

VOL 28, No 10

President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl

The COVID-19 Pandemic maintains its grip, negatively affecting tourism in Colorado and around the world. RMGA's Board of Directors continues to pursue the purpose of our Association.

Please join me in thanking these members for their dedication:

- J. Mark Blaising, Vice-President and Program Committee Chair
- Wendy Pickering, Treasurer
- David White, Director at Large and Education Committee Chair
- Tom Jensen, Public Relations Committee Chair and Website Committee Chair
- Eileen Pearl, Newsletter Editor
- Marsha Momeni
- Barbara Foos
- Larry Foos

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

- Certification
- Email Blasts

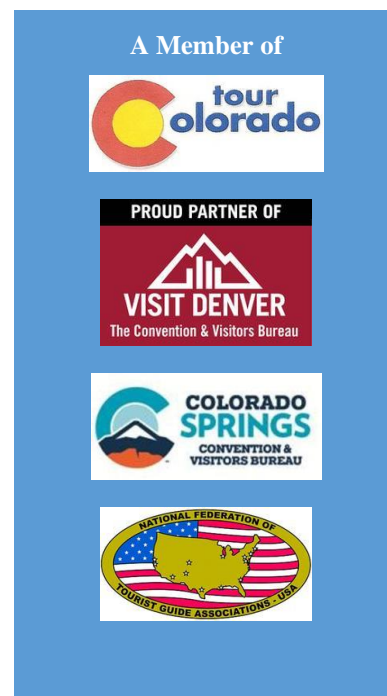
Like many businesses and organizations, the COVID-19 Pandemic is negatively affecting Rocky Mountain Guides Association. Methods of operation that were successful in the past are no longer viable. Long-time members will likely retire from the industry due to the lack of business, leaving more recent 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, and with all 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" to update members on particular initiatives and activities that RMGA is working on.

Thanks, everyone, for attending the November 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.

December 2020



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FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the January *Guide Line* is **Monday, December 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 November 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 their Grand Lake home was destroyed by the East Troublesome Fire. They are living in a cabin nearby and dealing with the things that one does after such a situation. He comments: "It's sometimes hard to think about everything we now own can fit into the back seat of my pickup."

While RMGA can't provide monetary assistance in their recovery, individual RMGA members can, through the Grand Foundation's emergency donation fund for those affected by the wildfires. Donations may be made by going to GrandFoundation.com/donate and designating the funds for wildfire relief.

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](#).

Membership Renewals

The Early-bird Renewal Period for members is underway. Because of the stresses of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the RMGA Board of Directors has approved the following fee schedule for 2021:

- Member (Associate or Professional) Early Bird Renewal – \$25.00
- Business Early Bird Renewal – \$30.00
- Friend Early Bird Renewal Fee – \$12.50
- Retired Early Bird Renewal Fee – \$12.50

Renewal forms and instructions will be sent in a separate email blast.

Liability Insurance

Professional Liability Insurance for tour guides will be available through the National Federation of Tourist Guides Associations-USA for the 2021 calendar year. Watch for announcements regarding its purchase. The cost of **\$95** will cover January 1 – December 31, 2021. The new or renewing member will be covered as of the confirmed date of their payment to RMGA.

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

See Pages 8 and 10 for Information about December and January Members meetings.

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen.

Did you know RMGA was founded in 1993?

RMGA continues to add new members, so I thought this would be a good time to reprint a series of articles that appeared in the 2012 and 2013 Guide Line on the history of RMGA. These articles were written by Mary Thompson in anticipation of the 25th anniversary celebration at the Grant – Humphries Mansion on May 13, 2013.

Edited from 1st in a Series from October, 2013 Guide Line

RMGA – TWENTY YEARS!

Each month under this heading will be some memory or reminder of how RMGA has thrived through 20-years of economic shifts and changes in the industry.

Articles for November: *History of RMGA*; December: *TBA*; January thru May: *bios*; June: *glimpse into the future*. The paragraphs following remind us how the tourism industry was born.

