



October 2025

VOL 33, No 7

President’s Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Whaddaya know?! October has arrived. And with October, RMGA reconvenes monthly member meetings and programs. Check out the Members Only page of the RMGA Website for information regarding dates, times, and topics.

I’m excited to note that several members have stepped up to organize programs for 2025-2026. In fact, the calendar is almost filled! This was often not the case during previous recent years. The programs will supplement your knowledge and provide you with insights that will increase your credibility when you lead your next tour. Our thanks to Charles Foster, Steve Kaverman, and Hans Kleinschmidt for “wrangling” some of these upcoming programs.

Have you missed previous programs or want to refresh your memory? Check out the Members Only page of the RMGA website to access video recordings of previous meetings and programs. Our thanks to Tom Jensen for making them available to us members.

Are you craving a Familiarization Trip? All you have to do is start setting one up. Find some guidance [elsewhere](#) in this issue of the *Guide Line*.

As a civic organization, RMGA is owned and operated by its members. It is truly a democratic organization and relies on its members to give it relevance and life. RMGA will continue to serve tour guide professionals only if current members engage in organizational activities. Seriously consider taking on one of the **Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities** available in the Association. They are [listed](#) elsewhere in this issue. I am tremendously grateful for the members who volunteer to take on Board positions and or Committee Chair positions.

Mike Pearl, President RMGA

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FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the November *Guide Line* is Wednesday, October 29, 2025. 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

October 2025

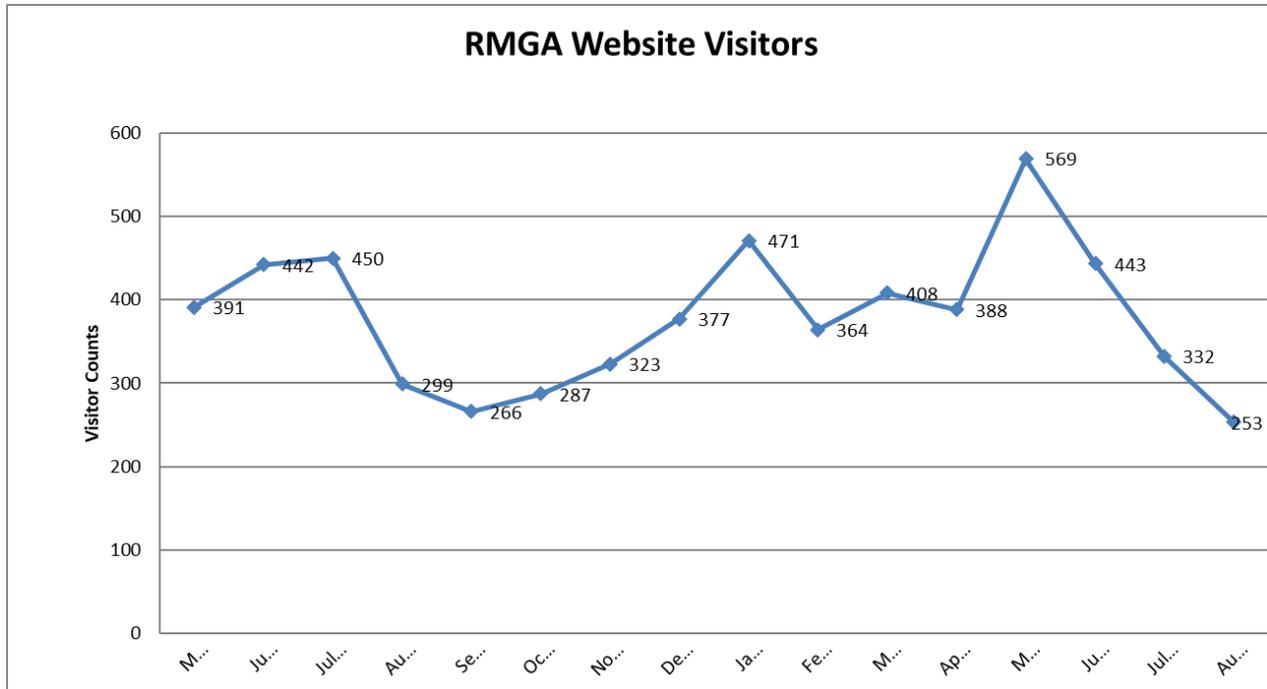
What's New on the Website?

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

- No updates were made.

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

Below is a year-to-date comparison of the number of visitors that viewed the RMGA Website. The September visitor account was not available from our website host.



