

VOL 30, No 2

President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

The January program featured "South Park" - not the Cartoon Network animated comedy, but the actual South Park City Museum in Fairplay. Education Committee Chair David White and the committee are pursuing a FAM tour to Park County for 2022. If you have contacts in Park County and with Park County Tourism, get in touch with David to offer your assistance with the FAM ([David White](mailto:David.White@parkcountytourism.com) 720-217-8643).

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.

The National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (NFTGA), of which RMGA is a member, hosted a live presentation featuring travel writer and fellow guide Rick Steves. RMGA members in (virtual) attendance were inspired by Steves's comments on travel, tourism, and guiding. For an example of his views on the value of travel check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9bprJ6V_4c

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

February 2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
<u>From the Editor</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Committee Updates</u>	<u>2-14</u>
<u>Organization Activities</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>February Members Program</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>NFTGA News</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Rick Steves NFTGA Presentation Summary</u>	<u>15, 16</u>
<u>Petition: Saving Historic 5-Points</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Board of Directors Meetings</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Members Meetings</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Purpose of RMGA</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Officers and Chairpersons</u>	<u>18</u>

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the March, 2022 *Guide Line* is **Friday, February 25**. 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

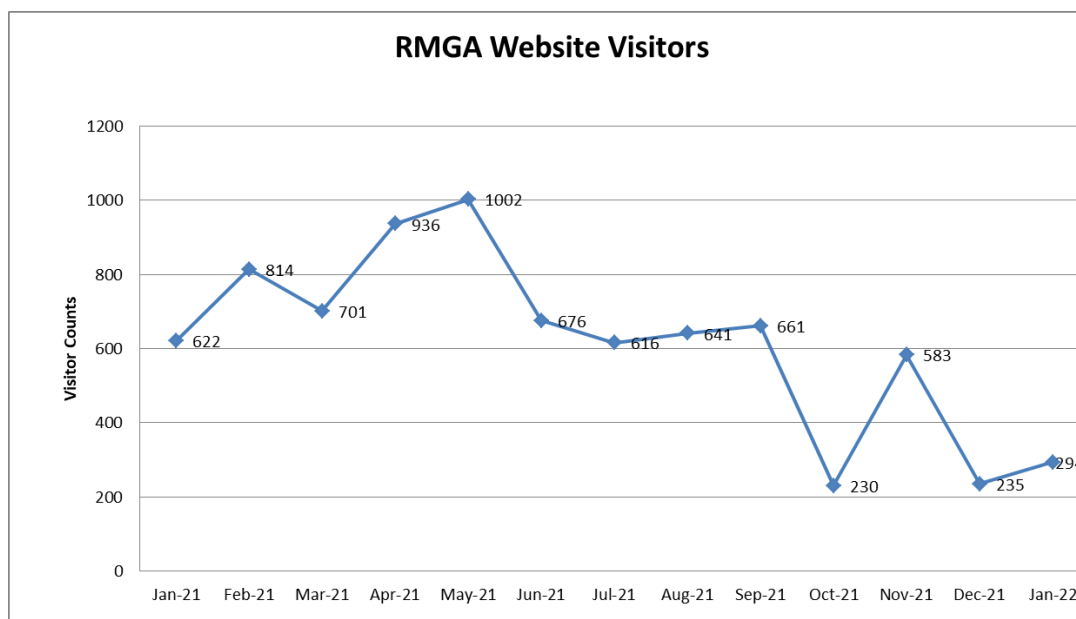
Submitted by Tom Jensen

What's New on the Members Only Page?

- *Created new page for 2022 Program Schedules*
- *Added January Program to Schedule Page*
- *The 2022 Guide Lines buttons*
- *Uploaded the January Guide Line*
- *The December Holiday party YouTube video*
- *The 2022 Program Review Page*
- *The January Program YouTube video*

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitor to our website remains constant. As of December 29, 2021, the December number of hits is 216.



Starting January 2022, 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.

YouTube Channels

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

The links to the 2021 Holiday Party and the January 2022 presentation on South Park Ghost Town are now on the Members Only page of the website.

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, 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.

