

VOL 30, No 3

March 2022

President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

The February program featured The Denver Art Museum's recently completed remodeling of the Gio Ponti-designed building. Viewing images of exhibits in the renamed the Lanny and Sharon Martin Building was a treat for RMGA members.

The annual term of office for the Board of Directors ends May 31. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting of the members April 11 – our first in-person meeting since March 2020.

All RMGA members are looking forward to meeting in-person (finally). That opportunity may not be too far away. The Program Committee has scheduled April's meeting as an in-person event at the new offices of VISIT Aurora in the Stanley Marketplace. I'm planning to bring a box of books and pamphlets to share with those in attendance and to use some as door prizes. If you have a box full of books and pamphlets that you would like to bring to share with other members, please do. Talking about research and swapping materials is a great way to bond in during our first in-person meeting.

The National Federation of Tour Guides (NFTGA) has a new president, Michael Dillinger from the Guides Association of New York City (GANYC). His goals for his two-year term include increasing the "visibility" of tour guides within the US Tourism Industry. The RMGA Board of Directors fully supports Dillinger in this endeavor. As you know, in discussions of tourism in the US, the destinations, sites, and modes of transportation receive attention, while tour guides are completely ignored. By coordinating efforts among the local guides associations of NFTGA, Dillinger expects to establish a strategy that can raise the profile of tour guides within the industry.

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. – Mike Pearl

A Member of



PROUD PARTNER OF



TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
<u>From the Editor</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Committee Updates</u>	<u>2-11</u>
<u>Organization Activities</u>	<u>12-13</u>
<u>NFTGA News</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Board of Directors Meetings</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Members Meetings</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Purpose of RMGA</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Officers and Chairpersons</u>	<u>15</u>

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the April, 2022 *Guide Line* is **Tuesday, March 29**. 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 and/or names.



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Communications Committee

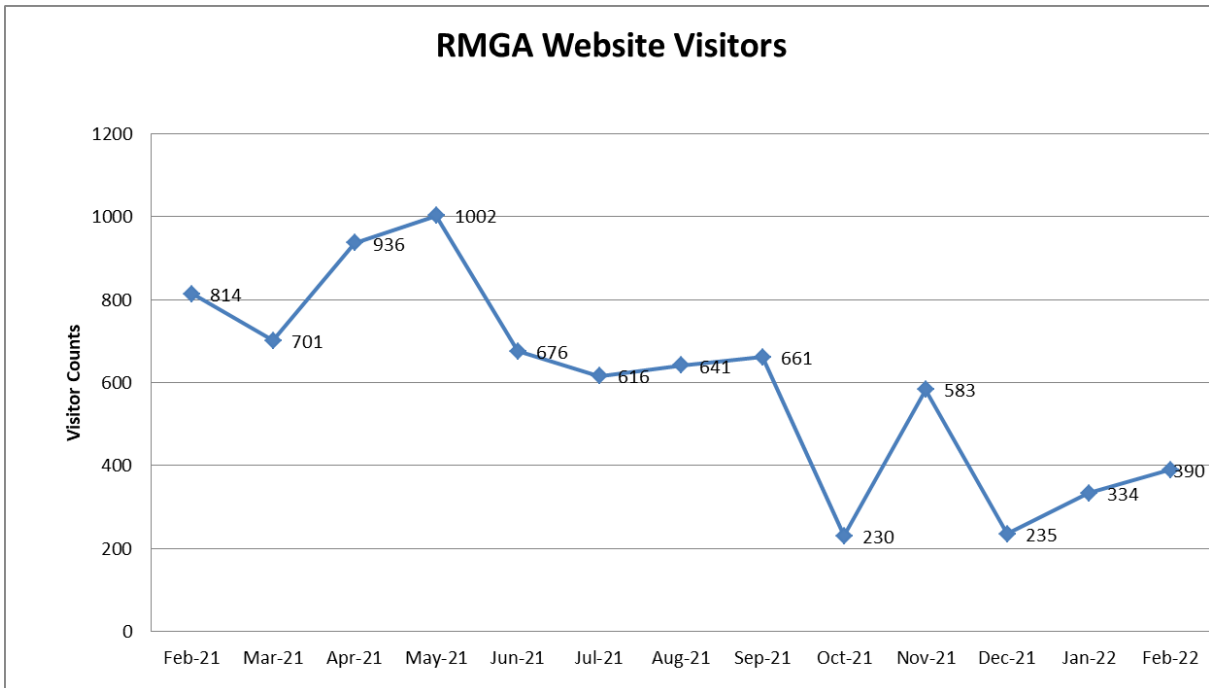
Submitted by Tom Jensen

What's New on the Members Only Page?

