

## VOL 29, No 9

### President's Message

Election Day is Tuesday, November 2. Have you submitted your ballot? Our local and regional governments need to hear your voice. Vote!

A big "Thank you" goes to Ximena Pareja and J. Mark Blaising for their virtual tour of Colfax Avenue at the October meeting.

Even though we may not have been very active giving tours this season, this issue of the *Guide Line* has announcements of wonderful events and activities affecting us all. Welcome a new member, attend the Denver Partners Annual meeting, celebrate what we have come to love about Colorado. Look for those stories and more in this issue.

FAM Tours are probably more important to us now that we are emerging from the cover of COVID-19. Send your ideas to Education Committee Chair [David White](#) 303-868-0023.

Like many businesses and organizations, the COVID-19 Pandemic has caused Rocky Mountain Guides Association to alter its means of operations. We are now gathering virtually via ZOOM for our monthly meetings. To join in on the meetings without using a video connection, you can use your phone connection. You will first need to have the Zoom mobile app installed on your smartphone. Check out the easy directions <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-joining-a-meeting>

RMGA members need to determine in what ways the organization is beneficial to them, then join to actualize that vision. Please email your ideas and thoughts about the future direction of the organization to [rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com](mailto:rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com).

– Mike Pearl, President, RMGA



## November 2021

A Member of



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
<u>From the Editor</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Committee Updates</u>	<u>2-7</u>
<u>Upcoming Industry Events</u>	<u>7-10</u>
<u>Organization Activities</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>NFTGA Leadership</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Board of Directors Meetings</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Members Meetings</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Purpose of RMGA</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Officers and Chairpersons</u>	<u>13</u>

## FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the December *Guide Line* is **Sunday, November 28.**

Future contributions should be emailed to *Guide Line* editor Eileen Pearl at

[rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com](mailto:rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com). If anyone has photos to share, please send them along with either a short description and/or names.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

Welcome new Professional member Barb Bowman of Grand Junction. Barb is no stranger to RMGA. After a career as a destination marketing organization representative – lately with VISIT Grand Junction and VISIT Durango – she has worked with RMGA on many projects. From her experiences organizing and leading familiarization tours of destinations for travel writers and meeting planners, Barb now leads tours for tourist visitors in the Grand Junction and Western Slope areas. She has also sat on the boards of directors for the Colorado Tourism Organization and Tour Colorado, among other travel-related organizations. We are grateful to have Barb Bowman as a member of RMGA.

RMGA welcomes new members! Do your part to improve and expand RMGA's knowledge base by increasing our membership roster. Invite tour guides to RMGA's next gathering on Zoom. Send their contact information to Membership Committee Chair [Mike Pearl so that they can be included on the Zoom Meeting Invitation.](#)

### Nominations Committee

No submission this month.

### Program Committee

No submission this month.

### Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen

Last in a Series on the history of RMGA written in preparation for the RMGA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013; originally published in July, 2013.

This is the last in a series of biographical sketches by Mary Thompson of our six 20-year Founding Members. And, it's a double date! **Kay and Jim Willson** were not only founding RMGA members,

but their very visible and considerable contributions reflect the dedication and foresight of all our founding members. It is a further reminder to current members of our responsibility to the continuing effectiveness of Rocky Mountain Guides Association.

By birth, Kay is from the Show Me state—born in Kansas City, MO. By circumstances of life she was sent to live with maternal grandparents on an Eastern Kansas farm when she was very young. As the first granddaughter living in a loving family in a beautiful environment, those years on the farm hold Kay's fondest memories of her growing years. Driving by the farm as an adult when in the area has reinforced and added to the value of those memories.

Kay later moved with her mother and stepfather to Sedalia, MO when she was still a child. Interestingly, it seems there is a strong connection between Sedalia, MO and Sedalia, CO. Little did she know at the time she would follow the path of Sedalia, MO, pioneers who came to Colorado and began Sedalia, CO.

And, how did Kay get to Colorado? Well, there was a young man, born and raised in Denver. (Before Jim was old enough to appreciate it, his family briefly lived in the "Switzerland of America"—Ouray, CO). This young man happened to choose to go to Park College (now Park University) in Parkville, MO. Kay also attended Park College and both majored in American Studies. They met, hit it off, and were married the day after graduation. Packed and ready to head West to Colorado, they unknowingly had parked their packed trailer under a tree inhabited by ants, which soon inhabited the trailer and all their belonging! A slight delay!