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

Membership Committee

Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

Membership renewal time has passed. 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 January 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

No submission this month.

Program Committee

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

Denver Art Museum



WHAT: RMGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING –

WHEN: February 14, 2022

6:00 pm – Networking

6:30 pm – Short Meeting

6:45 pm – Program: Denver Art Museum

WHERE: Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89426737852>

Meeting ID: 89426737852

One tap mobile phone: +17207072699,, 89426737852# US (Denver)

PROGRAM: Learn about the Denver Art Museum’s collections, programs and upcoming exhibitions as well as highlights from the recently reopened Martin Building. The DAM’s Martin Building project—including the renovation of the iconic Martin Building and the construction of the new Sie Welcome Center—expands the museum’s ability to serve the community, welcome guests to our city, and preserve and present priceless works of art from cultures around the world and throughout history for generations to come.

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) 303-263-8647 (text)



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"



Longwoods International Travel Research:

Nearly 80% of American travelers have trips currently planned in 2022. More than 70% have engaged in travel planning and/or dreaming in the past week alone — a 7-point increase over the past month. Excitement for an unplanned getaway (70.0%) and openness to travel inspiration (66.2%) both increased 5 points in the past two weeks.

Americans are most interested in enjoying scenic beauty, warm-weather outdoor activities, road trips, dining in regional restaurants, visiting historical sites and enjoying street food during their travels.

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.



Boggsville, Colorado: Women living in Boggsville were vital to the town's creation

Boggsville was founded in 1862 on land owned by two women: Rumalda Luna Bent Boggs and Ameohtse'e (Amache) Powers. This was at a time when it was very unusual for women to own land.

The land Boggsville sits on was originally part of the Vigil and St.Vrain Land Grant (4.1 million acres stretching from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the Arkansas River). Rumalda and her aunt Josefa inherited 2040 acres from their uncle, Cornelio Vigil. Amache Powers received a 640-acre tract, as did her mother and two daughters as land reparations to the Sand Creek Massacre survivors and their descendants.

Boggsville, located on the Purgatoire River, near Las Animas in Southeastern Colorado, was first used as a campsite by the Plains Indians. With the fur trade vanishing, many former mountain men found work raising livestock. Through his wife's government land grant connections, Thomas Boggs started his ranch near the river on a branch of the Santa Fe Trail. It became known as Boggsville after he and his wife, Rumalda Luna Bent Boggs, built their first home. John Wesley Prowers moved to the Boggs's ranch in 1867 along with frontiersman Kit Carson and his family. A year later, with Carson in poor health, his wife, Josefa, died from childbirth complications. Kit died several weeks later at nearby Fort Lyon. Thomas Boggs was the executor of Carson's will.

History Mystery: Did you know there were three different burial sites for Kit and Josefa Carson? One was in Boggsville, Colorado the second was in Cimarron, New Mexico, and the third was their final resting place in Taos, New Mexico.



Here's a short video about Boggsville:

<https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=29F8BF98-155D-451F-67BD7C3DC902A189>

For a more in-depth view of Boggsville:

Boggsville Historic Site – along the Santa Fe Trail, visit it on-site or from home and immerse yourself – By <https://explore.factorearth.com/>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)

Happy 125th Anniversary!

CPW celebrated a major milestone in January. Established in April 1897, CPW has conserved and protected Colorado's lands, water, and wildlife for 125 years. Check out the gorgeous new logo they'll be using all year long.



On a very snowy night, February 10, 2020 RMGA had a very informative program on Colorado Parks and Wildlife by speaker: Tony Gurzick, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Creative Services and Marketing Section Manager. Tony's presentation told about the department and some of the animals of Colorado.

Did you know our wildlife belongs to the people of Colorado, not the landowner? People must have landowner's permission to hunt. There is no need to post; no need to put up fence or signs.

To read the notes from that program: <https://www.rockymountaintourguides.com/2020-february-colorado-parks-and-wildlife.html>



LOST HIGHWAYS

Have you listened to History Colorado's award-winning documentary podcast, **Lost Highways: Dispatches from the Shadows of the Rocky Mountains**? In it, Noel Black and Tyler Hill set out to discover Colorado through stories they can't believe they've never heard before.