Access to Members Only Page – On April 4th an e-mail was sent to current members with the new access code and instructions for the Members Only page. On this page you will discover archived copies of the Guide Line, Program and FAM triip reviews, and governing documents. If you are having difficulties accessing the page contact Tom Jensen at tom.jensen72@yahoo.com.

Profile Update – For instructions on creating or changing your Profile see the “Creating & Changing Your Profile” button on the Members Only page.

E-Mail Distribution:

The distribution of e-mails continues to be done on a temporary basis. If you are interested in sending out the e-mail blasts, contact Mike Pearl at rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com.

If you are not receiving e-mails please contact Tom Jensen at rmgacommunicaations@rockymountaintourguides.com.

Education Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl

Call for Familiarization (FAM) Tours. Did you come across an experience that all members should know about? Is there a venue, attraction, or place that you'd like to learn about? That's a great excuse for a FAM trip. We haven't had many since COVID and we've forgotten why and how to conduct them.

FAM trips usually occur over a 6-hour time (ideally, 9:00 am-3:00 pm) on a weekday. Members get an inside look at a venue or attraction (or two) during a morning session and an afternoon session and have lunch together in the middle. The event provides a great opportunity for members to sharpen their knowledge about places and to network with venue and attraction operators. (As well as each other.)

Organize a FAM Trip. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) to get the ball rolling.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

The RMGA Board of Directors thanks you for your membership. The latest membership directory is posted on the Members Only page of the RMGA Website. Is your information correct?

RMGA welcomes new members! Do your part to improve and expand RMGA's knowledge base by increasing the number and diversity of our members. The best means is for each of us to make a personal connection with non-member tour guides.

Invite tour guides to RMGA's next meeting in-person or on Zoom. Send their contact information to Membership Committee Chair [Mike Pearl](#) so they can be included on the [Zoom Meeting Invitation](#).

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

GUEST FEES

1st & 2nd Time, Same Guest Visit: Free

3rd – 5th Times, Same Guest Visit: \$10.00 each time

SUCCEEDING TIMES, SAME GUEST: MUST JOIN RMGA

Nominations Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President
No submission this month.

Program Committee

WHAT: RMGA Member Meeting & Program

WHEN: October 13, 2025

6:00 pm Networking

6:30 pm Business Meeting

6:45 pm Program – The Stiles African-American Heritage Center

WHERE: 2607 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205

PROGRAM: When Grace Stiles (9/13/1932-1/26-2025) retired from teaching in the Denver Public Schools system, she made it her mission to provide children and the community with content that was missing from the system's curriculum: history lessons about African American contributions to this country and our American way of life.

First, she started "Black History on Wheels" and took her history lessons and reenactments on the road to various Denver schools. Then, in 1995, she used her retirement savings to purchase two abandoned Victorian-era houses in the historic Five Points neighborhood, transforming them into a thriving heritage center that offers an in-depth look into the accomplishments and contributions to our country's culture, economy, and richness by its Black residents.

Join Karolette Greene, daughter of Mrs. Grace Stiles

as she introduces us to the late Grace Stiles and Denver's own African American Heritage Center.

For more information about the Center, click [here](#).

RMGA Program Coordinator: Charles Foster 720-388-3137

Parking: Along Glenarm Place, 26th Street, 25th Avenue, and North Washington Avenue

The program will be available via Zoom. Watch your email for an invitation.

See the information flyer for this program, including photos, on [pages 12-14](#) of this newsletter.

2025-2026 Calendar of Programs

October 13: Stiles African American Heritage Center

November 10: Rich Luckin, 16th Street Reconstruction Project | Koelbel Library

December 8: Holiday Mixer

January 12: The River Mile Project

February 9: Watch Party of the Opening Presentations, World Conference of **World**

Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) Fukuoka, Japan.

March 9: 16thStreet Revitalization

April 13: Annual Meeting (Elections) – Summer Season Preview

May 11: (Available)

One program date is available – May 11. Contact [Mike Pearl](#) or [Hans Kleinschmidt](#) with your idea for that program. What can you do to put together a program? Because of our ZOOM account, programs can originate from any of our members' locations in Colorado and New Mexico.

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Public Relations Committee Chair



• 16TH ST •
GRAND OPENING
From Market St. to Broadway
October 4 | Starting at 11 a.m.

