



October 2023

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President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

The summer tourism season for 2023 has wound down. The more relaxing fall color tours have begun. At the same time, RMGA returns to its monthly business schedule with issues of the *Guide Line*, Board of Directors Meetings, and general membership meetings.

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 them to the RMGA Facebook [page](#).

Here's my challenge from last month. What's your score? Send stories to the [Editor](#).

I challenge members to demonstrate their commitment to RMGA by doing these activities over the next nine months:

- After reading the *Guide Line*, email the Editor thanking her for publishing it and include a note about what you appreciated about it. Do this for at least 8 of the next 9 issues.
- Attend 7 of the 8 program/meetings October through May, either in person or online.
- Bring one person with you to a program/meeting October through May, either in person or online.
- Go to the RMGA Facebook page and click on "Like" for the postings. Write a public comment for 3 postings over the next 9 months.

I agree that we're all busy with our families and lives. I urge you to express your gratitude for the time and effort that the



volunteer leaders of RMGA by acknowledging their contributions. Attendance at programs/meetings validates everyone's membership. Without a little bit of effort on the part of all members, RMGA will become unhealthy.

RMGA members continue 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

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FROM THE EDITOR

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

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, Communications Committee Chair

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@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

Have you checked out the RMGA Facebook Group?

Good stuff!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>.

Education Committee

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 conduct them.

FAM trips usually occur over a 6-hour time (say, 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.

We'll conduct a brainstorming session on FAMs for 2024 at the October meeting. Come prepared with ideas.

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.

RMGA's membership stands at 38 members: Professional-23; Business-7; Professional/Business Multiple Listing-2; Retired-5; Friend-1. Please examine the membership directory, then reach out to those whose names are missing and invite them back to membership.

As RMGA seeks to improve the professionalism of tour guides in our area through education, each one of us is only as strong as all of us.

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 that they can be included on the Zoom Meeting Invitation.

Nominations Committee

No submission.

Program Committee

October Members Meeting & Program: An Evening with Gove & Walsh

WHEN: October 9, 2023,
6:00 pm Networking
6:30 pm Business Meeting – Brainstorming session on FAMs for 2024
7:00 pm Program

WHERE: The Sugar Building. Enter at 1544 Wazee St, Denver, Colorado

WHAT: RMGA Treasurer Wendy Pickering will lead us on a tour of the Gove & Walsh landmark Sugar Building at 16th & Wazee Streets. Because Wendy works in the building, she has an insider's perspective. Brush up on your Gove & Walsh facts so when you get to the meeting you can add more texture to everyone's understanding of the building and its architects. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. Bring your "To-Go" cocktail with

you. (Illegal Pete's is one of the nearby eateries.) Time permitting, we'll walk through the area to observe other Gove & Walsh buildings nearby.

GETTING THERE: RTD to Union station and walk to Wazee St; parking nearby in lots.

HYBRID: The meeting will be available via ZOOM. Watch for an invitation.

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Public Relations Committee Chair

Unable to include information this month.

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.

President Mike Pearl and vice president J. Mark Blaising 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.

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](#).

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.

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.

Future Conferences

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

International Association of Tour Directors and Guides (IATDG) Annual Tour Connect. Astor Crown Plaza Hotel, New Orleans, LA November 5-9. [Information](#)

National Travel Association (NTA) NTA Travel Exchange, Shreveport Convention Center, Shreveport, LA, November 12-15, 2023. [Information](#)

World Federation of Tourist Guides Associations (WFTGA) 20th International Convention, Siracusa, Italy, January 18-29, 2024. [Information](#)

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.

Do Colorado Right Campaign Targeting Residents

The CTO launched its Do Colorado Right summer campaign recently, specifically targeting residents throughout the state in conjunction with 9News. This campaign features relevant topics including fire safety and prevention, backcountry safety, trash mitigation and more. Check out the [website](https://www.colorado.com/do-colorado-right). <https://www.colorado.com/do-colorado-right>

The ideas expressed in the videos can't be an exhaustive list. What ideas are the videos missing? 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.

Michael Dillinger, president, announced that the remodeled NFTGA website will be active by January 2024. James Carr of the Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, D.C. reported that the Guild will conduct training for guiding in the District in January 2024. Check their website for more information. <https://www.washingtondctourguides.com/> Michael Dillinger is leading a session at the 2023 conference of the International Association of Tour Directors and Guides in New Orleans November 6-9. The topic for the panel concerns how tour guides set their fees. Michael invites RMGA members attending IATDG to join him on the panel. Contact him at president@nftga.com. I'm assisting Michael in preparing a worksheet for the session, even though I won't be attending IATDG.

The next NFTGA Delegates Meeting will be held Thursday, October 12, 2023 via ZOOM 6:30-8:30 pm. All RMGA members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) for a 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

Sunday, October 1, 2023 (7:00 pm)

Sunday, November 5, 2023 (7:00 pm)

Sunday, December 3, 2023 (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 9, 2023 (6:00 pm) (Meeting via ZOOM and/or in person: watch for details; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.) October Members Meeting & Program: An Evening with Gove & Walsh

WHEN: October 9, 2023,

6:00 pm Networking

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GETTING THERE: RTD to Union station and walk to Wazee St; parking nearby in lots.

HYBRID: The meeting will be available via ZOOM. Watch for an invitation.

Monday, November 13, 2023 (6:00 pm) (Meeting via ZOOM and/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, December 11, 2023 (6:00 pm) (Meeting via ZOOM and/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	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification		
Communications	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Education		
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