

VOL 30, No 9

President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

I'm bummed that I was unable to attend the Program and Meeting November 14. I had hoped to join via Zoom, but I was unable to connect to the internet as I had hoped. Five members did attend, however, including our newest member, Allen Steele of Santa Fe. I hope to see more members in attendance at the December Program and Meeting at Denver's Civic Center.

Getting together at meetings helps me to connect with my tour guide colleagues. Ours is a solitary job (one guide per group), and I enjoy being in the company of my colleagues. I look forward to reading a synopsis of the program on the "Member's Only" section of the RMGA website. Thanks to Vice President and Program Chair Mark Blaising for arranging the event.

Eileen and I have been participating in a Viking Cruise through Europe. We joined many tour-guide lead excursions along the way. After having had so many guided experiences in such a concentrated amount of time, I was able to draw some conclusions about what makes for a quality guided tour. Watch for a program in 2023 on the topic. Contact Vice President and Program Chair Mark Blaising, if you want to participate in the program.

Generally, program/meetings in 2023 will be available in-person, then in a recorded form via the RMGA website. Do you know ways to stream and record meetings that are hybrid (participants are joining in-person and online)? Please contact any Board member to offer your expertise.

Swapping books and resource materials at monthly meetings is proving popular. The tub of materials will be available at future meetings. Bring books and pamphlets that you would like to share with other members. Leave one, take one. Talking about research and swapping materials is a great way to bond during any of our meetings.

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, President, RMGA

December 2022



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FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the January 2023 *Guide Line* is **Friday, December 30**. 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

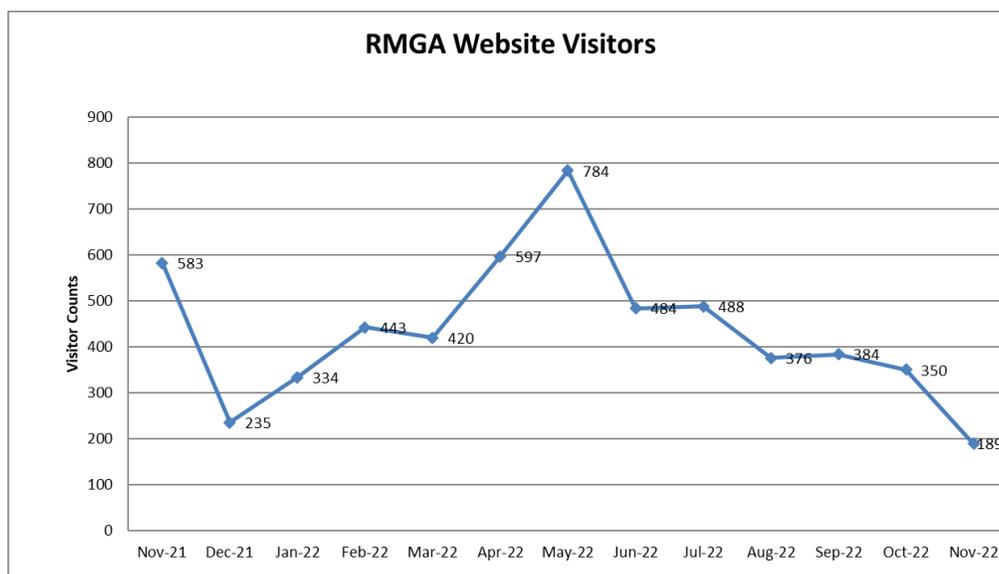
Submitted by Tom Jensen, Communications Committee Chair

What's New on the Website?

- Added November Program announcement
- Updated 2022 Program Schedule
- Added December Program announcement

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitor to our website declined in November. Here is a comparison with November of last year.



Profile Update

If you have changes to your Profile, send them to rmgawebsite@rockymountaintourguides.com.

E-mail distribution

- Distributed e-mails that were of general interest to the members including requests for tour guides/directors for 2023.

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@rockyountaintourguides.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

- Shared articles from other sources
- Set up an event for October Members Program

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 to send in their pictures or posting.

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.

The time to renew your membership in RMGA is at hand. Early-bird renewal rates will apply for 2023. Watch your email for more information.

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 meeting in-person or 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 Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

Tis the Season....For Holiday Lights!!!

Join the RMGA on Monday evening December 12th for a celebration of Denver's holiday light tradition.

The December Member Meeting will be an in person event! We will be meeting at the Fire Lounge in the Art Hotel at 6PM and then wander as group to Civic Center to explore the Christkindl Market and take in the bright lights of the City and County building and the Mile High Tree!!



Wear your layers for comfort to the Art Hotel 1201 Broadway 80203, head to the fourth floor and the Fire Lounge to enjoy a beverage or snack with fellow members of the RMGA before exploring the Holiday Wonder of Denver's Civic Center.

Public Parking available next door to the Art is accessible from 12th Ave.



Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Public Relations Committee Chair

The Rocky Mountain Guides Association recently renewed its membership with Tour Colorado and Visit Colorado Springs. Another year of Zoom service was also renewed for the Board of Directors' meetings and for the monthly membership meetings, when applicable.



Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference

The Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference is an annual three-day event for tourism professionals and industry leaders to learn and network. Participants assess current activities and find new approaches to market the state, locales, and businesses. Speakers from throughout the country will challenge and inspire attendees. If you would like to host a future Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference, please email [Altitude Events](#).

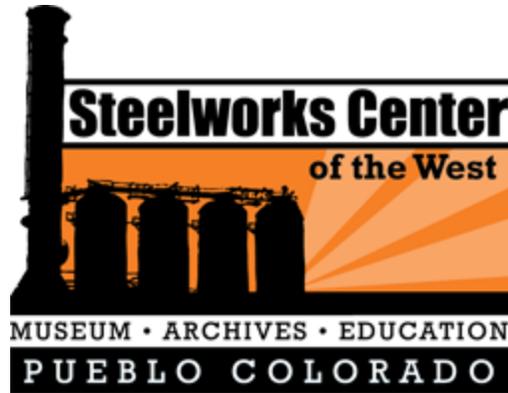
Save the Date: Gov Con 2023
September 27-September 29
Fort Collins, Colorado

Here's some interesting information to share on your next tour of Denver courtesy of the Regional Transportation District November 2022 Read – N - Ride

Did you know?

It is no secret that Denverites are some of the most passionate sports fans in the world, made even more true by the fact that Denver was recently named “Hockey Town USA,” in honor of the Colorado Avalanche, University of Denver Pioneers and the Denver East High School, all winning their respective championships. Did you know that Denver is one of only 12 cities in the United States with a team in each of the major five sports leagues (National Hockey League, National Football League, National Basketball Association, Major League Soccer and Major League Baseball)? The city even has a championship-winning Major League Lacrosse team – the Colorado Mammoth. On top of that, the University of Colorado Boulder is a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I university in one of the major college sports conferences (PAC-12), and hosts stops on professional sports tours such as Monster Energy Supercross, the American Motorcycle Association Lucas Oil Pro Motocross, Professional Bull Riders and the National Hot Rod Association.





Colorado has many interesting and unique museum scattered throughout the state. Recently I had the opportunity to visit the Steelworks Museum in Pueblo. I highly recommend it to learn more about the history of Colorado.

The Steelworks Center of the West provides continuing education to the public through the preservation of historic archives, artifacts and buildings of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I), and related activities leading to the industrialization of the entire Western United States.

So much of the industrialization of Colorado is tied to the production of steel in Pueblo. Not only was steel produced, but the acceptance of workers' rights, such as an 8-hour day, are a result of the mill after the Ludlow Massacre.

