



Guide Line

VOL 25 NO 1

January 2017

Dear Members,

January, 2017 – The Rocky Mountain Guides Association has a new President and Board of Directors.

I expect that 2017 will, in very many ways, look a lot like 2016. RMGA will offer a series of Familiarization experiences, as well as a seminar; there will be a program/meeting during eight of the twelve months (on the second Monday of the month); there will be eight newsletters published; there will be an active website; there will be a certification test; and liability insurance will be available. RMGA has been successful in these endeavors, and will continue to be successful.

And because RMGA has been successful, 2017 is the year to try out some additional activities. Through its partnership with Visit Denver and the Colorado Tourism Office, RMGA has “visibility” within the Colorado Tourism Industry. Our cachet is the personal relationships we develop with visitors to Colorado. However, not many in the industry understand our role or appreciate our value.

For 2017, I propose that RMGA resolve to expand people’s awareness beyond our meetings and activities. For one, let’s each develop an “elevator” speech that explains how tour guides “fit” in the overall scheme of the tourism industry. We all know that the right 30-second speech can open many opportunities. For another, let’s prepare information that describes, in a statistical format, just how many visitors we actually “touch” in a year. Numbers expressed in terms of graphs and charts help decision-makers visualize the specifics of an activity. Interacting with visitors to Colorado should be no exception.

I’m looking forward to serving RMGA as its president for 2017. It will be an honor to represent RMGA members to the community at large. It will be my privilege to make into reality the professional aspirations RMGA members have for themselves and the Association.

– Mike Pearl, President (303) 868-0023

RMGA is a Member of:
WFTGA (through NFTGA)
World Federation of Tourist Guide
Associations
www.wftga.org

NFTGA
National Federation of Tourist Guide
Associations
www.nftga.com

TOUR COLORADO
www.tourcolorado.com

VISIT DENVER
www.visitdenver.com

Colorado Springs Convention &
Visitors Bureau
www.visitcos.com

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FROM THE EDITOR

Kay Willson has left me big shoes to fill with regards to the *Guide Line*. With this, my first issue as editor, I have tried, above all, to be informative, as she always was. I have also included new segments, “This and That” and “Member Biographies.” I have been able to include some photos in this edition due to the online format. Since the *Guide Line* is now in an online format, my goal is to take advantage of that by including links in future newsletters that will enable Members to go right to the source material for further information. I hope that all Members will feel free to address their comments about this new newsletter to me at eileen.pearl.rmga@gmail.com. And, please, continue to provide relevant information to me (including photos) via that same gmail.

The *Guide Line* is published monthly on or about the first of the month. The deadline for news submittals is the 20th day of the previous month. If you have news to contribute, please email it to me at eileen.pearl.rmga@gmail.com

Eileen Pearl

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Website Committee Update

Submitted by Tom Jensen:

The long awaited upgrade of the RMGA website (<http://www.rockymountaintourguides.com/>) is now complete. Instructions on how to access the “Members Only” section appear below. The information in the website is accessed as it was before the upgrade.

The website is your best resource on RMGA for:

- Profiles of Members
- Members’ contact information
- The schedule of Programs and Events
- Certification and liability insurance information
- Places to unload or park a motorcoach in downtown Denver
- Reviews of programs, seminars, and FAM trips. These reviews are very useful as you prepare your commentary for next tours as many of the programs were presented by experts on the subject as compared to information you may find on the internet.

In 2017 you will see some changes on the website. Starting with January, the *Guide Line* newsletter will be archived in the “Members Only” section. The website is accessible on both your desktop and mobile devices.

The last phase of upgrading the RMGA website, the “Members Only” portion, is now complete and available for your use. All the information from the previous section has been transferred to the new section. You will now access the “Members Only” resources by typing the complete page address into your computer’s internet browser.

Here is how to access the “Members Only” page:

- There is no longer a “Members Only” tab at the top of each page.
- There is no user name or password required.

- In your browser (Chrome, Firefox, Google, or Internet Explorer) copy and paste or type in the following address: <http://www.rockymountaintourguides.com/members-only-title-page.html>
- This address may be bookmarked or marked as a favorite for ease in accessing the website.
- Remember that the URL address to enter this section is not to be given to anyone.
- Once the “Members Only” page is displayed, you will find the format is very similar to the previous version. Access to the specific information is by clicking on the appropriate field.

If you have questions or cannot access the “Members Only” section, contact Larry Foos (303-979-7594) or Tom Jensen (303-968-0515)

Recertification Update

Mary Bendelow is the RMGA contact person for Recertification. Refer to your December email blasts for updated information.

