

VOL 28, No 8

October 2020

Leadership Changes

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

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 at the next regularly scheduled membership meeting. For a successful vote, a quorum of members (20% of members entitled to vote, or 56 x 20%) – 11 – must cast ballots.

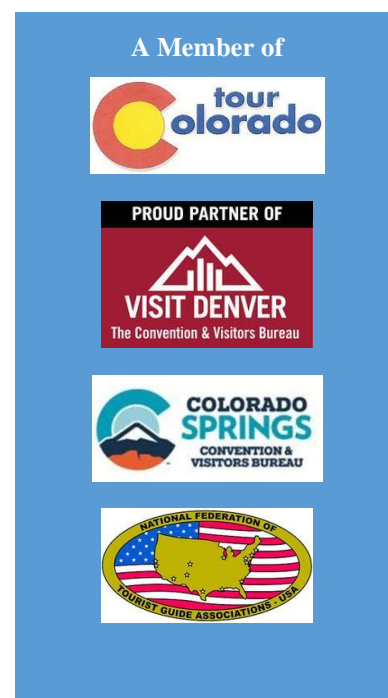
Additional vacancies of Committee Chairs have occurred. Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- 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.

I look forward to working with these newly appointed Directors, [OFFANDCHAIR](#) and with all the RMGA Members, as we continue the important work of the Rocky Mountain Guides Association.



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FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the November *Guide Line* is **Wednesday, October 28.**

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

Members in Distress

As of September 28, 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 other who might have other needs.

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 has applied for business membership in RMGA. Bespoke Private Tours is adding Denver and Colorado to their family of locations across North America. We look forward to meeting Jennifer Simpson, Chief Experience Officer; Grace German, Strategic Relations Manager; and Julie Marlatt, Denver Representative. Learn more about Bespoke Private Tours [here](#).

Nominations Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Nominations Committee Chair

RMGA faces unprecedented times with the resignations of three officers in 2020 during the traditional non-meeting season of the summer months. To fill the officer positions within the rules set forth in the RMGA Bylaws, the following chain of events will need to occur:

After the Membership Committee canvassed the RMGA membership, three members volunteered to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors – J. Mark Blaising, Deanna Scott, David White. Deanna Scott specifically volunteered to fill the Secretary vacancy.

During an online vote on August 22, 2020, among the three remaining officers, enough to constitute a quorum, the three members were approved to fill the officer vacancies. The quorum consisted of Ethan Magusin, President; Wendy Pickering, Treasurer; and Mike Pearl, Director at Large.

On Monday, October 5, 2020, a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors will be held via teleconference at a time to be determined. At this meeting, Ethan Magusin's resignation as President will be accepted. Mike Pearl, Vice President, will succeed Ethan according to the Bylaws, and be installed as President. J. Mark Blaising will be appointed and installed as Vice President.

On Monday, October 12, 2020, a regularly scheduled meeting of the Members will be held via teleconference at a time to be determined. At this meeting, the Members, in accordance with the Bylaws, will vote on whether to approve the newly installed officers

President	Mike Pearl
Vice President	J. Mark Blaising
Secretary	Deanna Scott
Director at Large	David White

Following approval and until May 31, 2121, the Board of Directors will be constituted as

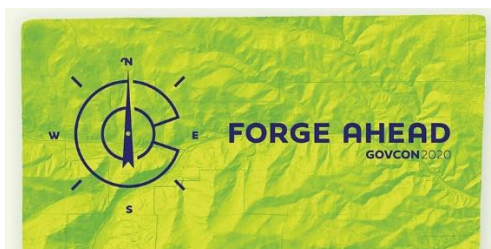
President	Mike Pearl
Vice President	J. Mark Blaising
Secretary	Deanna Scott
Treasurer	Wendy Pickering
Director at Large	David White

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, 2121.

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

Public Relations Committee

2021 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference



This year's Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference went virtual. From an "old timer's" perspective, the use of technology was amazing. We were transferred seamlessly between Red Rocks, riding the Gondola in Steamboat, into breakout rooms, the Governor's Mansion, and back to Red Rocks. It was not the same as attending in person, but doing it virtually enabled more members to attend.

RMGA was well represented. While we could not see the other attendees, RMGA members made use of Chat to express their comments (we were all hoping to win a door prize). These are the members I saw participating Bonnie Custer, Barbara Johnson, Eileen Pearl, Mike Pearl, Mike Dulude, Mark Blaising, and myself.

A few takeaways:

- The economic impact to mountain and rural communities has been better than expected this summer because of the number of visitors from both Colorado and out-of-state.
- The motto "Forge Ahead" expresses the grit of our forbearers. We will get through this.

- Denver International Airport is doing better as compared to other US airports. It had fewer flights cancelled because most of its business is domestic and it is a hub. All international flights were cancelled; hopefully these will resume in November. There is concern about layoffs when the CARES act expires at the end of September. On Labor Day, TSA in Denver had more person contacts than any airport. Planes have never been cleaner.
- African Americans feel more comfortable coming to Colorado since Marijuana was legalized. Colorado tries to be as authentic Colorado as possible. There is a need to recognize issues to be able to welcome all people:
 - Denver is different from the rest of Colorado
 - Minorities see open carry with guns
 - There is a history of strong Klan presence
 - Strong history of racism
 - There is an openness to learn about issues
- The Great American Outdoor Act was a tremendous help in the preservation of our National Parks and Monuments.
- The overall message was things will get better; however, there will be challenges ahead. There needs to be more support from Congress; we need to reimagine Colorado Tourism (what changes, such as street closures or requiring reservation need to become permanent), evaluate what is the true cost of tourism regarding the need for additional housing, electricity, trash removal, water, and asking what do the citizens want. Overtourism is an issue.
- The future will be road trips, local travel, fewer conferences, events, business trips.
- The U.S. Travel Association is working to secure relief and protection by educating law makers by explaining 50% of industry employees lost jobs, how industry will be harmed and the impact to families. The first round of relief helped. Now there needs to be another round of relief.

