

**VOL 28, No 9**

## President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected the leadership of RMGA. For various reasons, three members of the Board of Directors have resigned. I have been appointed president from my previous position as Director at Large.

The remaining Directors welcome these members who have volunteered to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors – J. Mark Blaising, Vice President; Deanna Scott, Secretary; and David White, Director at Large. J. Mark Blaising will also serve as the Program Committee Chair.

According to the Bylaws, these appointments must be approved by a vote of the members. A quorum of members (20% of members entitled to vote, or 56 x 20%) – 11 – voted to approve the newly constituted Board of Directors at the October monthly meeting/program

Additional vacancies of Committee Chairs have occurred. Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- Certification
- Education
- Email Blasts

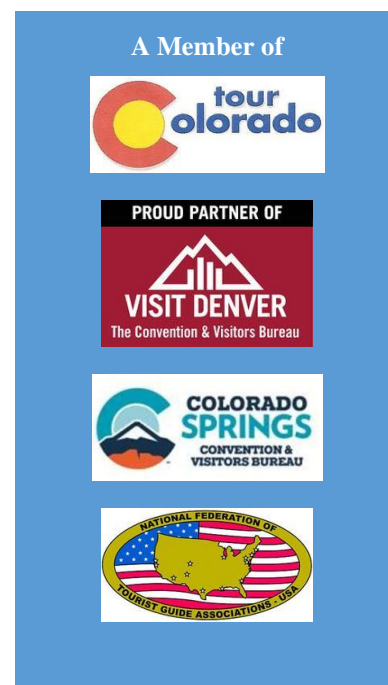
Like many businesses and organizations, the COVID-19 Pandemic is negatively affecting Rocky Mountain Guides Association. Methods of operation that were successful in the past are no longer viable. Long-time members will likely retire from the industry due to the lack of business, leaving more recent 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](mailto:rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com).

I look forward to working with these newly appointed Directors, and with the RMGA Members, as we continue the important work of the Rocky Mountain Guides Association.

I have started a section of the *Guide Line* called “Organization Activities” (see Page 7) to update members on particular initiatives and activities that RMGA is working on.

**November 2020**



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Thanks, everyone, for attending the October RMGA meeting online. I appreciate your navigating the technology to join in. It's a new world we're living in – and likely to continue this way for some time. How that reality affects our tour guiding practices is yet to be realized. But, as we continue to meet, we will help each other to find our way through the new ways that people travel and visit places.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the December *Guide Line* is **Friday, November 27.**

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 or names.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

#### Members in Distress

As of October 26, 2020, the Board of Directors has not been informed of the poor health of any RMGA members due to COVID-19. At the same time, the Board has not been informed of members who are in need of emotional support or others who might have other needs.

RMGA member Dave Lively has reported that he and his family are safe after having been given 10 minutes on Wednesday, October 21 to evacuate their Grand Lake home due to the East Troublesome Fire. He adds, in his response to my email, "Our house is being shown in the burn area, but we aren't sure about it. We won't be able to find anything out about it for days. Thanks for your concern."

If you are in distress, or if you know of a fellow member who might appreciate assistance, please contact [Mike Pearl](#).

Members wanting to provide assistance to fellow members should contact [Mike Pearl](#).

#### New (Business) Member

Bespoke Private Tours of New Orleans and Denver, RMGA's newest business member, is proud of their membership. Bespoke Tours displays the RMGA logo on their website. What a great way to promote Colorado and RMGA! Thank you to Jennifer Simpson, Chief Experience Officer; Grace German, Strategic Relations Manager; and Julie Marlatt, Denver Representative. Learn more about Bespoke Private Tours [here](#).

### Nominations Committee

#### 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

### RMGA MEMBERS (VIRTUAL) NOVEMBER MEETING

November 9, 2020

Details on Page 8.

### DECEMBER MEMBERS (VIRTUAL) DECEMBER MEETING

December 14, 2020

See details on Page 10.