They began married life in Boulder, CO, where Jim attended CU Law School. He then took a job with a firm specializing in Municipal Finance Law. Kay worked as a telephone switch-board operator and later commuted to Denver to work as a secretary at an oil well drilling firm for 3-years. After that time, their daughter Gay Lynne was born, and two years later, son Gary arrived. One activity the Willsons enjoyed with their growing children was "heading for the hills" in their old Jeep, exploring roads, passes and out-of-the-way beauty and history of our state. In 1973, the family moved to Lakewood. Today, the Willsons are blessed with 3 grand-children, one step-granddaughter and 3 great-grandchildren.

Kay became a professional tour guide after she answered an ad placed by The Arrangers. She did Meet & Greet and was soon asked to do commentary on a coach to Vail. It's difficult to believe this seasoned professional was then "scared green"! At The Arrangers meeting, she met guides who did Walking Tours for Historic Denver. She signed on for that job as well. (Historic Denver guides went to an assigned site to begin a 2-hour walking tour of Lower Downtown, Capitol Hill, etc. If no one showed, they went home. Either way, the pay was \$5.00! A few years later, several members of the Professional Guides Association of America folded and there was a need start a new local organization. They met at the Willsons to discuss what the new association would look like. Jim offered his legal services for free to help get the Rocky Mountain Guides Association started and has stayed on for more than 20 years as our legal advisor-----to keep us on track.

Millie Billings, a long-time friend of RMGA, was Kay's mentor/supervisor at The Arrangers. It is often the little things that stick in our minds. Kay remembers that early in her career she was "chewed out" by Millie. Traffic had been terrible, and Kay was 5 minutes late arriving at the

appointed time/place. She says she was never late again, AND she and Millie remained friends. Ask her about other guide stories.

There's a long list of things we appreciate about RMGA; and one thing on almost everyone's list is the newsletter, RMGA's *Guide Lines*. Ruby Ellen Hale was editor of *The Courier* newsletter but needed someone to type it when the new Association began and when Ruby became president of RMGA. From typing the newsletter, Kay easily slid into a full-time job of writer/editor/typist/publisher for more than 20 years and counting!! (Jim provided the equipment!) My question to Kay was "Why have you kept this amazing commitment for so long?" Perhaps, knowing Kay, I could have guessed her answer—"I like doing something for RMGA, I enjoy history, and I just like doing it." We all thank you over and over for that.

In addition to providing free legal advice for more than 20 years, Jim has taken it upon himself to find quality Colorado-themed books, purchase them, and then resell them to RMGA members at no profit.

RMGA has much for which to thank Kay and Jim Willson. Kay says they have received much in return: friendships, enjoyable working relationships, and continuing exposure to all Colorado has to offer, the accumulation of 20-plus years of information, *and* Jim wants it done *right*!

To all of our six original members, we hope you will continue or many years as our guiding lights. We appreciate all you have done and will continue to look to you for leadership and guidance as RMGA moves into the next 20 years.

**Written by Mary Thompson, 20th Anniversary Chair, RMGA President [Mary passed away in 2014.]**

Jim Willson passed away November 17, 2014; Kay remains a member of RMGA. She continues to keep us posted on happenings at RMNP.

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On October 16<sup>th</sup> former member Roger Trimmer posted on Facebook a photograph with this comment: "*This is our son Michael Trimmer. He passed away in Boulder, Colorado on October 2, 2021. You can go to [horancares.com](http://horancares.com) to read his obituary and/or leave a memory.*"

The direct link is: <https://www.horancares.com/obituary/MichaelMike-Trimmer>

The e-mail address I have for Roger is: Roger Trimmer" at [rtrim50@comcast.net](mailto:rtrim50@comcast.net) if you'd like to send a note.

Thoughts and Prayers to Roger, Beth and family.

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**DEN has Flair:** On Tuesday, Oct. 19, Flair Airlines announced new service to Denver. Flair is a Canadian ultra-low-cost carrier (ULCC) that will operate flights between Denver and Toronto (YYZ) beginning April 15, 2022. Flair will become DEN's 25th airline and will join Air Canada and United in operating DEN-YYZ service.

**TSA Throughput:** For the week of Oct. 11–17, DEN's TSA throughput was -12% as compared to the same week in 2019; the U.S. overall was -21% as compared to 2019. Sunday, Oct. 17 was the busiest day through DEN's TSA checkpoints since the pandemic; throughput totaled 75,406. The previous busiest day was Sunday, July 18.

## RMGA Facebook Group



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.

