the Field Museum's Egyptology collections with visiting Egyptian guide, Aladdin Khalifa, the current WFTGA Vice President.
Tuesday, May 29	Reception at Buca di Beppo to socialize with guest lecturer, Aladdin Khalifa.
Wednesday, June 6	Board Meeting followed by a Quarterly Meeting at Lawry's The Prime Rib – "I want to know" interactive learning.
Tuesday, June 12	McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum tour guide open house.
Tuesday, June 26 & Wednesday, June 27	Field Museum Special Previews – <i>Darwin.</i>
Wednesday, July 25	"Show Us Your Neighborhood" walking tour of the Chicago Theater District led by Candidate Guide Chuck Sussman.
Friday, July 13	Certification Test study session.
July 19 - 22	NFTGA-USA Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana – six CTPA members attended.
Thursday, August 23	"Show Us Your Neighborhood" River Walk Tour by Candidate Guide Hy Speck
Tuesday, September 11	The Federal Reserve Bank Money Museum annual reception and tour
Monday, October 1	Board Meeting followed by Quarterly Meeting at Lawry's The Prime Rib – "Show and Tell."
Wednesday, November 7 & Thursday, November 8	Special Field Museum Previews – <i>Maps: Finding Our Place in the World</i>
Wednesday, November 14	Macy's Holiday Reception in the Walnut Room
Monday, December 10	Holiday Party at Lawry's The Prime Rib
Tuesday, December 20	Griffin Funeral Home Tour to learn about Chicago's Camp Douglas (a Civil War internment camp), plus a tour of the nearby Bronzeville Visitors' Center.

Certification Test

The CTPA Certification Test was developed to be a **mastery test**—not a qualifications test. To be eligible to take the test, the applicant must be a CTPA member and have worked as a guide for at least one year. Passing the test requires accurate knowledge of Chicago history, geography, transportation, museums, cultural attractions, landmark buildings, sculpture, neighborhoods and venues of interest to visitors—the information given on a 3 or 4-hour comprehensive Chicago City Highlights Tour. **The CTPA Certification Test has 3 parts.** The parts must be taken in order and a pass grade achieved to advance. The test parts are: **written test, oral/slide identification** and **vehicle routing.**

For more information or a membership application: www.tourguidesofchicago.com