The link to these podcasts is at <https://www.historycolorado.org/losthighways>

Season one explores the roots of familiar contemporary topics such as talk-radio culture, same-sex marriage, and American Indian mascots. It also mines insights from stories on Japanese incarceration and forced relocation during World War II, minority settlements, and the “Red Elvis,” a man who might have been John Denver before he defected to cold-war East Germany.

Season two explores connections between past and current events, whether it's the 1919 Flu Epidemic, the declaration of Martial Law in 1936 to attempt to prevent immigration into Colorado, and comparisons between 19th century and modern day prostitution in Denver.

Season three looks at concepts of justice and will leave the listener with a deeper understanding of how that has operated—and where it has fallen short of its promise—in the historical West and, more broadly, in the United States



NFTGA LIVE VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

GUEST SPEAKER: RICK STEVES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

With the postponement of the 2022, NFTGA Conference that was to be held in San Antonio, NFTGA held a Virtual Presentation with guest speaker Rick Steves, the International travel guru.

Based on my observation, four members of RMGA attended this most interesting and educational program: Kim Smith, Michael Pearl, Steve Kaverman, and Tom Jensen.

Retiring NFTGA President, Ellen Malasky provided opening remarks, a brief history of the NFTGA, and introduced the incoming NFTGA Board.

Did you know?

- NFTGA was founded in 1998
- The 13 stars in the logo are for the 13 original founding associations
- NFTGA calls itself a “Tourist Guide” Association because in most of the world outside of the US, “Tour Guide” refers to a guide book while “Tourist Guide” refers to a person

- RMGA's Code of Ethics is based on the NFTGA Code of Ethics, one of the first accomplishments of the newly founded organization.

We were provided with a sneak peek of the next in-person NFTGA conference, scheduled to take place January 25-27, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas.

It was a very informal presentation by Rick Steves, almost like talking to him across the table. His focus was, "After Covid, what's next?" A few of my takeaways:

As guides we should Guide..Teach ..Inspire.

Covid: He's taken 2 extensive trips to Europe lately. He didn't have any complications as a result of Covid. You must be vaccinated, you must present your CDC card everywhere, your hotel is the best place to find a site to get tested for your return trip, and complete your passenger locator form before you get to the airport.

Tour Philosophy: He wants his travelers to see Europe through the back door; he honors peoples' independence; he wants them to have an experience; do crowded Europe so it doesn't feel crowded; sell experiences over comfort; talk about religion, politics, and soccer as long as you show both sides of the story

Guides: Are paid up front – no tipping; no kickbacks from shops or optional tours; on-board guides are guides and tour managers utilizing local guides; prefers guides with a leg in 2 cultures – one in the US; one in a foreign country

Punctuality: He will leave people if they are late.

Global Warming: He has a self-imposed carbon tax of \$30/person which he gives to 10 organizations working to reduce global warming. He sends 30,000 to Europe which is a \$90,000 donation

Guide Books: He give his guests a guide book of each city visited. As he respects the intelligence & independence of the guests, he provides an orientation in each city visited and then disperses them to explore the city on their own.

Experiences: The guides should provide experiences – stop the bus, present unfamiliar foods, invite the chef to present the dinner

(Another summary of Rick Steves' presentation, submitted by Steve Kaverman, is located on Pages 15 and 16 of this *Guide Line*.)

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Rocky Mountain Guides Association represents professional tour guides in 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.

Program Committee

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

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 whole concept of Care for Colorado. Check out this video describing “Care for Colorado,” produced by The Care for Colorado Coalition

<https://www.colorado.com/videos/care-colorado>

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. [Do Colorado Right](#): is the 2021 advertising campaign from the Colorado Tourism Organization. The videos are entertaining and instructive for potential visitors to Colorado. In this episode, find out about the Royal Gorge Region <https://www.colorado.com/videos/experience-royal-gorge-region>

FEBRUARY MEMBER PROGRAM

Denver Art Museum



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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)
303-263-8647 (text)**

NFTGA LEADERSHIP MEETINGS AND TOURISM

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

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](#).