FREE TO ATTEND

Downtown Denver Partnership | RTD | DENVER THE MILE HIGH CITY

LIVE MUSIC ♦ BUSINESS DEALS ♦ SCAVENGER HUNT

A MILE OF CELEBRATION , THE DENVER WAY

downtowndenver.com/grandopening

The poster is for the 16th Street Grand Opening. It features a purple background with a white diamond pattern. The main text is in large, bold, black letters. A white starburst graphic contains the text "FREE TO ATTEND". Logos for Downtown Denver Partnership, RTD, and Denver are included. A black banner at the bottom of the text area lists "LIVE MUSIC ♦ BUSINESS DEALS ♦ SCAVENGER HUNT". Below this is another black banner with the text "A MILE OF CELEBRATION , THE DENVER WAY". A photograph shows a street scene with a colorful archway that says "16TH STREET" and people walking. At the bottom, the website "downtowndenver.com/grandopening" is listed.

16th Street FreeRide

DENVER (Sept. 11, 2025) — The Regional Transportation District (RTD) has announced plans to return its no-cost bus shuttle service to the full length of 16th Street on Sunday, Oct. 5. At the start of service that day, the 16th Street FreeRide will resume normal operations between Denver Union Station and Civic Center Station. The return of the shuttle to the full length of 16th Street will follow a grand opening celebration hosted by the Downtown Denver Partnership on Saturday, Oct. 4, to officially reopen the 1.25-mile corridor.

The 16th Street FreeRide, formerly known as the Free MallRide, was rebranded earlier this year to reflect the corridor's new name, and it has operated on detour since 2022. That's when Denver's multi-year reconstruction of the iconic 16th Street pedestrian mall and transitway began between Market Street and Broadway. The project focused on addressing safety and maintenance issues related to 16th Street's aging infrastructure.



E-Bulletin

August 26, 2025

- **Colorado Road Trip Weekend** – Fri Sep 26-Sun 28, 2025 – Create PR & Social Posts - www.ColoradoByways.org
- **Creative Opportunities Colorado 150** – Sep 18 1p
- https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_kP7Cu0gRcW46ylQSRj9ZQ
- **Conservation: 10-Year Revision of CO Wildlife Plan** – Sep 23 1p
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9pBw2QosS3-hwQ4gM58exA>
- **Charge Ahead EV Grant** – Open Sep 15 to Oct 17 5pm
- <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/charge-ahead-colorado#how-to-apply>

- **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** – essential training, connections, for local businesses - <https://sfdc.colorado.gov>
- **How to write great LinkedIn Articles** – <https://www.linkedhelper.com/blog/linkedin-articles-examples/>
- **Heritage Tourism Resources & Guides** – https://www.achp.gov/heritage_tourism
- **American Road Magazine Subscription** – <https://simplecirc.com/subscribe/american-road-magazine?source=ARMNSBF>
- **Feature Your Events for Colorado 150!** – <https://www.historycolorado.org/colorado-150>
- **Tourism Community Library Designation** – <https://www.lrs.org/2024/08/02/welcome-to-the-tourism-community-library-designation/>

To be added to list, email Byways@state.co.us

♿♿ Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail
Thirty-five+ Years of Scenic Vistas & History One Mile at a Time

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 vice president and president, Hans Kleinschmidt and I meet with other leaders of US tour guide associations and guilds through monthly Zoom meetings. We report to RMGA members the information from those meetings.

President Mike Pearl and Vice President Hans Kleinschmidt represent RMGA to

- National Federation of Tourist Guides Associations monthly leadership meetings, and
- Care for Colorado Partners quarterly 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. He is our liaison to VISIT Denver, the Colorado Tourism Organization, VISIT Colorado Springs, and Tour Colorado, among other such organizations. Do you know of a tourism organization with which RMGA should be affiliated? Contact Tom with information.

The RMGA Website and the RMGA Facebook Page are the digital faces of the organization. They are resources available for members to use to promote their own activities and develop business leads.

The *Guide Line* newsletter disseminates relevant information to members in nine monthly installments.

RMGA Email Blasts inform members of available job opportunities as well as time-sensitive information.

VISIT Denver “Go the EXTRA Mile” Training

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

VISIT Denver’s Front Line Staff Training Program “**Go the EXTRA Mile**” has returned. Many members of RMGA have taken the training and have found it very valuable. The training program is free to RMGA members because of RMGA’s partnership with VISIT Denver.

What’s in Your Library?

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

RMGA members wanting to form a book club, contact President Mike Pearl.