## Website Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen

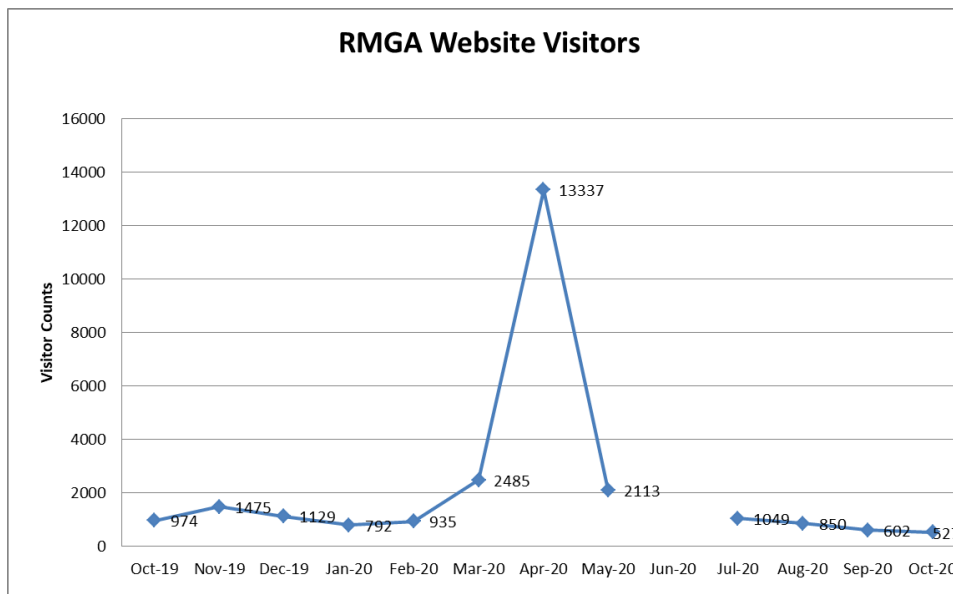
### *What's New on the Members Only Page?*

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

- *Added November program details including the Zoom link*
- *Added October PowerPoint presentation*
- *Added October Program review*
- *Updated E-Mail Contact list*

## Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitors to our website remains constant. Through October 28<sup>th</sup>, the number of hits was 527.



## 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](mailto:rmgapresident@rockyountaintourguides.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).

## Submitted by Tom Jensen

JOIN US VIRTUALLY

Thursday, November 12th, 2020

9:00am – 10:00am

Lauren Huffer at lhuffer@visitdenver.com or 303.515.1220.

## MEETING AGENDA

**8:30am** Enjoy Live Entertainment Prior to the Meeting

**9:00am** Annual Meeting

- Welcome from Glo Neal, Emcee
- The Honorable Mayor Michael B. Hancock
- Greg Leonard, Chair of the Board, Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center
- Richard Scharf, President & CEO, VISIT DENVER
- Year In Review
- Honoring Our Hospitality Heroes
- Governor Jared Polis
- Keynote Speaker, Trent Shelton

### Trent Shelton

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Trent Shelton is a former NFL wide receiver who is now considered one of the most impactful speakers of this generation. He reaches over 50 million people weekly through his various social media outlets, and also travels the world to speak his message of creating lasting change in your life.



[Register Now](#)



### 2021 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference

The 2021 Governor's Colorado Tourism Conference will be held Sept. 22–24 at the Westin Snowmass Resort.

Announced at the end of the 2020 Governor's Tourism are the dates and location of next year's event. Continue to check Guide Line for additional information.

## (New Guide Line Segment) - Organization Activities

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

### **Tour Operations Resources Updates**

These resource documents are being updated: Passenger Loading Zones; Coach Parking Possibilities. David White, Director at Large, is chairing the effort to update the guidance offered in these documents. He is being assisted by Adrian Swenson and Sid Wilson. To offer information or to offer your help, contact David White. The document is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Directors, December 7, 2020.

### **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>.

### **VISIT Denver Annual Meeting**

VISIT Denver will host its annual meeting (virtual) on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. This is the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Partners Meeting! All members are welcome to attend this event without fees because of RMGA's affiliations with VISIT Denver. Registration is mandatory. Register at their [website](#).

## 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 (including a member-written quarterly newsletter the *National Standard*) from NFTGA via our email Blast system. A bit of history: Barbara Foos, Retired RMGA member, served as President of NFTGA, which brought national attention to the Rocky Mountain Guides Association.

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 October 21, 2020:

- Tourism across the nation is sluggish.
- Liability insurance offered through NFTGA will continue for 2021. There is no anticipation of a rate increase.
- The National Standard will continue quarterly publication under the direction of the newly appointed editor, Randy Bibb of the Tour Guides Association of Greater New Orleans. ([randybibb@yahoo.com](mailto:randybibb@yahoo.com)). Members of local associations and guilds are welcome to submit articles to Randy. Matthew Baker of the Guides Association of New York City served as editor since 2016.
- The next meeting will occur November 18. RMGA members having items to bring up should contact me.

To see a list of member guides associations and guilds, go to the [NFTGA website](#).

