

VOL 29, No 1

President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Like many businesses and organizations, the COVID-19 Pandemic is negatively affecting Rocky Mountain Guides Association. Methods of operation that were successful in the past are no longer viable. Long-time members will likely retire from the industry due to the lack of business, leaving more recent members to take up the leadership mantle. RMGA members need to determine in what ways the organization is beneficial to them, then join to actualize that vision.

RMGA Members, please email your ideas and thoughts about the future direction of the organization to rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com.

Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- Certification (Must have the RMGA Colorado Certification)
- Email Blasts

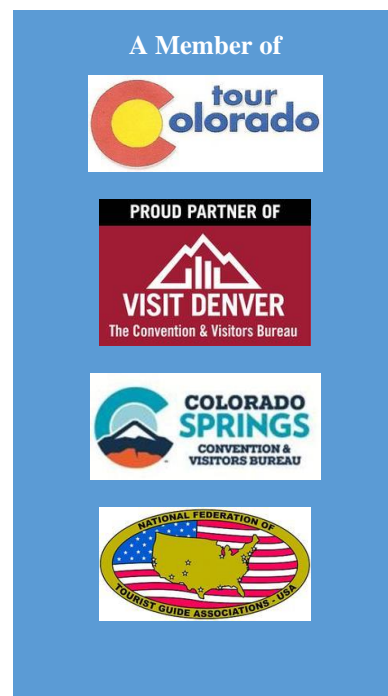
The Board of Directors is seeking a member to act as Secretary through May 31. Contact any Board member with your interest.

Thanks for attending the December RMGA meeting and holiday extravaganza online. I appreciate your navigating the technology to join in. We were delighted that Dave Lively of Grand Lake was able to join the festivities. Wendy Pickering asked some questions that were really "headscratchers." Tom Jensen's computer skills kept us all connected. The prize, in addition to the camaraderie and the knowledge, was a gift certificate to the Georgetown Valley Candy Company of Georgetown and Idaho Springs. Congratulations to everyone who attended!



Happy
New
Year!!!

January 2021



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FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the February *Guide Line* is **Wednesday, January 27.**

Future contributions should be emailed to *Guide Line* editor Eileen Pearl at rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com. If anyone has photos to share, please send them along with either a short description or names.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership in RMGA. A notice has been sent to all members via the email blasts. If you didn't receive one, check your spam folder or your emails from early December.

Renewal fees have been reduced due to the effect of COVID-19 on the tourism industry:

- Member (Associate or Professional) Early Bird Renewal – \$25.00
- Business Early Bird Renewal – \$30.00
- Friend Early Bird Renewal Fee – \$12.50
- Retired Early Bird Renewal Fee – \$12.50

The deadline for Early Bird Renewal is January 15, 2021. After that date the following 2021 membership fees will be in effect:

- Member (Associate or Professional) Fee – \$30.00
- Business Fee – \$36.00
- Friend Fee – \$15.00
- Retired Fee – \$15.00

Liability Insurance

Liability insurance for guides is available for 2021 at \$95.00. Send payment to Treasurer Wendy Pickering by January 15, 2021 for full-year coverage. Payments after January 15 will be submitted, and coverage will begin upon receipt at NFTGA. There is no proration of premium for partial year coverage.

For more information, contact Treasurer [Wendy Pickering](#) 217-621-1960.

Nominations Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Nominations Committee Chair

Nominations for Officers for the 2021-22 term of office will be presented at the regularly scheduled meeting of Members, March 8, 2021. Elections for officers will be held at the regularly scheduled Annual Meeting of Members, April 12, 2021. These elected Officers will begin their terms June 1, 2021.

For more information, contact Nominations Committee Chair [Mike Pearl](#).

Program Committee

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

January Meeting

WHAT: January Meeting and Program (Virtual)

WHEN: January 11, 2021

6:00pm – Networking

6:30pm – Short Meeting

6:45pm – Program: Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

WHERE: Your place, via Zoom Video Communications

PROGRAM: Meg Poole, Program Coordinator for the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, will describe the museum's history, artifacts, and exhibits. For more information about the Museum, click [here](#). Additional details about the program and Zoom link information are located in the Members Resource Page the RMGA Website.

REFRESHMENT: Your own.