Throughout time people have been moving about the world for various reasons. In Colonial times, the wealthy followed conquest with curiosity. But the word "tourist" did not appear in human lexicon until the 1800s. It referred mainly to people who marveled at art and architecture in Europe. The US could not offer this enticement to travel here as the population was busy building a new country. Curiously enough, though, guidebooks from the 1830s – 50s were describing prisons, insane asylums and institutions for the blind and deaf as "must see" attractions in the US. People visited these institutions because the concept of this type of "caregiving" was unique and because these buildings were our monumental architecture of the time.

In the US, the first train ran a paltry number of miles; in 1828; tourism was established by the 1850s. The transcontinental railroad linked the nation coast to coast in 1869 and travel became easier. Travel agents and packaged tours came into existence as early as the 1870s and 80s. Attractions in large cities, such as the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, were popular from the 1890s on.

As national parks were created, they became instant tourist attractions bringing economic benefits to the surrounding areas. Photography changed its focus, creating images of tourist attractions across the nation and around the world.

The first motel opened in Memphis, Tennessee in 1852. Job opportunities were created by the nations, the world and interest in travel. During the 19th century, tourism was developing as an infant industry but was basically available to wealthier families. There were significant shifts in travel and sightseeing as people became more mobile, as they had more money and leisure times. As automobiles became more prevalent, camping grounds opened, and the lodges and resorts were built close to roads. The American family was on the move. Travel wasn't just for the wealthy anymore. The biggest jump in tourism recognizable to us occurred after World War II.

The Rocky Mountain Guides Association incorporated in May, 1993, as tourism was growing in Colorado. But did you ever hear of the PGAA? More on that next month!

Mary Thompson, RMGA Vice-President [Mary passed away in 2014]

RMGA Facebook Group



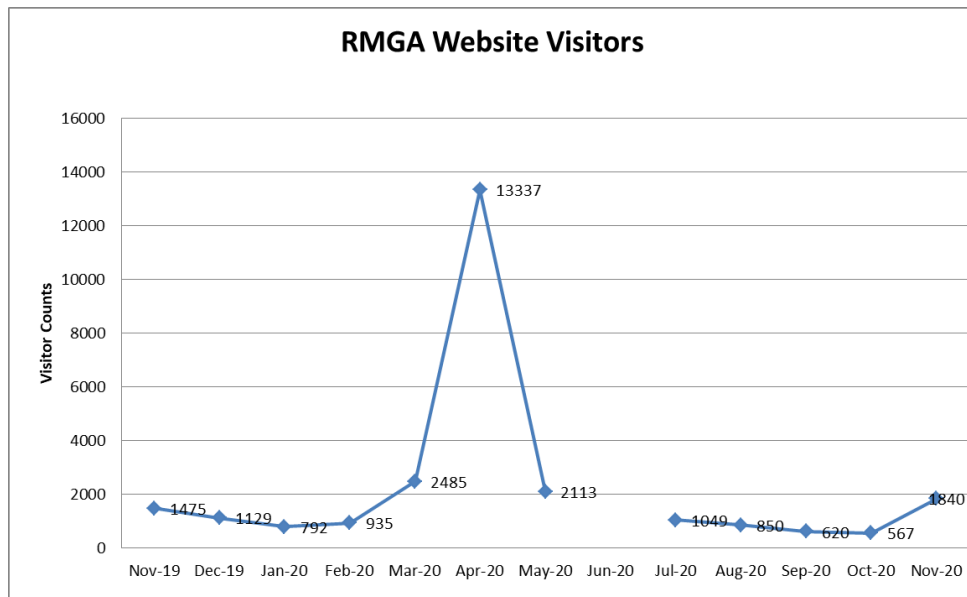
The RMGA Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc> is active once again. Members can post an item of interest to share with the other members. Perhaps it is a photo from your last tour, fall colors in the Rockies, a shot of you quarantining at your kitchen table, or a pet that has become part of your family. This will be a quicker way to communicate among members.

Website Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitors to our website remains constant. Through November 27th, the number of hits was 1840.