The 2021 Gov. Con is set to take place Sept. 22–24, 2021, at The Westin Snowmass Resort.

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.

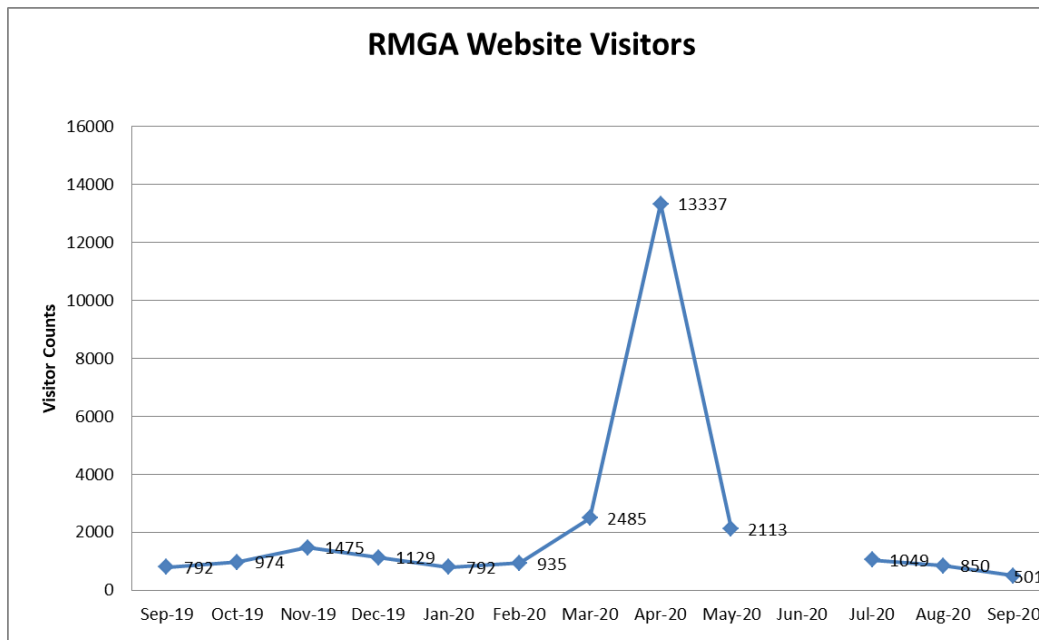
What's New on the Members Only Page?

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

- *Added New 2020 Individual Membership Application*
- *Added New 2020 Business Membership Application*
- *Updated Join RMGA page with changes from Membership Chairman*
- *Added "Retired - \$30.00 to the Dues page*
- *Replaced RMGA Bylaws with May 6, 2020 Version*
- *Replaced RMGA Policies with May 6, 2020 Version*
- *Updated Board of Directors with Ethan as President and VP blank*
- *Removed June in 2020 Program Schedule*
- *Uploaded 6/5/20 Version of membership roster*
- *Removed FAM trip dates from Program/Events page*
- *Changed contact for those wishing to know more about Programs, FAMs, and Seminars to rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com*
- *Uploaded 6/24/20 version of membership roster.*
- *Updated the contact information for Jim Watson*
- *Added the May Program PowerPoint presentation, Geology Rocks*
- *Added the YouTube link to the recording of the May Program*
- *Added the May Program review*
- *Uploaded the special edition August Guideline*
- *Uploaded the September Guideline*

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The number of visitors to the website in August was 850 hits and in September was 501. These are consistent with a year ago. I don't know why April had so many hits. It is certainly an anomaly.



Board of Directors Meetings

Monday, October 5, 2020 (9:00 am)

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

Monday December 7, 2020 (9:00 am)

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

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

OCTOBER MEMBERS MEETING

Cheesman Park and Idea Exchange

WHAT: RMGA MEMBERS (VIRTUAL) MEETING

WHEN: October 12, 2020

6:00pm – Networking

6:30pm – Short Meeting

6:45pm – Program: Cheesman Park: a stroll through time

WHERE: 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, use this link --<https://www.goplaydenver.com/cheesman-park/>.

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)

Member Meetings

Monday, October 12, 2020 (TBD)

Monday, November 9, 2020 (TBD)

Monday December 14, 2020 (TBD)

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

The Zoom link will be emailed to you soon.

2020 Governor's Conference on Tourism

The 2020 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference, with free registration, was held as a virtual event September 17, 2020. Many RMGA members took advantage of the opportunity to attend.

The RMGA Board of Directors encourages Members attending this important event to send in a brief summary of the information they received as well as their impressions of the virtual format of the conference. Send emails to rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com.

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	Deanna Scott	303-884-8503
Treasurer	Wendy Pickering	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	David White	303-868-0023

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification		
Education		
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		720-425-5931
Nominations	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Website	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
	Larry Foos	303-979-7594