DIRECTIONS: An invitation to join the meeting will be sent to you. Beginning at 5:50 pm. click on "Join" in the invitation, enter the necessary codes, and wait to be admitted.

PARKING: Your garage, driveway, or curbside.

GUESTS: Members are encouraged to invite potential members as a guest to the meeting.

CONTACT: [J. Mark Blaising](#), Program Chair 303-830-8440 (voice) 303-263-8647 (text)

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen.

RMGA continues to add new members, so I thought this would be a good time to reprint a series of articles that appeared in the 2012 and 2013 Guide Line on the history of RMGA. These articles were written by Mary Thompson in anticipation of the 25th anniversary celebration at the Grant – Humphries Mansion on May 13, 2013.

*****Second in a Series on the history of RMGA originally published in November, 2012.*****

The SCOOP on PGAA

We are members of an amazing organization of people who worked diligently to organize in just the right way twenty-years ago. Thanks to them, RMGA members reap the benefits today!

The seed of the idea for Rocky Mountain Guides Association is lost to the shadows of time, but guides across the country were simultaneously thinking about the benefits of banding together to have a presence, a voice and a standard for our part of the tourism industry. It was around 1987 when guides in the Denver area began to meet sporadically—at breakfast, lunch, or evening meetings. These included speakers and business meetings—sometimes very *l-o-o-o-n-g* evening business meetings!!

A steering committee was designated to begin the work of building a stable organization. Several in the group knew there were those attempting to start an organization for guides throughout the United

States. They called their embryonic idea “The Professional Guides Association of America”. Other related groups from across the country had already formed.

Two men, Ed and Michael, set up an office in Washington, D.C., to draw in chapters of guides, tour managers, destination management and motorcoach companies, and others in the industry. Since there were guide/guild groups in some cities, Denver was Chapter #1 to join this new organization. It was called the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Professional Guide Associations of America. In reality, Denver was the only group to form precisely to join PGAA. Other guide/guild groups previously formed were allowed to join, but they did not become chapters.

Thus, Denver was joined together with Boston, Massachusetts, New York City, New York, Washington, D. C., Savannah, Georgia, and others to set standards and promote their professional services. A governing board helped the local chapter and other groups to coalesce. New associations coming together contributed ideas and shared information. Over-the-road guides and local guides got to know one another. This sharing was exciting, helpful to all.

Then-member **Joan Fitch** spent hours on conference calls with the new headquarters in D.C. in order to get Denver up-to-speed. **Ruby Ellen Hale**, Joan, and others spent a similar number of hours and meetings putting ideas into action. Others in Colorado contributed their share of hours to the endeavor, determined to make this group work. Joan Fitch became the national president of PGAA; a national convention was held in Denver in 1991. (We seem to have “good DNA” in RMGA—hard workers willing hands and a determination to do our best!)

Next month you will be surprised to hear of people you know who gave so much time and talent since the beginning, with PGAA to the progression of the organization, Rocky Mountain Guides Association. Many of them continue to support and participate with us today.

RMGA Facebook Group



T

The RMGA Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc> is active once again. Members can post an item of interest to share with the other members. Perhaps it is a photo from your last tour, fall colors in the Rockies, a shot of you quarantining at your kitchen table, or a pet that has become part of your family. This will be a quicker way to communicate among members.

Website Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen
Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

Website Committee January, 2021

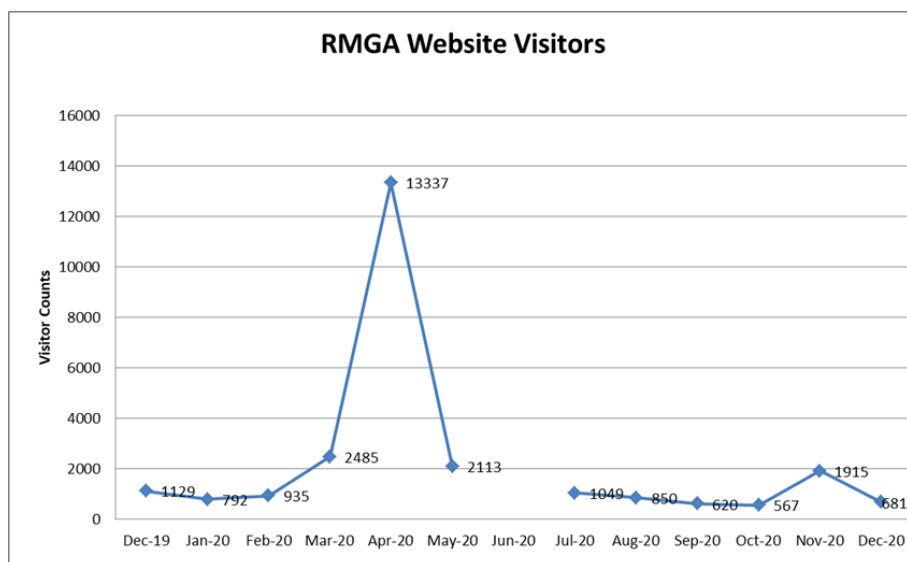
What's New on the Members Only Page?