Insurance Update

Mary Bradley (incoming Treasurer) and Barbara Johnson (outgoing Treasurer) are the RMGA contact persons for Liability Insurance information. Refer to your December email blasts for updated information.

Membership Committee Update

Submitted by Ernie Witucki, Membership Chairman, and Larry Foos, Membership Committee Member.

RMGA 2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCEDURES

As was stated in the December newsletter, it is time to renew your RMGA membership. The Board is offering an “Early Bird” registration for the Professional, Associate, and Business Membership renewal at a rate of \$50, Friends and Retired renewal rate is \$25. **Remember**, the Early Bird Renewal Program must be postmarked no later January 15, 2017. Larry emailed two renewal membership forms in December. One form is for the Professional, Associate, Friend, and Retired Members and the other is for Business Members. If you have two memberships, the rate for the second membership is half of the Early Bird rate. **THE EARLY BIRD ONLY APPLIES TO CURRENT RMGA MEMBERS.** *Make your check to RMGA and if you write the check for your membership without taking advantage of the discount, the difference will go to the General Account. There will be no refund on overpayments.*

The renewal fee for the Professional, Associate is a savings of \$10.00 and a Business Member saves \$12.00. The Friend and Retired member is a savings of \$5.00. Renewal Membership Application post marked after January 15, 2017 will revert to the regular Professional, Associate, of \$60.00, and the Business Member of \$72.00. The regular cost for Friend and Retired Members is \$30.00. Larry will accept your renewal membership form and check at the January 2017 meeting and he will have the necessary forms for you to complete. Call Larry, 720-581-3820, or email him, lbfoos@comcast.net if you are having a problem downloading the renewal form.

Your RMGA membership has some excellent benefits for this very economical rate:

- ☐ RMGA has continued to provide outstanding Programs and Familiarization trips that are of value to you in preparing a bid or preparing for a tour.
- ☐ Our newsletter, Rocky Mountain Guides Association *Guide Line*, continues to provide tourist information on a variety of venues throughout our state.
- ☐ The RMGA website has historical information in the “Members Only” tab on previous Programs, Familiarization Trips, and Seminars.
- ☐ Your membership allows you to attend Tour Colorado, Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Visit Denver activities as well as receive leads from affiliations.
- ☐ Your membership has visibility with the National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations-USA.
- ☐ As an RMGA member you can sign up for tour guide liability insurance through NFTGA-USA. This is a wonderful insurance at a very reasonable price.

To renew your membership for 2017, download the applicable PDF application. The Professional, Associate, Friend, and Retired Members use the same renewal form. The Business Members use the Business Member renewal form. **Your membership renewal form must be received no later than January 31, 2017 (EARLY BIRD BY JANUARY 15) or your membership in RMGA will be terminated.**

Complete the application now, *don't let your RMGA Membership expire!*

Public Relations Committee Update

Submitted by Tom Jensen.

About Visit Denver

RMGA is a member of Visit Denver. As a result, our members get the benefits of belonging to the Denver Visitors and Convention Bureau without the cost of an individual membership. The benefits that are available include:

- Invitation to C.H.A.T. (Connecting Hospitality and Tourism,) – a monthly networking event. (Cost is \$12/person, includes food and beverages)
- Opportunity to attend Go the Extra Mile Workshop – An all-day training session that happens 2-3 times a year designed for those members that come in direct contact with customers. Attendees will get the “Denver Visitor Experience” by touring a number of the city’s most popular attractions and practical customer service training. (There is a fee to participate.)
- Invitation to Annual Partnership Meeting and Tourism Hall of Fame Dinner (Fees apply).
- Marketing of RMGA members’ services via:
 - Official Visitors Guide – the most comprehensive and best distributed visitor guide for Denver. Visit Denver will print 285,000 copies of the Spring/Summer 2017 guide. RMGA’s listing was recently updated with inquiries going to Mike Pearl, President.

- Destination Planning Guide – the “Meeting Planners Bible” for Denver and the surrounding area. Visit Denver distributes 25,000 of these guides.
- VISITDENVER.com – Denver’s Official website. It receives over 6 million visitors each year. RMGA is listed under both leisure and conventions categories.

Upon receipt of an inquiry (such as someone needing a step-on-guide), Visit Denver sends the inquiry to Mike Pearl, as the RMGA President. Mike will forward the request to all members via an e-mail blast. Each RMGA member must follow-up directly to the person who made the request if they are interested.