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.

Member Program Recordings

Research continues on the best place to archive the recordings of the member programs so they are accessible to members only.

Upcoming Industry Events

Submitted by Tom Jensen



2021 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference

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

Continue to check Guide Line for additional information.

In case you missed it videos of the VISIT DENVER Annual Partnership Meeting are available.

Video Recap - VISIT DENVER Annual Partnership Meeting

VISIT DENVER Partners: Since hosting our Annual Partnership Meeting yesterday, we have had several requests for specific segments of the meeting. Below you will find links to the following videos:

- [Year-In-Review](#) (7:36)
- [Honoring Our Hospitality Heroes](#) (3:28)
- [Trent Shelton Keynote](#) (11:34)
- [Jayne Buck Retirement Tribute](#) (4:29)
- [Full Show - Showcasing What's Happening Around Denver](#) (43:51)

Thank you again for your support of VISIT DENVER.

Richard W. Scharf
President & CEO
VISIT DENVER

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 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>.

NFTGA Leadership Meetings and Tourism

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 November 18, 2020.

New NFTGA Board Member

Janie Cadena, the outgoing president of the Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio and the chair of the NFTGA 2022 conference, was appointed to fill a recent vacancy on the NFTGA Board of Directors.

NFTGA Newsletter Editor

Unfortunately, Randy Bibb will not be taking on the editorship of the *National Standard*. He was just voted president of the Tour Guide Association of Greater New Orleans. Members of RMGA may apply to edit the *National Standard*. NFTGA offers a \$1000 stipend for the editor.

Tourism Industry Partners (TIP)

There are seven TIPs and three affiliate members. President Ellen Malasky is the primary contact for all of them. The leadership group discussed the possibility of a committee led by a Board member but consisting of association members each of whom would have responsibility for being the main contact for a TIP, thus providing increased visibility for more people. NFTGA distributes TIP information, and usually attends their conferences, with a booth and a session presentation. Interested RMGA members are invited to join this committee and be the point person for one of the TIPs. Contact RMGA [President Mike Pearl](#) for information regarding both of these opportunities.

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

DECEMBER MEMBERS MEETING

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

WHAT: December Meeting and Program (Virtual)

WHEN: December 14, 2020

6:00pm – Networking

6:30pm – Short Meeting

6:45pm – Program

Holiday Cheer, and Trivia Festival

WHERE: Your place, via Zoom Video Communications

PROGRAM: Wendy Pickering, RMGA Treasurer, will host RMGA's annual Holiday Colorado Quiz. With assistance from RMGA's webmaster, Tom Jensen, participants will be gathered into random Zoom chatrooms and re-gathered into the whole group meeting.

Decorate the background of your video image, wear your holiday finery, gather your favorite holiday treats and beverages, and cuddle up next to your favorite device for an evening of camaraderie.

Prizes will be awarded!

REFRESHMENT: Enjoy your favorite holiday libation!

DIRECTIONS: Here is the link for the meeting <https://zoom.us/j/94758592551>. Beginning at 5:50 pm. click on "Join" 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.

CONTACT: [J. Mark Blaising](#), Program Chair 303-830-8440 (voice) 303-263-8647 (text)

Thank You, Larry Foos

Submitted by Tom Jensen

After much thought, Larry Foos has made the decision to resign from the Website Committee. Larry has been a member of the Website Committee since 2011. During this time, the contributions Larry made to this committee are innumerable. On behalf of RMGA, I would like to thank Larry for his years of work on the website and his service to RMGA.

You may not think of Larry as a website developer. However, the website we have today is a result of the hundreds (possibly thousands) of hours spent by Larry teaching himself to program and then build the website. Frequently when talking with our website host's representatives we hear the comment with amazement on the complexity of our website. Larry took on the challenge of programming the website as the committee envisioned.