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!

Rick Steves NFTGA Presentation Summary

Submitted by Steve Kaverman

This report highlights Rick Steves special guest appearance for the National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (NFTGA), ZOOM presentation on 27 January 2022.

Rocky Mountain Guides Association (RMGA) members were invited to attend this ZOOM presentation by virtue of RMGA's membership in the NFTGA. Rick's presentation was excellent, and inspirational -- **worth the price of an annual RMGA membership**, in my view. If you aren't familiar with Rick Steves, his reputation in the industry, his tours, guidebooks, travel products or writing, visit RickSteves.com. Rick Steves Audio Europe is another great resource, available as a free app.

During his presentation, Rick showed a video clip of his film [Why We Travel](#), which can be viewed by following the link.

Rick began traveling in Europe as a student and first worked as a guide with COSMOS on the continent. He has since built a well-respected and very successful tour company focused on *experiential tours* of Europe, employing 100 guides, and offering 40 itineraries. Guides are committed to supporting the company's mission to teach and broaden the perspectives of fellow travelers. Rick Steves Tours took 30,000 tourists to Europe in 2019, supporting his ambition to, "inspire Americans to venture beyond Orlando." As a good steward of the planet, his company voluntarily paid a carbon tax for each of their flights.

He feels it is our job to, "guide, teach and inspire," and to "create transformational experiences" for our tour guests; whether with them for a week, or an hour. As a teacher, we must be the

‘unbiased organizer’ of discussion among the group. “We gain understanding (of other cultures, people, customs) when we travel,” says Rick, and “if you don’t travel, your opinion (of other nations and its citizens) is shaped by the media.” I recommend his book, *Travel as a Political Act*, and enjoyed meeting Rick after he spoke about the book at the Governor’s Tourism Conference a few years ago.

During the NFTGA presentation, Rick spoke frankly about the need to pay guides more than a “token wage”, as a way of assuring that guides don’t need to rely on tips, optional program commissions or ‘kick backs’ from retailers, to earn an income that will sustain them. It is a philosophy and a way of doing business that U.S. tour operators could learn from.

It is impossible in the space allotted here to report on Rick’s entire presentation. Here are a few memorable points.

- He stresses punctuality and leaves behind travelers whose tardiness he views as disrespectful. “Two minutes late, times 25 guests, equals 50 minutes of stolen time,” is the way he sees it. Rather than continually counting guests, he uses a “buddy system”, making every guest accountable for their buddy, and then merely asks, “is your buddy here?”, before commencing the day or proceeding after any stop. His system also helps build comradery among guests.
- He is committed to conducting a ‘First Night Talk,’ and cannot imagine a tour without one. During the Talk he previews the itinerary, sets expectations for guests, and of course builds excitement for the tour ahead.
- The fear of experiencing ‘Culture Shock’ keeps the timid from traveling, but Rick believes feelings of culture shock, “are the growing pains of a broadened world view.”
- “Age only matters if you’re cheese,” Rick said, stressing he has a “No Grumps” policy on his tours.
- “There’s no bad weather, just inappropriate clothing.”
- “Interpretation is key,” and merely reciting memorized facts doesn’t cut it. “Travel needs to be tactile, (you need to) smell it, touch it.”

Petition: Saving Historic 5-Points

Submitted by Charles Foster, Member

There is an online petition concerning the recent change of the original Casino Cabaret to make this building a full contributing building within the Denver Landmark Preservation Act and the Five Points African American Historical District to be returned to its original design, which was altered by the Operations Manager.

Currently over 3000 have signed the petition. If you would like to support the effort go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmhYZQcNGHzB3ew2feJBzHBBRNAsFwnlTRfvwtZ5f-S4yMg/viewform>.

The organizers of the petition drive are grateful for any support that they can get to help preserve the Denver Five Points area for generations to come!

You can view a featured story here: <https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/five-points-advocates-fighting-to-get-casino-cabaret-entrance-back-to-original-design>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

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

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

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

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

Monday, February 14, 2022 (6:30 pm)

Monday, March 14, 2022 (6:30 pm)

(Meetings via ZOOM; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective 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	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