



WTMG Newsletter – December, 2015

“Journalists Covering the World”



“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”
– Henry Ford

Contents

Message from the President – Jim lists all the new web address for the Word Travel Media Guild, congratulates the Association of Czech Travel Journalists on their 50th anniversary, notes that the Leadership Committee will meet in March and sends best wishes to everyone for the holidays and the New Year.

WTMG News – Details of the new WTMG web design are detailed along with a call for all members to take the time to send in material for publication.

News from Around the Guild – The Association of Czech Travel Journalist celebrates its 50th Anniversary during a special ceremony in Prague attended by WTMG Vice President, Miroslav Navara, who also the Vice President of the Czech Association.

Press Trips – Media trips for WTMG members to Slovenia, South Carolina (USA) and Ft. Worth, Texas (USA) are listed.

Editor:

Jim Thompson (jim@traveljourn.com)



Important note:

The newsletter is open to all members of the WTMG. Your news, articles, and other contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Please send all submissions for consideration to the newsletter editors.

WTMG Website: <http://www.TravelMediaGuild.com>

NOTE: Previous newsletters can be found on the website.

Update your Email. We are doing all that we can to ensure that all members of the WTMG receive the newsletter via email each month. However, we are limited in this effort by the email addresses that are provided to us. If you have recently changed your email, or you or someone in your association is not receiving the newsletter, please provide us with the current address. This is the **ONLY** way to insure that you receive the newsletter in your email box. If you do not have an email address or have not been getting the newsletter, you can access it via the WTMG website



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



New Web Addresses for WTMG

We now have our **web addresses sorted out**, which means that you can get to our website via **several URLs**. As many of you know, for a while, we had “dueling” websites. Not only did we have the new site, but we also had the old site still working. Thanks to the efforts of our friends **Novak Banda and Gary Funk**, that situation has been resolved things are now working as they should.

Here is a **list of all the addresses** that you can use to get to our site:

- www.WorldTravelMediaGuild.com
- www.TravelGuild.org
- www.TravelMediaGuild.com
- www.TravelMediaGuild.net
- www.TravelMediaGuild.org
- www.TravelMediaGuild.info
- www.TravelMediaGuild.us

We will not maintain all of these addresses, but, for now, **they are functional** and you can use any of them.

Now that we have our Website fully operational, it is time for everyone to get the members of their group to take a few minutes and **apply for membership** in the World Travel Media Guild. Over the past several months, we have everyone



to hold off on this process while we built a new user database. The time was needed to insure sure that there was no overlap.



All those who register will be subject to the **same checks and criteria** as all members. The application will be sent to the Membership Sub-Committee. They will check the credentials of the applicant and then make a decision if the person qualifies for membership. This check will **ensure that all of our members are working professionals** as required by our Bylaws.

We also have a **new design** for the WTMG Website. Please refer to the item in this newsletter for details about some of the features in the latest edition of the site. **Thanks goes to Novak** for his hard work in getting the site running and functional.

The design of the **new ID (Press) cards** is also finalized, thanks to the hard work of Leadership Committee member **Andrei Shamrai**. He has created an excellent design for the new card which will be sent to all of those who register and are accepted for membership in the WTMG. **Thank you, Andrei for once again doing a great job!**

Finally, I remind all of you that **we need your submissions** for the newsletter and the WTMG Website. Please remember that this is YOUR association and your contributions are an important part of our identity.

A **meeting is being planned** for the Leadership Committee in late April, 2016 in the **Czech Republic** (Prague and Moravia region). Our friend and Vice President, Miroslav Navara has been working on this and now says that he is finalizing the details. The meeting will allow the Committee to move forward on a number of issues that have been facing the WTMG.

Speaking of the Czech Republic, Miroslav tells me that the **Czech Association of Travel Journalists and Publishers is celebrating its 50th anniversary**. We are most proud to be associated with this prestigious group of professional journalists and send them our very best wishes for even more success over the next 50 years.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Leadership Committee, I send the very best wishes for the Holiday season and for the New Year to all of the members of the World Travel Media Guild. I hope the holidays will bring you joy and that 2016 brings peace and prosperity.