Be sure to subscribe to our Facebook group. It is not limited to only Members. Invite your friends.

## Website Committee

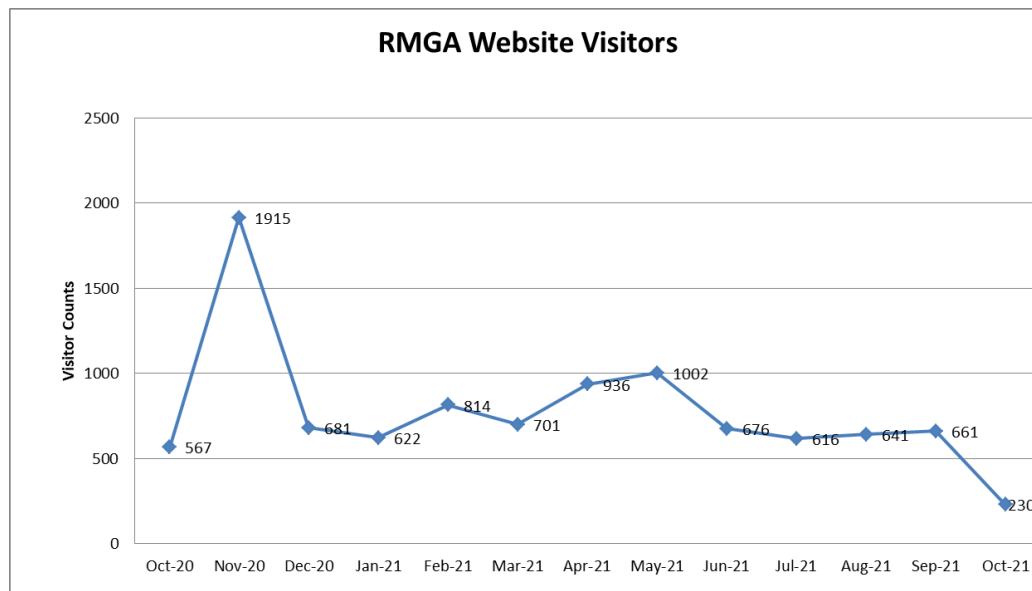
### *What's New on the Members Only Page?*

*These updates have been made to the website since the September report:*

- *Added October program*
- *Added Profile for Bespoke Experiences*
- *Added October 21st Membership Roster*

### Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitor to our website remains constant. As of October 28, 2021, the October count is 588.



### YouTube Channels

The recordings of the Zoom monthly member meetings and programs are now available on YouTube. Because one of the benefits as a member is access to the research materials presented at the meetings, these recordings are only available if you have the link. The link is under 2020 or 2021 Program Reviews on the Member Only page. For many programs there is also a link to the PowerPoint slide deck or other reference material.

Now if you were not able to attend a program, you can view the business meeting and the program.

### **E-mail distribution**

The distribution of e-mails continues to be done on a temporary basis. If anyone is interested in sending out the e-mail blasts, contact Mike Pearl at [rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com](mailto:rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com). The contact list is current with the membership roster. If you are not receiving e-mails please contact Tom Jensen @ [rmgacommunications@rockymountaintourguides.com](mailto:rmgacommunications@rockymountaintourguides.com).

### **Facebook**

Be sure to join the RMGA Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>. You'll find postings of upcoming events, industry happenings, and photos. Our Vice President, Mark Blaising has been posting the pictures he takes while wandering around Denver. He has some unusual shots. All members are welcome to send in their pictures or postings, too.

## **Upcoming Industry Events**

Submitted by Tom Jensen



**C.H.A.T. (Holiday Edition)**

6:00 PM - 7:45 PM Nov 7, 2021  
(General)

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## **All Aboard THE POLAR EXPRESS!**

COLORADO RAILROAD MUSEUM

17155 W. 44th Ave.,

Golden, CO 80403

Join us for a holiday edition of our monthly partner networking event. Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies prior to boarding the THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride for a holiday performance put on

exclusively for VISIT DENVER partners. Partners are welcome to bring family members to this special event.

[RSVP Here](#)

Polar Express show begins at **6:30PM**. It is recommended to arrive 30 minutes early, prior to the show. Masks required.

Partners are welcome to bring their family members. Limit of 4 people per party

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



The 2021 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference has moved! The conference will now be held at the Pueblo Convention Center Nov. 4–5, 2021.

Several RMGA members have already signed up. Contact Tom Jensen regarding housing.