- *Added March Program. Details pending*
- *Added April Program. Details pending*
- *Added March 22 Cheesman Walking Tour.*
- *Updated the Member Roster with the February 1, 2022 Member Roster*
- *Uploaded RMGA Past Officers V2.0 to Members Only Page*
- *Added link to the February Program to 2022 Program Reviews*

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitor to our website remains constant. As of February 25, 2022, the February number of hits is 390.



Starting February 2022, (delayed from January) website traffic might seem lower. Rick's Cheap Domains, our website hosts is updating all website traffic data reports, past and future, to give a better data like showing visits only by real people, not bot traffic.

What's Coming Up

Access to Members Only Page – Soon members will receive the new access code and instructions for the Members Only page. On this page you will discover archived copies of the Guide Line, Program reviews, FAM trip reviews, and governing documents.

Profile Update – Profiles from people who did not renew will be removed. A year will be added to the “Years Experience” category. If you have changes to your Profile, send them to rmgawebsite@rockymountaintourguides.com.

YouTube Channels

The recordings of the Zoom monthly member meetings and programs are now available on YouTube. These recordings are only available if you have the link which is listed under 2020, 2021, and 2022 Program Reviews on the “Member Only” page. For many programs there is also a link to the PowerPoint slide deck or other reference material.

The February Program on the Denver Art Museum is now available for viewing. Also listed is the presenter Shannon Robb's contact information.

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@rockyountaintourguides.com. The contact list is current with the membership roster. If you are not receiving e-mails please contact Tom Jensen @ rmgacommunications@rockyountaintourguides.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. All members are welcome send in their pictures or posting.

New Photo and events added. See Public Relations update.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl

The RMGA Board of Directors thanks you for your renewal. Watch your email for information on accessing the Members Resource Page on the RMGA Website.

As of February 28, the status of renewals is as follows:

Professional/Associate	19
Friend/Retired	7
Business	5

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

Nominations Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Nominations Committee Chair

The currently seated officers of the RMGA Board of Directors have agreed to stand for election for the 2022-2023 term. The Nominations Committee is seeking nominees for the office of Secretary. For information about the duties of the secretary, contact [Mike Pearl](#).

The Nominations Committee will present its slate of nominations at the March members meeting.

Program Committee

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

Watch your email for forthcoming information on the March members meeting.

April Members meeting: RGMA live and in person!!!! Join us for our first gathering since the start of the pandemic.

We will be holding our member meeting Monday April 11 at the Stanley Marketplace hosted by Visit Aurora. Take a look around this large community gathering spot featuring restaurants, activities and unique shops. Hear an update from Visit Aurora and enjoy catching up in person. More details to follow.

Gathering on March 26:

A walk in the park,



Cheesman Park.

Join Rocky Mountain Guides Association on March 26th, 2022 for a tour of the historic gem located in the heart of Denver. Explore the history, architecture, and landscape of Denver's one time city cemetery.

Wear a comfortable pair of shoes and get your step quota filled on Saturday March 26th at 2PM. Join us at the southwest corner of the Williams Street Parkway and 7th Avenue in what is affectionately known as little Cheesman Park for an afternoon of fresh air and fun!!

Please RSVP to Mark Blaising at blaising303@gmail.com



Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen

Tour
Colorado

Tour Colorado Membership Meeting

Hosted By Visit Fort Collins

Save the Date

March 24th, 25th and 26th, 2022



During the meeting, you will learn about Tour Colorado and connect with industry partners. You will hear from industry speakers on the state of the Group Tour Travel and have the opportunity to explore the beautiful town of Fort Collins or, as the locals call it "FOCO"

Watch your e-mail for more details.