Jim Thompson
President, WTMG



WTMG NEWS



New WTMG Website Unveiled

The newest edition of the World Travel Media Guild Website is now operational. The new site brings many new features along with a lot more functionality than previous editions.

Included in the site are a section at the top where we can highlight stories and items that are important to our members. The large photos along with links to the text make it easy to find the things that are most important to new and potential members.



We have also added a simple way for people to apply for membership in the WTMG. Right on the front page is a link to the sign-up form. Once we receive the form, the application will be review by the Membership Sub-Committee. If approved, the new members will receive verification along with a link where he/she can immediately pay their dues via Credit Card or bank transfer.

Being able to accept payments via Credit Card took a while to sort out. But, now that it is working, it should make things easy for everyone.

The new site also has room for expansion and to allow our sponsors and those who host our events to have space. By allowing our sponsors and host this space for their logos and links to their official sites, we provide them with added value and offer an incentive for working with us again in the future. As always, our goal is to provide value to everyone we work with.

Still to come is the photo database where members can find high quality photos for use in their stories and articles. As our official photographer and Leadership Committee member, Ryker Lomas will be at our events to insure that there is a full supply of top photos to illustrate your articles.

The best part of the new WTMG Website is the part that most people will never see. That is the “back end” or administration area of the site. It is in this area where we can add stories and make changes to the site. Novak Banda, our Webmaster, has done a wonderful job in making this an easy to use and logical interface. What it means is that it is much easier to add information and do updates.

Our thanks go to Novak for staying with us and making a world class Website for the World Travel Media Guild. **Thanks! Novak.**



NEWS FROM AROUND THE GUILD



Czech Travel Press Celebrates 50 Years of Success

More than 60 members and partners of the Czech Travel Press gathered in the “Old Armory” of the Kampa hotel in Prague to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Czech Association of Travel Journalists and Publishers and to renew their dedication to the finest in journalistic practices.

During the meeting, Miroslav Navara, Vice President of the Czech Travel Press as well as Vice President of the World Travel Media Guild, noted that, “the Czech Travel Press has been a major factor in the ongoing development of Czech tourism over the past half century.”



He added that “the Czech Travel Press association is a serious partner of the Tourism Ministry, the Czech Tourism Board and many other professional organizations and institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad.”

It should be noted that the World Travel Media Guild has its headquarters in the Czech Republic and is officially registered in that country.

Dr. Navara was a key founder of the World Travel Media Guild. His effort in establishing the Bylaws, registering the WTMG in the Czech Republic and establishing membership criteria was vital to our establishment and continues to be essential for our continued growth.



PRESS TRIPS



From the Slovenian Alps to the Wide Open Spaces

Press Trips – From the Slovenian Alps to the Wide Open Spaces of Texas

Press trip opportunities to Slovenia



Slovenia has the ‘welcome’ sign out for journalists wanting to visit this amazing country. Whether you want to explore the Alps, our Mediterranean coast, Pannonian Plain or the Karst – home to some of the most dramatic caves in the world, you will truly find this a magical place with a wealth of story opportunities.

Here are a few examples of **press trips available in 2016.**

A winter sporting wonderland in Slovenia

Come and experience one of Europe’s top hidden gems for winter sports. Ski the perfectly maintained runs of Slovenia’s largest resorts including **Krvavec** and **Vogel** before transferring to **Kranjska Gora** in the Upper Sava Valley for **Alpine skiing, night sledging and ice waterfall climbing**. Finally on to **Planica**, home one of the most famous ski jumping slopes on the planet.

A city tour of Europe’s Green Capital

Take a tour around **Europe’s Green Capital for 2016, Ljubljana**, over three quarters of which is covered with natural green spaces. