



September 2025

VOL 33, No 6

President’s Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Welcome back *Guide Line!* After the summer 2025 tourism season, with all the frenetic activity, returning to monthly publication is a welcome respite. I hope you have had a meaningful and prosperous season.

As I sat to write this letter, I counted that I’ve written 69 “President’s Message” articles since I first took office as president in 2017. While Sherry Moon and Ethan Magusin were each president, I got a bit of a break. When the COVID pandemic occurred, they both moved away. I stepped back in as President and returned to writing the “President’s Message.” You members continue to vote to keep me as president, so I guess my writing’s not too bad.

Presiding over this organization has been an honor and a pleasure. I continue to meet interesting people and learn remarkable things about our Rocky Mountain West.

The May Meeting at the offices of World Trade Center Denver showed the vibrancy of a new enterprise. Globeville is taking on a whole new look with the Fox Park development. At one time in Denver’s history, Globeville was an international community of workers in the smelters and their families. With the coming of Fox Park, anchored by World Trade Center Denver, Globeville will once again claim its international charm. Our thanks to RMGA member Charles Foster for arranging for the program (and buffet) and to Karen Gerwitz, President and CEO of World Trade Center Denver for an informative program.

Check out the Members Only page of the RMGA website to access a video recording of the meeting and program.

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There is a generous offer from the History Colorado Center detailed on the Members Only page of the RMGA website. Have you taken advantage of it? Send your reactions concerning the exhibits to Newsletter Editor [Eileen Pearl](#).

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. Check out the **Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities** available in the Association [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

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the October *Guide Line* is Sunday, September 28, 2025. Future contributions should be emailed to *Guide Line* editor Eileen Pearl at rngaeditor@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

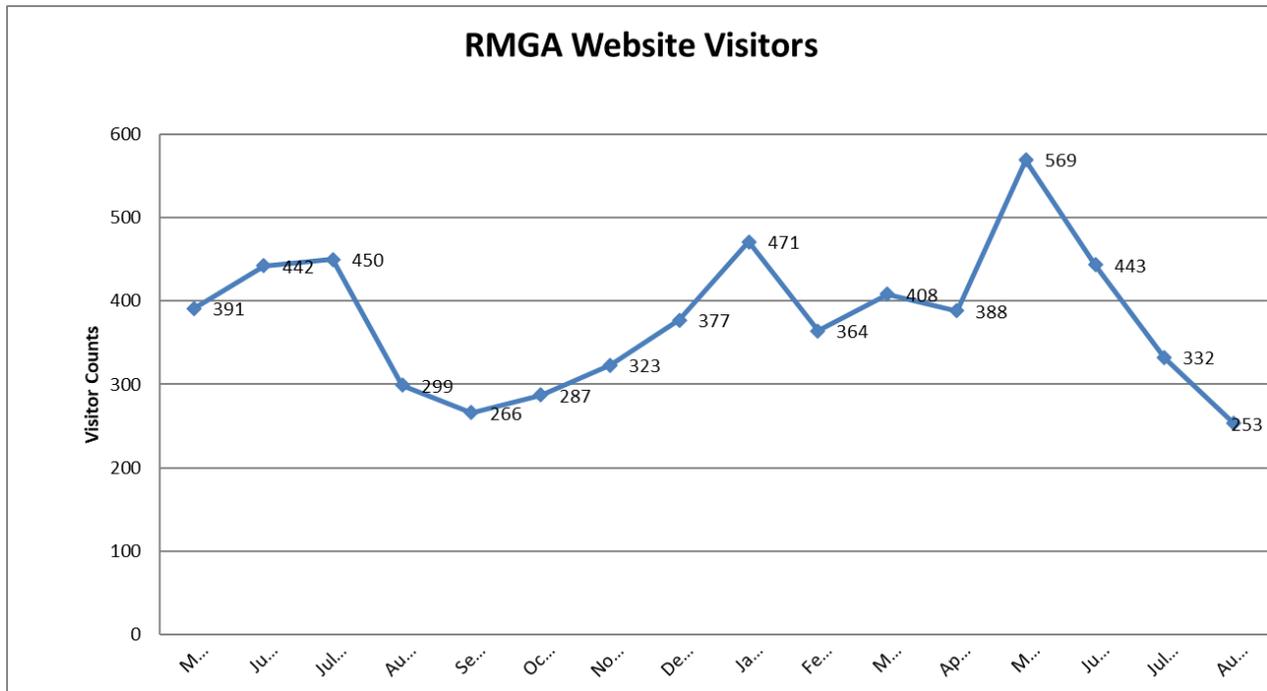
What's New on the Website?

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

- No updates were made during the summer

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

Below is a year-to-date comparison of the number of visitors that viewed the RMGA Website. May and June are estimates.



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 trip 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 that 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](#).

Nominations Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President
No submission this month.