## 2021 Gov Con is Going Hybrid

To meet the ever-changing landscape and accommodate for individual comfort levels of attendees, this year the CTO is offering two options for the Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference: in-person or virtual.

Our virtual portion of the conference builds on last year's innovative online-only event, offering attendees the chance to stream select sessions and interact with online attendees via our interactive virtual platform. Our in-person conference will offer you the chance to dive deeper with conference speakers and panelists while mingling with fellow colleagues and amazing sponsors in downtown Pueblo.

In-person attendees will have access to all sessions and the virtual platform, where they can watch any sessions they might have missed. Virtual attendees will have access to watch up to four keynote sessions, and eight out of the 16 breakout sessions. Both attendees will have sessions available for 30 days after the conference.

**As part of the CTO's commitment to health and safety, COVID-19 vaccine verification is a requirement for all in-person attendees; additionally, masks will be mandatory for all staff and participants in indoor settings, and conference areas will be set up with social distancing in mind.**

We look forward to re-connect, re-focus and re-energize with the industry in Pueblo! Please make sure you register today!

[Register Now >>](#)

## 2022 Conference

The CTO has postponed its plans for 2021 GovCon in Snowmass as The Westin undergoes renovations, but save the date as GovCon will be in Snowmass Sept. 20–23, 2022, in a beautifully updated space.

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## **Tour Colorado Meeting**

November 3rd, 2021  
2:30- 4:30 PM  
El Pueblo History Museum  
Pueblo, CO

All are welcome! Tour Colorado members, guests and attendees of the Colorado Governors' Conference.

Pueblo Convention Center  
Fortino Grand Hall C-West

We have changed our meeting venue to accommodate a ZOOM meeting option. You will still have a chance to hear about and tour the El Pueblo History Museum during your visit to Pueblo. Please use the following link to attend via ZOOM.

[Join the meeting here!](#)

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## ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Rocky Mountain Guides Association represents professional tour guides in the Rocky Mountain Region to tourism-related organizations. Several RMGA executive board members and committee chairs will attend the Colorado Governor's Conference on Tourism, November 3-5, in Pueblo. Their participation in conference events will give visibility to the role of professional tour guides in the tourism industry.

The VISIT Denver Partners Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2021. Individual RMGA members are eligible to attend because RMGA is a VISIT Denver Partner. Register here <https://www.denver.org/partners/partner-event-calendar/annual-meeting/>. Members are asked to gather prior to the 7:30 coffee time so that we can sit together as a group during the breakfast/meeting.

### 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>. It's a great place for members to post pictures and tidbits of information that we all can use.

### RMGA Leadership Opportunities

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 Secretary. Contact any Board member with your interest.

### December Holiday Celebration

While December seems far away, it's time for us to plan for the RMGA December Holiday Celebration! Do you want an in-person event? (Where?) Do you want to meet via Zoom, like we did last year? What party activities do you want to use this year?

Send your ideas for a December get-together to Treasurer [Wendy Pickering](#) (217-621-1960) or to any other Board member.

### Are You Colo-Ready?

In the time between the October *Guide Line* and the November *Guide Line*, RMGA has become a Stewardship Partner with the Care for Colorado Coalition. Check out the RMGA logo alongside other Stewardship Partners at <https://www.colorado.com/care-colorado-coalition>. Watch for this logo on the RMGA website and the *Guide Line*:



November is a time when we in the U.S. pause to give thanks. The Care for Colorado Coalition has produced a video to provide a basis for our own meditation on the Colorado we love. Check it out here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vABKqE6doRI&t=10s>.

The ideas expressed in the video can't be an exhaustive list. What ideas is the video missing? Send your thoughts to the *Guide Line* [Editor](#).

## 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 from NFTGA via our email Blast system.

- NFTGA leadership has decided to postpone its biennial conference set for January 26-28, 2022 in San Antonio, Texas. And reschedule it to January 2023.
- However, on Thursday, January 27, NFTGA will present a keynote address by **RICK STEVES!** Exact timing and details will be communicated within the next few weeks.

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Monday, November 1, 2021 (10:00 am)

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

Monday, December 6, 2021 (10:00 am)

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

## MEMBERS MEETINGS

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

Monday, December 13, 2021 (6:30 pm) – Holiday Celebration!!

(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

<b>Officers</b>		
President	<a href="#">Mike Pearl</a>	303-868-0023
Vice President	<a href="#">J. Mark Blaising</a>	303-830-8440
Secretary		
Treasurer	<a href="#">Wendy Pickering</a>	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	<a href="#">David White</a>	303-868-0023

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