## NOVEMBER MEMBERS MEETING

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

**WHAT:** RMGA MEMBERS (VIRTUAL) OCTOBER MEETING

**WHEN:** November 9, 2020

6:00pm – Networking

6:30pm – Short Meeting

6:45pm – Program

Cheesman Park: a stroll through time and idea exchange

**WHERE:** Your place, via Zoom Video Communications

**PROGRAM:** J. Mark Blaising, RMGA Program Committee Chair and long-time resident of Capitol Hill, presents a virtual stroll through the unique history of Denver's gem, Cheesman Park. He will lead an idea session for the utilization of public parks in the post COVID touring environment."

For more information about Cheesman Park, click [here](#).

**REFRESHMENT:** Bring your own.

**DIRECTIONS:** An invitation to join the meeting will be sent to you. 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.

**MEETING NIGHT CONTACT:** Mike Pearl – 303.868.0023 (voice or text)

## OCTOBER MEMBERS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Marsha Momeni, via Tom Jensen

October 12, 2020, Membership Meeting – Colorado State Forest Service

This was the second Zoom meeting of RMGA, following the social distancing protocol during the COVID-19 times. Attendees liked the meeting, and quickly started networking. Updates related to a few members were noted. An obvious topic for the group was the seasonal parties. Regarding the Holiday RMGA party, a Zoom meeting was suggested. Looking for suggestions from members.

President Mike Pearl opened the membership meeting. Since 13 members were present, we had a quorum. Welcoming the members, he remembered former officers who had resigned. Mike then introduced the nominated board members. Tom had prepared an online ballot, and all members voted online, via Zoom. The following board members were elected

President Mike Pearl

Vice President J. Mark Blaising

Secretary Deanna Scott

Treasurer Wendy Pickering

Director at Large David White

Mike introduced new member Julie Marlatt, the Denver representative for Bespoke Private Tours.

For December Holiday Party, Wendy will plan a Zoom meeting. Others with ideas contact Mark to plan. You may invite others to participate.

Sign up for Facebook Group. Mike and Tom will help you signup if needed.

Then the meeting Program followed:

**Danielle Ardrey**, Conservation and Youth Education Specialist, Colorado State Forest Service. 970-732-0569. [Danielle.ardrey@colostate.edu](mailto:Danielle.ardrey@colostate.edu)

**Speaker:** Adam Moore, [Adam.more@colostate.edu](mailto:Adam.more@colostate.edu)

**Adam's PowerPoint presentation will be on RMGA Website Members Only Page.** A recording of the program will be made available to the members.

Adam started with introducing Roxborough Neighborhood, showing people's homes mixed with wild nature that could harm them. He talked of how local offices may answer questions and work with public.

His presentation included several of CSFS specialty areas, including the following:

- Works with insect and disease problems
- Large and small landscape maintenance projects
- Breakdown of the Colorado land/forest
- Management of high elevation forests by US Forest Service
- Different composition of Forest Fires
- Percentage break down of various trees, shrub land, etc.
- How forest management and integration impact total economics of the State
- The chemistry of colors of Autumn leaves

A Chat Q/A followed during which Adam responded to the member questions. Details of the Q&A are included in the RMGA Member Notes.

## DECEMBER MEMBERS MEETING

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

**WHAT:** RMGA MEMBERS (VIRTUAL) DECEMBER MEETING

**WHEN:** December 14, 2020

6:00 pm – Networking

6:30 pm – Short Meeting

6:45 pm – Program

Holiday Cheer (virtual) Colorado Trivia Festival

**WHERE:** Your place, via Zoom Video Communications

**PROGRAM:** Wendy Pickering, RMGA Treasurer, will Emcee the third annual holiday extravaganza. Tom Jensen will engineer the virtual event.

**REFRESHMENT:** Your own favorite holiday libation.

**DIRECTIONS:** An invitation to join the meeting will be sent to you. 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.

**MEETING NIGHT CONTACT:** [J. Mark Blaising](#), Program Chair 303-830-8440 (voice or text)

## Board of Directors Meetings

Monday, November 2, 2020 (9:00 am)

Monday, December 7, 2020 (9:00 am)

Monday, January 4, 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

Monday, November 9, 2020 (6:30 pm)

Monday December 14, 2020 (6:30 pm)

Monday, January 11, 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	<a href="#">Mike Pearl</a>	303-868-0023
Vice President	<a href="#">J. Mark Blaising</a>	303-830-8440
Secretary	<a href="#">Deanna Scott</a>	303-884-8503
Treasurer	<a href="#">Wendy Pickering</a>	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	<a href="#">David White</a>	303-868-0023

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification		
Education		
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		720-425-5931
Nominations	<a href="#">Mike Pearl</a>	303-868-0023
Website	<a href="#">Tom Jensen</a>	303-968-0515
	<a href="#">Larry Foos</a>	303-979-7594