These updates have been made to the website since the November report:

- Added under the Certification Section: For questions on the Certification Program contact rmgapresident@rockymountainguideassociation.com
- Deleted 2018 from the Liability Insurance Information Section
- Added the January Program
- Added 2021 Insurance documents
- Directed all inquiries regarding the Liability Insurance to rmgamembership
- Created 2021 Program Schedule Page; added January program
- Changed website provider's contact links to rmgawebsite@rockymountaintorguides.com

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitor to our website remains constant. Through December 31st, the number of hits was 681.



Upcoming Industry Events

Submitted by Tom Jensen



- **2021 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference**

The 2021 Governor's Colorado Tourism Conference will be held Sept. 22–24 at the Westin Snowmass Resort. Continue to check Guide Line for additional information.

Organization Activities

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

International Tourist Guide Day

A project of the World Federation of Tourist Guides Associations (WFTGA), World Tourist Guide Day occurs February 21, 2021. RMGA is collaborating with the National Federation of Tour Guides Associations (NFTGA-USA) with activities to mark the day. NFTGA will host a webinar/virtual conference for guides. Watch for notices about registration and invitation. There is no cost for the event.

RMGA Facebook Page

Another way for members to communicate with each other is the RMGA Facebook page. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>.

NFTGA Leadership Meetings and Tourism

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

RMGA is a member of the National Federation of Tourist Guides (NFTGA), a collective of local tourist guides associations and guilds across the US. From time to time, RMGA Members receive notices (including a member-written quarterly newsletter the *National Standard*) from NFTGA via our email Blast system.

President Ellen Malasky has been hosting monthly virtual meetings of representatives of the local associations because of the COVID-19 situation. I have been attending these virtual meetings to represent RMGA. The latest meeting occurred December 16, 2020:

- “Good for Guides” initiative – Methods to assist guides with booking cancellations. A webinar about the initiative will be held January 14, 2021. See <https://www.goodforguides.com/>
- World Tourist Guide Day webinar, February 21, 2021.
- Liability insurance offered through NFTGA will continue for 2021. There is no anticipation of a rate increase.

To see resources for tour guides, go to NFTGA's [Guide Resources](#).

JANUARY MEMBERS MEETING (Virtual)

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

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GUESTS: Members are encouraged to invite potential members as a guest to the meeting.

CONTACT: [J. Mark Blaising](#), Program Chair 303-830-8440 (voice) 303-263-8647 (text)

Board of Directors Meetings

Board of Directors Meetings

Monday, January 4, 2021 (10:00 am)

Monday, February 1, 2021 (9:00 am)

(Meetings via ZOOM; email Webmaster Committee Co-Chair [Tom Jensen](#) for an invitation)

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

Members Meetings

Member Meetings

Monday, January 11, 2021 (6:30 pm)

Monday, February 8, 2021 (6:30 pm)

(Meetings via ZOOM; an invitation to attend will be emailed to Members)

PURPOSE of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATION

The nature of the business and activities of this Corporation is educational 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 profession;
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. – *Articles of Incorporation*, Rocky Mountain Guides Association

Officers		
President	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Vice President	J. Mark Blaising	303-830-8440
Secretary		
Treasurer	Wendy Pickering	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	David White	303-868-0023

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification		
Education	David White	303-868-0023
Hospitality	Lily Ewing	303-250-9679
Membership	Mike Pearl	303-979-7594
Newsletter Editor	Eileen Pearl	303-868-0021
Program	J. Mark Blaising	303-830-8440
Public Relations	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Email Blasts	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Nominations	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Website	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515