Larry was one of the original members of the committee (with Barbara Johnson and Mary Bendelow) who began designing the current website. The first website was deployed in 2003 at the urging of Tour Colorado in response to the problem of getting a list of tour guides to agencies who would have a need for them. Printed lists were expensive and difficult to maintain. In 2011 the web domain was transferred to our current host with the understanding the creation and maintenance of the website will be in-house.

With a few clicks you can read the profile of a guide whose area of expertise is the Foothills, find the 2013 write-up of the Brown Palace as described by their historian Debra Faulkner, or learn the topic of the next members program. All this is possible because of the detailed work (plus the occasional frustration) and long hours by Larry linking the profiles, program reviews, informational pages, etc. together. Back in 2011 we did not have the tools to create a website we have today. Once he got it built, Larry kept it up-to-date with changes to the profiles, events, seminars, and FAMs.

Not only has Larry been a key member of the Website Committee, he has also been an active member of RMGA. He has served as President, Vice President, Director-at-Large, Secretary, Chairman of the Membership Committee, the e-mail blaster, organizer of many, many programs, and served on special committees. During these years he was a greeter of visitors at the Colorado State Capitol, a Guest Services Volunteer at the American Museum of Western Art, and a Visitor Engagement Specialist at the Golden History Museum.

If you talk with Larry you'll find he gives credit to the support of his wife, Barbara, for his success as a website developer. That is not surprising as Barbara has been just as active in RMGA. She has been our President, Public Relations Committee Chairman, Director-at-Large, NFTGA Director-at-Large, Vice-President/Program Chair, and President of NFTGA. She was instrumental in bringing the NFTGA Conference to Denver in 2014 with Larry as the RMGA Conference Chairman. She was also a Docent at the Molly Brown House Museum.

Thank you, Larry and Barbara, for all you've done for RMGA.
Tom Jensen, Website Committee Chair

JANUARY MEMBERS MEETING (Virtual)

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

WHEN: January 11, 2021

6:00pm – Networking

6:30pm – Short Meeting

6:45pm – Program: Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

WHERE: Your place, via Zoom Video Communications. See link below.

PROGRAM: Meg Poole, Program Coordinator with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum will describe the museum's history, artifacts, and exhibits.

The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum takes pride in its mission to preserve and share Pikes Peak regional history. In her role as the Program Coordinator, Meg Poole directs the Museum's education department, planning and executing interpretive programming for all ages. Join Meg for a discussion of the challenges and rewards of developing engaging programs inspired by innovative exhibits exploring difficult histories. Examine community myths around our City's founder in *Evidence*, consider the representation of American Indians in historic photographs in *(Dis)Information*, and learn the history, identity, and culture of a displaced community in *The Conejos Neighborhood Project*.

Meg Poole has managed interpretive programming and educational initiatives for the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum as the Program Coordinator since May 2014. She is a 2010 graduate in anthropology from Colorado College, where she first found a passion for interpretation as a gallery educator at the Colorado College I.D.E.A. Space. After graduation, she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member teaching at-risk youth in Washington DC. In 2011, Meg started her journey with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum as the lead Museum Educator. In 2013, she accepted a position as Cultural Interpreter at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Before returning to CSPM in her current role, Meg planned and led naturalist programs as the Interpretive Program Coordinator for El Paso County's Bear Creek Nature Center. Meg will graduate with her Master of Arts in Museum Studies from the University of Oklahoma this winter.

For more information about the Museum, use this link: <https://www.cspm.org/>.

REFRESHMENT: Your own.

DIRECTIONS: To Join the Meeting click on this link or copy it to your browser: <https://zoom.us/j/98836498710> . You may start to join the meeting 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.

CONTACT: J. Mark Blaising, Program Chair 303-830-8440 (voice) 303-263-8647 (text)

Board of Directors Meetings

Board of Directors Meetings

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

Monday, January 4, 2021 (9:00 am)

Monday, February 1, 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

Member Meetings

Monday December 14, 2020 (6:30 pm)

Monday, January 11, 2021 (6:30 pm)

Monday, February 8, 2021 (6:30 pm)

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

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	303-868-0023

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		720-425-5931
Nominations	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Website	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515