[Travel Adventure Show](#): Tour Colorado will be coordinating the Colorado Pavilion at the Travel Adventure Show in Denver this spring. If you are interested in discounted booth space within the pavilion, please contact Tour Colorado, [Julianne Fredrick](#).



Portrait of American Traveler

Those interested in visiting Colorado are most likely to describe themselves as a family man/woman, followed by pet lover, beach lover, and foodie.

They are more likely than the average U.S. leisure traveler to consider themselves an outdoor adventurer, environmentally conscious, concert/festival enthusiast, thrill-seeker, liberal, wine enthusiast, craft-beer lover, workaholic, party animal, social-justice activist or ski/snowboard enthusiast. They are less likely than the average U.S. leisure traveler to consider themselves politically conservative.

RMGA Facebook Group



Thank you to Steve Kaverman for the new photo on our opening page. He took it on Hwy 62, just west of Ridgway, CO. Check out his new website -- <https://www.tourismchampion.com/> . He recently redesigned and rebuilt it, with new content and original photography of Colorado and elsewhere.

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.

Mestaa'èhehe Mountain



Mestaa'èhehe Mountain in Clear Creek County (photo from Wikimedia Commons)

As you prepare for your summer tours into the foothills, note a name change of a mountain near Mt. Evans. In December the US Board on Geographic Names voted to re-name Colorado's Squaw Mountain that sits between Evergreen and Idaho Springs off Highway 103, also known as Squaw Pass Road.

The new name is Mestaa'èhehe.

Mestaa'èhehe (pronounced mes-taw-HAY) translates to "Owl Woman." The name honors Mistanta, a Cheyenne woman who served as a linguistic and cultural translator between Indigenous plains tribes and the white traders who had occupied the area around Bent's Fort in the early 1800s. Mistanta was, and still is, a highly respected historical figure that is credited with navigating the complex relationships between plains tribes and Anglo-American settlers. Her efforts helped to facilitate a period of peace in southeastern Colorado that preceded the violence of the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864.

The federal government is preparing to change maps and road signs to Mestaa'èhehe Mountain.



Hart-McCourt House Gets Rezoned for Multifamily Residential



Built in 1898 at a cost of \$20,000 and designed in the Classical Revival Style by the architecture firm of Varian and Sterner, this prominent 8th Avenue mansion is the oldest surviving structure on the block between 8th and 9th Avenues and Pearl and Pennsylvania Streets. It tells the story of Denver's expansion after the Silver Panic of 1893. Many wealthy families in Denver lost their fortunes virtually overnight because of the Silver Crash, but that wasn't the case for the Hart family, the first owners of the home, who were involved in medicine and law.

The next owners were Peter and Emma McCourt. Peter McCourt was the favorite brother of Baby Doe Tabor, the second wife of "Silver King" Horace Tabor, and was best known as the distinguished theater manager of Denver's world-famous Tabor Grand Opera House and Broadway Theater. Emma McCourt would go on to be remembered as a notable female figure of positive influence to her community and city of Denver.

In the years that followed, the property changed hands several times and eventually became a boarding house, like many other Capitol Hill mansions. After its time as a boarding house, the property was bought and converted to commercial space, used by a variety of businesses throughout the years.

Last week, the Hart-McCourt House at 555 E. 8th Avenue was designated a local landmark. In addition, City Council unanimously approved a proposal to rezone the property to allow for residential use, due to the owner's intent to use the building as multi-family housing and office space.



By Design

The Colorado Department of Revenue will soon release a new design for driver licenses issued in the Centennial State. Featuring photos of two iconic places, Coloradans selected the winning artwork from over 400 entries.

How Denver is making a name for itself as an arts destination

The Washington Post recently ran an article on how the Denver art scene is being discovered by outside folks. It lists the Golden Triangle, RiNo, DCPA, Art District on Santa Fe, and some hotels as being the hot spots for Art.