Tourism Day at the Capitol

Monday, January 23, 2017

9-10:30am: Advocating for Colorado Tourism, Location at the Capitol TBA

10:30-11:00am: Meet With your Legislators to Advocate for Colorado Tourism

Spend the morning at the Capitol in Denver with fellow tourism industry partners, hear from top legislators and learn how to be a more effective advocate for Colorado tourism. The CTO is working closely with TIAC this year to get you connected with your elected officials, gain insights into key industry issues and learn how to make your voice heard by state decision makers. [RSVP today >>](#)

TIAC’s Legislative Reception

(See the November, 2016 edition of *Guide Line* for information on TIAC)

Monday, January 23, 2017

5:30-7:30pm: The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa

Contribute to our tourism industry by attending the annual TIAC Legislative Reception to help educate our legislators on the importance of tourism in every region of Colorado. TIAC is the unifying voice of the Colorado tourism industry for expressing the importance of tourism to Colorado’s economy and supporting funding for the Colorado Tourism Office. To attend the TIAC reception, RSVP today to Janie McCullough, janiemc@comcast.net, (\$95 per person/\$75 for sponsors).

JANUARY 2017 MEETING INFORMATION

Submitted by Larry Foos.

WHAT: RMGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING – HALCYON Hotel

WHEN: January 9, 2017, 6:30 pm – Networking, 7:00pm – Short Meeting, 7:15pm – History and Tour of the Halcyon Hotel.

WHERE: 245 N Columbine Street, Denver, CO 80206

PROGRAM: Anne Frye and Rebecca Schiltz will provide the Halcyon history and tour of the hotel.

FOOD: Refreshments and water provided by the hotel.

DIRECTIONS: Located in the Cherry Creek North Shopping Center. East 1st Avenue to Josephine Street turn North on Josephine Street and turn East (right) on 3rd Avenue and turn South (right) on North Columbine Street. The hotel is on the right.

PARKING: The hotel has valet parking for \$10.00. There is a parking garage across the street from the hotel at 250 Columbine Street. You must enter after 5:00 p.m. and you pay \$5.00 with A CREDIT CARD when you leave. Street parking is also available.

GUESTS: Members are encouraged to invite potential members as guests to meeting.

GUEST FEES: 1st and 2nd Time Guest: Free, Third thru Fifth Time, Same Guest Visit is \$10 each time. Succeeding Times, Same Guest Must Join RMGA.

MEETING NIGHT CONTACT: Larry Foos – Cell Phone 720-581-3820.

FEBRUARY MEETING TEASER

Submitted by Larry Foos

RMGA Program February (McNichols Civic Center Building)

The Carnegie Library was built with money donated by Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. A total of 2,509 Carnegie libraries were build between 1883 and 1929. There were 1,689 built in the United States. The Denver library was finished in 1909 and was the first building constructed on the new Civic Center site. The building has undergone several renovations. What is in store for the future of the building?

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING INFORMATION

The RMGA Board of Directors Meeting for January will be held Monday, January 2 10:00-11:00 am at Panera Bread Store in the Riverfront Shopping Center on the Southwest Corner of Hampden and Santa Fe.

The RMGA Board of Directors Meeting for February will be held Monday, February 6 at 2:00 pm, Bear Valley Church, 10001 West Jewell, Lakewood.

PROPOSED 2017 FAMS

A Seminar and three Familiarization tours are on tap for RMGA members for 2017, according to Education Committee Chair Mike Pearl. Pending final approval by the RMGA Board of Directors, the proposed events include:

- February 20, 2017 – Monday – Seminar: Leading a Successful and Safe Group Tour
-
- March 22, 2017 – Wednesday – Brewery, Distillery, Winery Tour
-
- May 17, 2017 – Wednesday – Leadville Day Trip
-
- October 18, 2017 – Wednesday – A Walking Tour of Globeville
-

Leaders for each of the events will be announced after Board approval. Mike suggests that RMGA members mark the dates on their calendars. Members wanting to practice their organizational skills by assisting with one or more of these events should contact Mike at mike.pearl.rmga@gmail.com.