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 *Guide Line*

The official way that RMGA as an organization communicates with members is by means of the newsletter, *Guide Line*, published September through May. Editor Eileen Pearl collects articles submitted by members for the benefit of professional tour guiding. In addition to RMGA members, the *Guide Line* is sent to the Colorado Tourism Organization (CTO), the National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (NFTGA), and other tourism-promoting organizations. The newsletter is distributed by Tom Jensen, in his temporary role as transmitter of the RMGA email Blasts. Send your articles to [Eileen Pearl](#).

RMGA Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities

Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- Certification Committee Chair (Must have the RMGA Colorado Certification)
- Education Committee Chair
- Email Distribution Committee Chair
- Program Committee Chair

Contact any Board member with your interest.

Memorable Experiences on Tour

Please use the *Guide Line* to share some of your memorable experiences so that we can all learn. Email your submissions to the [Editor](#). You may also post to the RMGA Facebook [page](#).

Future Conferences & Meetings

Are you going? Send stories of your experiences to the [Editor](#). Post comments to the RMGA Facebook [page](#). This way, we can all learn.

GOVCON-Colorado Governor’s Tourism Conference October 22-24, 2025; Hotel Polaris, Colorado Springs, CO. Mike Pearl and Hans Kleinschmidt will represent RMGA.

World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) Fukuoka, Japan, February 5-17, 2026. Registration opens in the spring. <https://wftga.org/activities/convention/2026-fukuoka-japan/>

National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations-USA (NFTGA-USA) Salt Lake City, Utah, January 13-15, 2027. Registration opens in 2026.

Are You Colo-Ready?

RMGA is 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*:



The Care for Colorado Coalition has joined with Do Colorado Right to amplify the message. RMGA has access to Care for Colorado assets such as stickers and flyers. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) with your request for materials.

Stick to the Trail October 2025

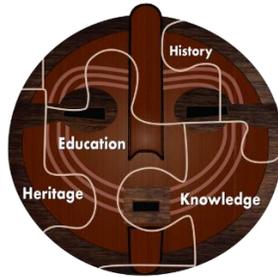
Colorado boasts an impressive 39,000 miles of developed trails. This month, help us encourage everyone to embrace the adventure by staying on designated paths. Sticking to the trail is a simple yet crucial action that ensures visitor safety, reduces the risk of getting lost, and preserves Colorado's precious plant life and the habitats of local wildlife. Wandering off-trail leads to erosion and damages the vibrant plants that define our landscape. In fact, it takes fewer than 25 passes to permanently damage vegetation and create new, unauthorized trails. Even in wet, muddy or icy conditions, “Do Colorado Right” by walking in the center of the trail to prevent its widening. Join us in inspiring both visitors and residents to consciously “Stick to the Trail” to maintain Colorado's beautiful landscapes and protect nature with every step. Help visitors plan ahead and “Know Before You Go” by using www.COtrip.org to find the best route and ensure that you create and partake in the best Colorado leaf peeping experience. (from *Monthly Messaging* newsletter, September 2025)

Agenda

Inventors of Excellence

Rocky Mountain Guide Association

Meets



Stiles African American Heritage Center
Honoring Mrs. Grace Lea Stiles, Museum Founder
on
On October 13, 2025 hosted by Charles Foster

WHAT: October Membership Meeting

WHEN: October 13, 2025

6:00 pm – Networking with Introductions by Charles Foster

6:30 pm – Short Meeting

6:45 pm – Inventors of Excellence and Tour of the Museum

WHERE:

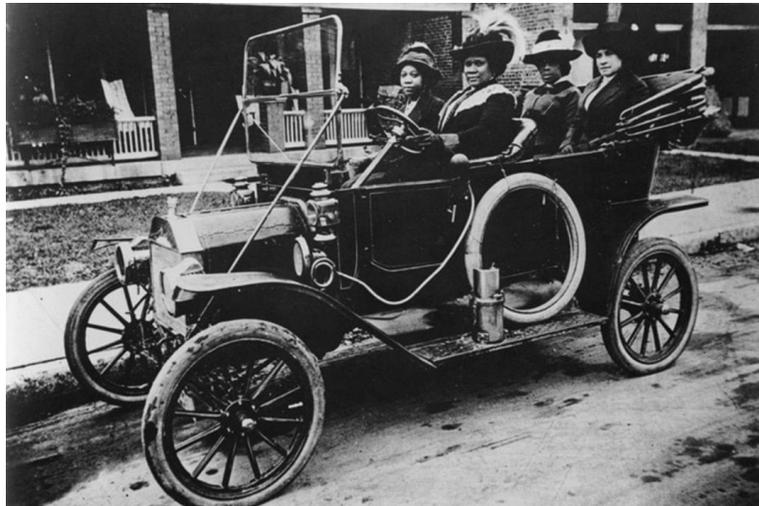
In Person: Stiles African American Heritage Center, 2607 Glenarm Place, Denver, Colorado 80205

