



2026 AGM & CONFERENCE
Navigating Tomorrow:
Infrastructure, Innovation, and
Resilience in Maritime
Commerce
May 6 – 8, 2026 | New Orleans, LA



NEW ORLEANS WELCOME GUIDE

Welcome from the WISTA USA New Orleans Chapter President

Hi, I'm Sara Kuebel, the WISTA USA New Orleans Chapter President, and this is my four-legged son, Pepper Jack.

After a year of planning the 2026 AGM & Conference, we're so excited to finally welcome you to New Orleans! To help you navigate all the wonderful experiences this city has to offer, the WISTA USA New Orleans Chapter put together this guidebook of our favorite spots and travel advice (or skip to the last page for a Quick Reference Guide). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the New Orleans Chapter members.



Laissez le bon temps rouler, Sara

Name: Sara Kuebel

Company: Jones Walker LLP

Position: Maritime Partner (Attorney)

Favorite spot: My absolute favorite restaurant is Compere Lapin. The curried goat and sweet potato gnocchi are fantastic (<http://comperelapin.com>). Also, be sure to sign-up for our early arrival event – a crawfish boil at another local favorite, and woman-owned brewery, Miel!

Travel Advice: New Orleans is so much more than just the French Quarter! Take the streetcar to explore the Garden District and Uptown or take the ferry across the river to Algiers. There are gems all over the Greater New Orleans area.

What to pack: Traveler's tip from someone who lives here: pack linen. New Orleans' humidity is part of the charm, but it's much easier to enjoy when your outfit is as breathable as the breeze coming off the river!



Name: Adelaida Ferchmin
Company: Taylor Wellons Politz & Duhe
Position: Partner (Attorney)

Favorite Spot: The Peacock Room in the Warehouse District. Try the Jade Dragon! (<https://www.peacockroomnola.com/>)

What to Pack: A good pair of walking shoes or wedges, because while our drinks are smooth, our sidewalks are not.

Name: Merritt Parsons Vesich
Company: Karl Senner LLC
Position: Head of Continuous Development & Quality

Favorite spot: Clancy's will always be my favorite classic New Orleans neighborhood spot. I love it so much that I got engaged there (<https://www.clancysneworleans.com>). Taking the streetcar down St. Charles and enjoying the gorgeous spring weather from the porch of The Columns is also a must! (<https://thecolumns.com/>)

Travel Advice: If you have time during your trip, travel beyond the bounds of the French Quarter and CBD. There is so much to see in our neighborhoods that are, in my humble opinion, a better embodiment of New Orleans culture than the downtown scene.

What to pack: Bring your sequins and your statement pieces! Spring in New Orleans is not a time to be “subdued” in your wardrobe choice! Even if it is for a work conference!



Name: Tarryn Walsh

Company: Murphy, Rogers, Sloss, Gambel & Tompkins

Position: Director (Attorney)

Favorite Spot: Indulging in tiki culture and tasty bites at Beachbum Berry's Latitude 29 (<https://latitude29nola.com/>), or enjoying snacks and music at Bacchanal, an oasis along the River in the Bywater! (<https://www.bacchanalwine.com/>)

Travel Advice: Spend a little extra time while visiting us so that you can explore some of the city's architecturally gorgeous and culturally vibrant neighborhoods like the Bywater, the Garden District, the Marigny, and Mid-City!



Name: Claire Zeringue

Company: Phelps Dunbar LLP

Position: Marine & Energy Attorney

Favorite Spot: An afternoon refreshment at the Hotel St. Vincent! (<https://saintvincentnola.com/>)

Travel Advice: Spring weather in the Crescent City can often be a mystery grab bag – we sometimes see many seasons in one day! If you have room in your suitcase, it wouldn't hurt to tuck in a raincoat or an umbrella. Best to be prepared for balmy and breezy sunshine, an absolute scorcher, or on and off sprinkles.

Name: Magdalini Galitou
Company: Phelps Dunbar LP
Job Title: Maritime and Admiralty Attorney

Favorite spot: Grab lunch at Peche Seafood. Try the hushpuppies and the smoked tuna dip.
(<https://www.pecherestaurant.com/>)

Travel Advice: Pack some sunscreen and a hat if you plan to spend time outside during the day.



Name : Ilsa Luther
Company : Jones Walker LLP
Position: Maritime Attorney

Favorite spot:
Great place to enjoy refreshments and watch the vessel traffic on the Mississippi: The Batture (<https://www.batture.com/>)
Great place for an electric workout: Hype Haus Fitness (<https://www.hypehausfitness.com>)
Great place for live jazz: Fritzel's (<https://fritzelsjazz.com/>)

Travel Advice: If someone tells you, "I bet I know where you got dem shoes" respond with, "On my feet."

Name: Abby Weiland
Company: Jones Walker LLP
Position: Maritime Attorney

Favorite Spot: Take the streetcar to City Park and explore the sculpture garden and get lunch at the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) (<https://noma.org/>).

Travel Advice: New Orleans is one of the most welcoming and friendly cities in the world, but it's still a big and bustling city. Be aware of your surroundings, and if you're walking around at night try to travel in groups.



Name: Jill Willhoft
Company: Liskow & Lewis APLC
Position: Shareholder (Attorney)

Favorite Spot: Enjoy a decadent dessert at Antoine's (<http://www.antoines.com/>).

Travel Advice: Try as many signature offerings at local establishments as you can! But always do so responsibly!

Name: Nicolette Kraska

Company: Liskow & Lewis APLC

Position: Maritime Attorney

Favorite Spot: I recommend Fourth Wall Coffee, a hidden gem in the bustling Central Business District

(<https://www.fourthwallnola.com/>);

the award-winning Jewel of the South (<https://www.jewelnola.com/>);

and Atchafalaya for an unforgettable brunch (order the deviled eggs!) (<https://www.atchafalayarestaurant.com/>)

Travel Advice: The streetcar is so much more than a charming relic—it's a lovely way to get around New Orleans, especially from downtown. It's just \$1.25 per ride and there are passes available for the week (download the LePass app!). Otherwise, the city is very walkable so bring your favorite pair of walking shoes (and an umbrella).



Quick Reference Guide

Restaurants:

Antoine's (<http://www.antoines.com/>)
Atchafalaya (<https://www.atchafalayarestaurant.com/>)
Beachbum Berry's Latitude 29 (<https://latitude29nola.com/>)
Clancy's (<https://www.clancysneworleans.com>)
The Columns (<https://thecolumns.com/>)
Compere Lapin (<http://comperelapin.com>)
Hotel St. Vincent (<https://saintvincentnola.com/>)
Peacock Room (<https://www.peacockroomnola.com/>)
Peche (<https://www.pecherestaurant.com/>)

Coffee/Refreshments:

Fourth Wall Coffee (<https://www.fourthwallnola.com/>)
Jewel of the South (<https://www.jewelnola.com/>)
Bacchanal (<https://www.bacchanalwine.com/>)

To do:

The Batture (<https://www.batture.com/>)
New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) (<https://noma.org/>)
Hype Haus Fitness (<https://www.hypehausfitness.com>)
Fritzel's (<https://fritzelsjazz.com/>)