2017 RMGA Tentative Program Schedule

Member and Guest Networking: 6:30 PM (unless noted below)

Program: 7 PM

Brief business meeting: follows program

RMGA meeting coordinator is Nancy Brueggeman or Larry Foos, unless otherwise noted

January 9 – Halcyon Hotel

Topic: Tour of new hotel in Cherry Creek

Speaker:

Location: Cherry Creek

February 13 – McNichols Event Center

Topic: History and current use

Speaker: Tom

Location: Colfax at Bannock, Denver, CO 80202

March 13 – Buffalo Bill Grave and Museum

Topic: 100th Anniversary of Buffalo Bill's death

Speaker: Steve Freisen

Location: Lookout Mountain, Golden, CO 80439

April 10 – Cherry Creek Shopping Center

Topic: Cherry Creek Shopping Center

Speakers: Pat Lee - Marketing Director, Dave Dixon - CCSC

Location: Cherry Creek Shopping Center

May 8 – Aurora

Topic: What's happening in Aurora

Speaker: Gary Wheat

Location: Aurora Museum

June 12 – Colorado Springs Convention Center – need to coordinate w/Mike Pearl (Education)

Topic: Colorado Springs tourism and RMGA's presence

Speaker:

Location: Colorado Springs

October 9 – Colorado Railroad Museum – 5:30 pm start

Topic: New things happening at the museum

Speaker: Don Tallman

Location: 32nd Street, Golden

November 13 – Possibly Museum of Contemporary Art

Topic:

Speaker:

Location:

December 11 – Start time 6:00 p.m. – Possibly Breckenridge Brewery

Topic: Holiday Event –

Speaker:

Location:

Charge: \$10 for member \$15 for non-member



DECEMBER 2016 HOLIDAY MEETING AT CAPITOL HILL B&B

December 12, 2016
 Capitol Hill B&B
 1207 Pennsylvania Street, Denver, Colorado 80203

The Capitol Hill B&B was decorated for the holidays with a tall Christmas tree covered in lights and owner Carl Schmidt's collection of hand-painted gourds (done by his aunt). It was a typical December evening – cold and crisp. We started the evening with wine and cheese and crackers. Almost all attendees (45!!!) had arrived by 6:45 pm.

Larry Foos conducted a short business meeting where he introduced 2017's Board of Directors and also noted outgoing Directors: Barbara Johnson as Treasurer and Mary Bendelow as Director at Large (previous RMGA President). New directors will be: Mike Pearl, President; Sherry Moon, Vice President; Mary Bradley, Treasurer; Nancy Brueggeman, Secretary; and Larry Foos, Director at Large. Larry thanked both retiring Board members and Kay Willson – retiring newsletter editor (Kay has held every office at some point in time over her 20+ years of participation) for all their time and effort and willingness to contribute. Larry also invited all to attend January's program at the new Halcyon Hotel in Cherry Creek on Columbine Street.

At 7:00pm, Carl set out a wonderful buffet with pork loin that we could enjoy by itself or as a slider, a salad with strawberries and a tasty dressing, and raspberry bars for dessert. After everyone had an opportunity to sample the buffet, Carl gave us a short history of the house and invited us to go upstairs and look in the open rooms. Carl was ably assisted by his daughter, Bailey and three other staff members who kept the buffet and wine glasses filled and the plates washed.

The house was built in 1891 for the Keating family – there are photos of the family on the dining room wall. It was one of the last splendid homes built before the Silver Crash of 1893. This economic downturn affected all of Colorado – a major mining state. The neighborhood around this households many historic homes owned by pioneers, governors, financiers and mine owners. It is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

The architecture is Richardsonian Romanesque with turrets, balconies, soaring chimneys and a grand curving porch. The exterior of the house is ruby sandstone. The foyer has relief molded plaster and golden oak paneling opening to a sweeping staircase with an eight-foot beveled and stained glass window. Antique furnishings and art are used throughout the house. The house had several owners over the years and was opened as a bed and breakfast in January 1994.

The Capitol Hill B&B has been selected for several honors: Best of Denver (*Westword Magazine*), Best Value Hotel (citysearch.com), and Top Ten New Inns (Inn Marketing). It is inspected and rated annually by major motor clubs and inn associations.

There are eight guestrooms – each named for a Colorado wildflower. Two of the guestrooms have balconies and fireplaces. The guestrooms are air conditioned – summers can be warm here. Most of the rooms have a great view of the mountains or nearby historic homes. It is within easy walking distance of the Convention Center, the Capitol, 16th Street Mall, DCPA, the Mint and many museums, restaurants and shops.

The inn has many business amenities as well: wireless Internet, cab/shuttle arrangements, writing desk in every room, fax and copy machine. The inn can accommodate executive retreats, small conferences and other special events. It also has on-site parking behind the inn. This is a complete non-smoking facility.

Carl graciously hosted RMGA for this event, made us feel welcome and served wonderful food! If you missed it, you missed a lovely evening.