Program Committee

2025-2026 Calendar

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: (Available)

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

May 11: (Available)

Two program dates are available – March 9 and May 11. Contact [Mike Pearl](#) or [Hans Kleinschmidt](#) with your idea for one of those monthly programs. What can you do to put together one of these programs? 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



Registration is now open for the 2025 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference!

The 2025 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference (Gov Con) is taking place Oct. 22-24, 2025 at newly opened Hotel Polaris in Colorado Springs.

Don't miss your chance to be part of the state's premier tourism event -- join industry leaders, innovators and changemakers for three days of inspiration, education and connection at the 2025 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference.

Registration instructions:

1. Visit the Gov Con website.
2. Click the blue "Register Now" button.
3. Full conference registration is available at an early bird rate of \$400 until Tuesday, Aug. 26.
4. Book your hotel accommodations at the Hotel Polaris [here](#). We recommend making your reservation as soon as possible to ensure you get a room at the conference hotel.
5. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for Gov Con! [Here is more information.](#)
6. We look forward to seeing everyone in October in Colorado Springs!



History Colorado



September 25-28 2025

Denver Architecture Foundation's signature event is exactly as it sounds – an opportunity to open the doors to the places and spaces that make the Mile High City such a special city in which to live, work, study and play. This year, we will explore the relationship between architecture, design, and planning and the natural environment through our theme "Architecture and Nature in Harmony." Explore with us September 25-28, 2025!

For more information: <https://denverarchitecture.org/>

Here's a sample of the Insider Tours that are being offered:

[10:00am Insider Tour: RiNo ArtPark](#)

[10:30am Insider Tour: Denver Zoo Sea Lion Habitat](#)

[10:30am Insider Tour: Denver Union Station](#)

[10:30am Insider Tour: The Brown Palace – A...](#)

[12:00pm Insider Tour: Byron White U.S. Courthouse](#)

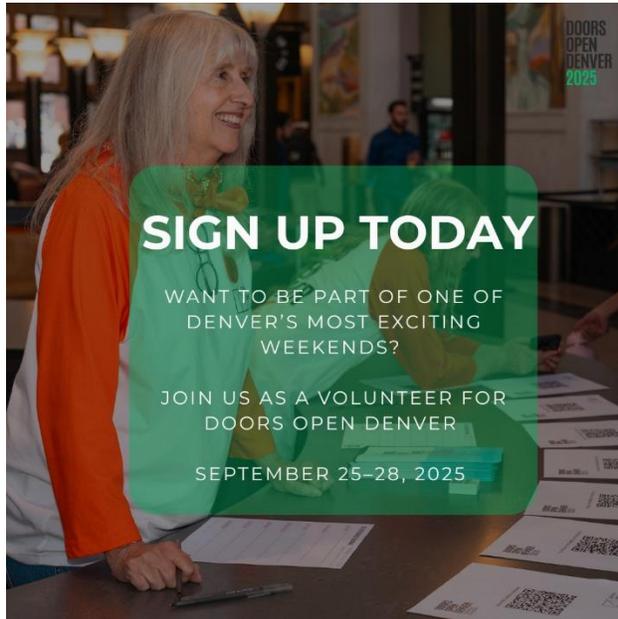
[12:00pm Insider Tour: A Century of Architectural...](#)

[12:30pm Insider Tour: Denver Union Station](#)

[1:00pm Insider Tour: Auraria Campus Master Plan](#)

[1:00pm Insider Tour: A National Historic Landmark in...](#)

[1:00pm Insider Tour: 16th St with Historic Denver](#)



Sign up Here to volunteer:

<https://denverarchitecture.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=031c070d64326b7311a144f74&id=2e57760bad&e=5dab514442>



E-Bulletin

August 26, 2025

- **Colorado Tourism Marketing Grant** – Due Aug 28, 2025 4pm – CO150 priorities - <https://oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-marketing-matching-grant>
- **Virtual Visitor Use Management Training** – Sep 16-18 - <https://www.recpro.org/professional-development/vum2025>
- **Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit** – Sep 17-18, Golden CO - <https://collaborativeconservation.org/cfcn/summit/>
- **Charge Ahead EV Grant** – Due Oct 17 5pm - <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/charge-ahead-colorado>
- **2025 Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference** – Oct 6-8, Steamboat Springs - <https://coloradoopenspace.org/conference/>
- **International Archeology Day** – Sat Oct 18, Red Rocks, Morrison CO - <https://www.communityconnections.biz/internationalarchaeologyday>
- **2025 Colorado Book Awards** – Announced July 26 - <https://coloradohumanities.org/programs/colorado-book-awards/>
- **Small Communities Workshop** – Save the Date Oct 16 - <https://dlg.colorado.gov/training-technical-assistance/small-communities-workshops>
- **Tourism, Recreation and Land Use to Address Climate and Fire** – Sep 2 - <https://www.aianta.org/webinar-series/>
- **A Golden Evening: Celebrating the Colorado-Hokkaido Sister Byways Partnership!** – LinkedIn Article - <https://shorturl.at/InSvq>

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

How Well Do You Know Colorado?