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81204967548>

Meeting ID: 812 0496 7548

SPEAKER: Karolette Greene, daughter of Mrs. Grace Stiles

PROGRAM: Fall has arrived and as our first RMGA meeting "Inventors of Excellence," this gathering, highlights the Stiles African-American Center. This museum is unique with its preserved historical stories, rare artifacts, achievements by African-Americans, all coordinated in a fun – educational learning environment. This museum is housed in one of the original homes which reflects the character of Denver's five points historical district which is another gem that should remain polished and shared.



Madam C. J. Walker, 1st African American Millionaire

FOOD: Appetizers provided by the Heritage Center (salmon, cheese, crackers, Pasta salad, & chicken. Wine and seltzers waters)

PARKING: Street parking only

GUESTS: Members are encouraged to invite potential members as guests to meeting.

GUEST FEES: 1st and 2nd Time Gues Free. Third through Fifth Time, Same Guest Visit is \$10 each time. Succeeding Times, Same Guest Must Join RMGA.

MEETING NIGHT CONTACT: Charles Foster (720 388-3137), Mike Pearl (303) 868-0023 voice & text or Tom Jensen (303) 968-05151



Stiles African–American Heritage Center

NFTGA Leadership Meetings

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

RMGA is a member of the National Federation of Tourist Guides ([NFTGA-USA](#)), 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.

Under the leadership of president Jim Carr, NFTGA is providing educational programming from a national perspective to all local association members via monthly webinars. Watch your email for details and register for the October virtual event. If you are unable to attend the live stream, the recording will be available to watch for the following 30 days.

Another initiative is to provide a library of resources for member associations. These resources include “Best Practices” documents for local associations. The initiative aligns with NFTGA’s mission to support local associations in their endeavors to serve their members. The group is developing a resource library based on the best practices of the local associations. The next NFTGA Leadership Meeting will be held Thursday, October 9, 2025 via ZOOM 6:30-8:00 pm. The group will review their document review their draft document, “Local Association Site for Monthly Meeting and FAM Experience.” All RMGA members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) for a link.

The Arizona Guides Association (AGA) is applying to join NFTGA. You don’t know about them? Go to their [website](#). What’s exciting is that the 4 Corners area of the United States each has a guide association: Arizona (AGA), Utah (Utah Tour Guide Association), New Mexico (Santa Fe Tour Guides), and Colorado (RMGA). Tucked neatly into the western corner is the Las Vegas Tour Guides Guild, making a fifth organization here in the Mountain West!

Colorado 150/250

2026 marks Colorado’s Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary. Check out <https://www.historycolorado.org/colorado-150> for more information. Also, take a look at <https://celebrate.colorado.gov/> to see how Coloradans are celebrating.

Are you a member of any group organizing for Sesquicentennial? Contact President [Mike Pearl](#).

The associations “next door” to us are the Utah Tour Guide Association ([UTGA](#)) and the Santa Fe Tour Guides ([SFTG](#)). Check out their websites. When you’re traveling, check the NFTGA membership [page](#) to locate the web address for the organization serving your destination. Then, reach out to the organization and make a connection.

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

Upcoming Meetings

Board of Directors Meetings

The first Monday of January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November, December

Monday, October 6, 2025 (7:00 pm)

Monday, November 3, 2025 (7:00 pm)

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

Monday, December 1, 2025 (7:00 pm)

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

Member Meetings

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

Monday, October 13, 2025 (6:00 pm)

Monday, November 10, 2025 (6:00 pm)

Monday, December 8, 2025 (6:00 pm)

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	Hans Kleinschmidt	303-990-2505
Secretary	Dawn Nelsen	303-898-6853
Treasurer	Brad Hatfield	303-522-3944
Director-at-Large	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification	<i>Vacant</i>	
Communications	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Education	<i>Vacant</i>	
Hospitality	Lily Ewing	303-250-9679
Membership	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Newsletter Editor	Eileen Pearl	303-868-0021
Program	<i>Vacant</i>	
Public Relations	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Nominations	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023