RMGA MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

This is a new feature for the Guide Line. In an effort to get to know the Members better, I have invited (see your December email blasts) RMGA members to submit to me information about themselves that they would like to be shared by the group. Monique Madison is our featured member this month. Jim Watson will be featured in February. As more members submit their own information, more than one person may be featured each month. You can choose to submit a photo along with your “story.”



Monique Madison

Monique grew up with a passion for mountain biking in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains in Albuquerque, NM, where bike rides with her brothers and friends were timed around the spectacular sunsets. When she moved to Denver she became fascinated with the downtown area and its unique buildings and public art installations. She realized there was no better way to sight-see and explore Denver's attractions in such a short period of time, than on a bike. In her spare time she dabbles as an art dealer, musician, and beer aficionado.

This will be Monique's second year with the RMGA and her second year in business giving bike tours around downtown Denver. She has a fleet of 22 bicycles and operates out of Randy's Recycled Cycles, which is just a few blocks east of downtown. She has three other tours guides and they do corporate tours, private tours. During the spring, summer, fall they offer 2 tours a day and a twilight tour a few evenings a week during summer months. They operate over the winter months as well.

Her website is: www.milehighbiketours.com

THIS AND THAT

(This segment of the newsletter will feature short notes that may be of interest to many of our Members. Please submit any notes of this type to me at eileen.pearl.rmga@gmail.com.)

National Park Senior Lifetime Pass Fee is Increasing from \$10 to \$80 sometime in 2017.

Rocky Mountain National Park Announces Winter Pile Burning Operations. Pile burning operations will only begin when conditions allow. They may begin as early as January and continue through April as conditions permit. The piles are located in a variety of locations on the east side of the park including west of Deer Mountain, around Eagle Cliff Mountain, along upper Fall River Road, near the Mill Creek Ranger Station off of Bear Lake Road, and west of Beaver Meadows Entrance. Safety factors, weather conditions, air quality and other environmental regulations are continually monitored as a part of any fire management operation. Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information see <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>. For questions about this project or information about Rocky Mountain National Park please call the park's Information Office at (970) 586-1206 or visit www.nps.gov/romo

“The **Denver Art Museum** announced a project that has been a long time coming – the revitalization of the iconic North Building. More details on the design will be released in 2017, and DAM members will have the opportunity to attend programs that provide additional information—please keep an eye out for public forum information soon. And in the meantime, please check your email, as well as our website and social media channels for the most-up-to-date information.”

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

Estes Park Winter Festival	January 14 & 15	Estes Park
Great Fruitcake Toss	January 28	Manitou Springs
Salida Hippie Party	February 4	Salida
Winter Farmers Market	February 4 and 18	Greeley
Wildnights Zoo Sleepover	February 10-11	Colorado Springs
Snow Goose Festival	February 16-19	Lamar
Rails in the Rockies	February 18 & 19	Estes Park

The Colorado Agritourism Association will be hosting a statewide Agritourism Event and Expo at the National Western Center in Denver on March 9-12, 2017

Whiskey Warmup

March 11

Estes Park

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge offers a variety of educational and fun nature experiences. If you'd like to make a reservation for a program please call the Visitor Center at 303-289-0930. Visit them online at www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/ or at www.facebook.com/RMANationalWildlifeRefuge

PURPOSE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATION

The nature of the business and activities of this Corporation is education and the objects and purposes thereof to be transacted, promoted, or carried on are TO PROMOTE THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF COMPETENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM AMONG PERSONS WHO ACT AS TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR MANAGERS/DIRECTORS, TO PROVIDE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AGAINST WHICH ALL TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR MANAGERS/DIRECTORS ARE MEASURED and in pursuing said basic purposes, 1) to hold meetings and familiarization (FAM) trips for the improvement and continuing education of its members; 2) to provide opportunities for the exchange of experiences and opinions regarding tour guides and tour managers/directors and their professions; 3) to provide a forum for development and promotion of common professional interests and concerns of tour guides and tour managers/directors; 4) to cooperate with other related and non-related organizations in a common endeavor to promote the profession of tour guiding, tour management and tour directing and to promote the public awareness of said profession.

Officers 2017

President	Mike Pearl
Vice-President	Sherry Moon
Treasurer	Mary Bradley
Secretary	Nancy Brueggeman
Director-At-Large	Larry Foos

Committee Chairpersons 2017

Certification	Mary Bendelow
Education	Mike Pearl
Hospitality	Ginny Gelbach
Membership	Ernie Witucki & Larry Foos
Newsletter Editor	Eileen Pearl
Program	Nancy Brueggeman
Public Relations	Tom Jensen
E-Mails	Sherry Moon
Website	Tom Jensen & Larry Foos