Thanks to Member Charles Foster for finding the article and providing the link:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2021/12/30/denver-colorado-arts-venues/?fbclid=IwAR3DnWFJTFnuBfdOUZd-TJp-G9W4Qby0WEfNsqzXvZystEVgim5irB0y_WY



E-Bulletin

February 22, 2022

- **Small Multimodal & Economic Resiliency Projects** – Rolling deadline – Revitalizing Main Streets - www.codot.gov/programs/revitalizingmainstreets
- **2022 Partners in the Outdoors Grant** – \$10K, 1:1 match, **Due Feb 23** - <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Partners-Conference-Apply-for-a-Grant.aspx>
- **Tourism Management Grant** – \$20K, 4:1 funding/match, Due Mar 3 - <https://oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-management-grant>
- **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance NPS-RTCA** – Due Mar 1 – contact the state manager - <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>
- **Colorado State Historical Fund** – Rolling deadline for non-competitive, micro-grant - <https://www.historycolorado.org/our-grant-types>
- **Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Grants** – Questions, contact staff - <https://goco.org/programs-projects/our-grant-programs>
- **Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund Grant (EIAF)** – Due Mar 1 & Sep 1 - <https://cdola.colorado.gov/financial-assistance>
- **Charge Ahead Colorado** – Grants, Coaching, EV Corridors - <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/zero-emission-vehicles>
- **OEDIT Programs & Funding** – Creative Arts, Outdoor Industry, Film, Toolkits - <https://oedit.colorado.gov/programs-and-funding>
- **Fundraising** – Information & Resources - <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/fundraising>

www.ColoradoByways.org

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Rocky Mountain Guides Association represents professional tour guides in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region to tourism-related organizations. As president, I meet with other leaders of US tour guide associations and guilds through monthly Zoom meetings.

Tom Jensen and the Public Relations Committee lead in keeping RMGA and us professional tour guides in the forefront of the minds of local tourism industry leaders.

The US Travel Association will host its annual “[Destination Capitol Hill](#)” April 5-6. RMGA members who would like to participate in the Washington, D.C. event should contact me for details.

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

Contact any Board member with your interest.

Are You Colo-Ready?

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*:



As we prepare for the summer tourist season, it’s good to get a refresher on the concepts that make up Care for Colorado. Check out this video describing “Trash the Trash” produced by The Care for Colorado Coalition <https://www.colorado.com/videos/care-colorado-trash-trash>

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](#).

What Are Our Guests Learning about Colorado?

Have you ever wondered about the advertising messages about Colorado that are sent to other areas? It’s prudent to be aware of those messages, because they set guest expectations. Here’s one about Boulder, “Watch: Boulder’s Top Must-Sees”

<https://www.colorado.com/videos/watch-boulders-top-must-sees>, produced by the Colorado Tourism Office.

Here’s a video about Denver, “History & Heritage in Denver’s LoDo Neighborhood” <https://youtu.be/QVOo27TLmTY>, produced by VISIT Denver.

The ideas expressed in these videos can't be exhaustive lists. What ideas are missing in the videos? Send your thoughts to the *Guide Line Editor*.

Colorado Concierge Training and Certification

[Colorado Concierge Training](#) is a free certification for frontline workers to become Colorado experts and grow their Colorado-style hospitality. The training is online at [BeAColoradoConcierge.com](#). You can also download the app from [Google Play](#) or the [Apple App Store](#).

The training includes seven modules:

- Colorado Essentials
- The Care for Colorado Principles
- Colorado's Eight Travel Regions
- Colorado-Style Customer Service
- Colorado Traveler Safety
- Hunting & Fishing
- Inclusive Colorado Culture

Certified businesses and organizations and individuals also receive the benefits outlined at <https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-concierge-training-and-certification>

NFTGA LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

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.

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

At the February 23rd meeting, presidents agreed to begin planning ways to include members from around the nation in local associations' programming. The goal is to reinforce to local members that tour guiding is an important part of the wider tourism industry.

Find your next tour job at www.TourGuidingJobs.com!

Simply sign up for a free account and start looking through the job listings. We will be adding more jobs weekly as tour operators, destinations, attractions, and travel companies who send us their job opportunities looking for talented professionals like you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Monday, March 7, 2021 (6:00 pm)

Monday, April 4, 2021 (6:00 pm)

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

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

The second Monday of January, February, March, April, May, October, November, December

Monday, March 14, 2022 (6:00 pm) (Meeting via ZOOM; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.)

Monday, April 11, 2022 (6:00 pm) In Person! Annual Meeting with Elections. Visit Aurora Office in the Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora, CO 80010. Bring a prospective member!

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	720-217-8643

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