I took advantage of the annual "Saints and Sinners" historic tour of local houses of worship and taverns to learn more about the impact the CF&I had on Pueblo and Colorado. I learned more about the Bessemer neighborhood, the Orthodox form of worship better (the saints' portion) and saw two films from early CF&I archives. One film showed the CF&I's contribution to winning WWII. The second concentrated on the building of the new plant (1953) to product seamless pipe. This building still produces pipe, much of which is used in oil and gas production. I missed the Sinner portion as it was in the evening, and I was driving. I do have a list of historic neighborhood bars to visit next 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, Mark Blaising 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.

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.

At the request of members, the Board of Directors will conduct a survey of the professional members regarding their tour activities for the 2022 season. The brief survey will seek information about the types and frequency of tours that members give and ranges of pay members receive for their services. The purpose of the survey is to describe the status of the profession in the Rocky Mountain region by statistical means. Respondents will remain anonymous, responses will be aggregated, and results will be published in the *Guide Line*. Send your ideas about topics and questions to RMGA 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 transmitted by Tom Jensen, in his temporary role as transmitter of the RMGA email Blasts. Send your articles to [Eileen Pearl](#).

RMGA Leadership Opportunities

Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- Certification (Must have the RMGA Colorado Certification)
- Email Distribution

Contact any Board member with your interest.

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*:



In our off-season, it's good to get a refresher on the concepts that make up Care for Colorado. Check out the Care for Colorado web page: "7 Care for Colorado Principles" produced by The Care for Colorado Coalition. [Click Here](#)

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 tourism offices are sending to other areas? It's prudent to be aware of those messages, because they set guest expectations. Here's one about "The Grand Day in Grand Junction." Watch the [Video](#) produced by the Colorado Tourism Office.

Here's a video about Denver, "Take a Closer Look at Denver" [Video](#), produced by VISIT Denver. Tour Colorado, Colorado's link to the group tour industry, offers [Itineraries & Maps](#) on their website.

The ideas expressed in these videos can't be exhaustive lists. What ideas are missing in the videos? Send your thoughts to the *Guide Line* [Editor](#).

Colorado Concierge Training and Certification

[Colorado Concierge Training](#) is a free certification for frontline workers to become Colorado experts and grow their Colorado-style hospitality. The training is online at [BeAColoradoConcierge.com](#). You can also download the app from [Google Play](#) or the [Apple App Store](#).

The training includes seven modules:

- Colorado Essentials
- The Care for Colorado Principles
- Colorado's Eight Travel Regions
- Colorado-Style Customer Service
- Colorado Traveler Safety
- Hunting & Fishing
- Inclusive Colorado Culture

Certified businesses, organizations, and individuals also receive the benefits outlined at <https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-concierge-training-and-certification>

Which RMGA members have attained Colorado Concierge Certification? What are your impressions of the program? Send your thoughts to the *Guide Line* [Editor](#).

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.

The Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio is hosting NFTGA's biennial national conference. It will be held January 25-28, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas, at the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk.

You may want to tour the Alamo on Friday afternoon while you are there, then on Friday or Saturday night walk over to San Fernando Cathedral to see The Saga [The Saga - San Antonio](#) <https://www.visitsanantonio.com/san-antonio-the-saga>.

For registration go to: www.nftgaregistration.com or go to the NFTGA webpage and click on the link.

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!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Monday, December 5, 2022 (6:00 pm)

Monday January 2, 2023 (6:00 pm)

Monday, February 6, 2023 (6:00 pm)

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

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

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

Monday, December 12, 2022 (6:00 pm) **The RMGA Membership Drive and Holiday Gathering!** The December Member Meeting will be an in-person gathering to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Civic Center. **See Program Committee information on page 4 for gathering spot and time.**

Monday, January 9, 2023 (6:00 pm) (Meeting via ZOOM or in person: watch for details; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.)

Monday, February 13, 2023 (6:00 pm) (Meeting via ZOOM or in person: watch for details; 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	Dawn Nelsen	303-898-6853
Treasurer	Wendy Pickering	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	David White	720-217-8643

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification		
Communications	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
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
Nominations	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023