1. What Trail runs 567miles from the mouth of Waterton Canyon to Durango passing through eight mountain ranges, six National Forests, six wilderness areas and traverses five major river systems?

The Centennial Trail

The Colorado Trail

The Continental Divide Trail

2. Which of these bridges spans the Arkansas River in Colorado?

Royal Gorge

Douglas Crossing

San Luis

3. Which Colorado hotel served as inspiration for Stephen King’s movie “The Shining” and was the filming location for the 1997 miniseries?

Brown Palace, Denver

Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs

Stanley Hotel, Estes Park

4. Legend has it that this hotel served as part of the source for “Teddy Bears” becoming popular after a stay by then-president Theodore Roosevelt.

The Broadmoor Colorado Springs

Little Nell, Aspen

Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs

Editor's Note: Quiz questions #2, #3, and #4 were written by Diane Jensen Valvano and published in the Denver Post. No relation.

See pages 14-16 for answers to the questions.

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

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?

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

I recently stopped with a group for a photo opportunity at the “Denver, Love This City” mural at 2314 N Broadway. As the passengers were boarding the motor coach, one paused at the step and commented that he’d never seen streets so long and so straight as in Denver. He was gazing left and right along Arapahoe Street. I was surprised by his comment because the long, straight streets and roads in the West are something I’m used to. – Mike Pearl

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.

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.

Responsible Leaf Peeping

Venturing to the mountains to enjoy groves of golden aspen leaves is a fall Colorado tradition! As the trees begin changing colors, Colorado roads and trails become popular destinations for leaf peeping, especially on peak weekends.

This fall, help us remind visitors and residents to prioritize safety and be prepared for busy roads and trails. Focus on more colorful vistas by choosing lesser visited destinations or traveling during less popular times like during the week. For those enjoying the views from the road, pull over in safe, designated parking areas for the best photo ops. And be aware of cars traveling at lower speeds, parked on the roadside or pulling off the roadways ensures a smooth ride for everyone. 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)

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. The next webinar is set for September 24, 2025. Thomas Luebke (Secretary) and Kay Fanning (Historian) from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts will discuss their federal agency and their new book, “American Shrines: The Architecture of Presidential Commemoration.” Go [here](#) for more details and to register for this 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 to 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, September 11, 2025 via ZOOM 6:30-8:00 pm. The topic will be on “Website and Social Media Practices.” All RMGA members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) for a link.

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, September 8, 2025 (7:00 pm)

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)

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)

How well do you know Colorado Answers

1. The Colorado Trail.

Mile for mile the most beautiful trail in America... built and maintained by the volunteers of The Colorado Trail Foundation. For more information: <https://coloradotrail.org/>

567 mi - Total Trail

10,300 - Average Elevation

13,271 ft - Highest Elevation

89,000 ft - Total Gain

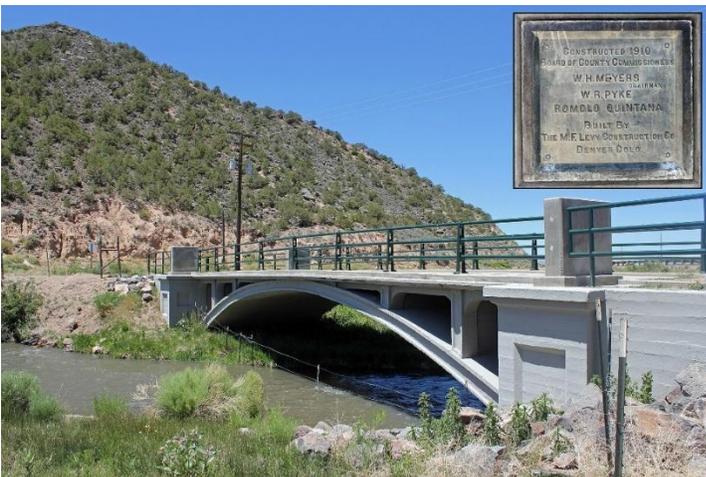
2. Royal Gorge



Royal Gorge Bridge, Colorado - looking westward as it crosses the Arkansas River



The Douglas Crossing Bridge, located in a rural section of Prowers County, Colorado, south of Granada, Colorado. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The San Luis Bridge in San Luis, Colorado. The inset shows the inscription that is on one of the uprights at the east side of the bridge. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Stanley Hotel



The Shining, a three-part miniseries and horror tv-adaptation, was written and produced by Stephen King. The miniseries, directed by Mick Garris, was filmed at the Stanley Hotel, which stood in for the fictional "Overlook Hotel", located in the Colorado Rockies.

4. Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs



5.

Hotel Colorado has hosted such historical figures as Teddy Roosevelt, William Taft, and the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown. Today, our guests range from world travelers to locals looking for an escape from the quotidian.

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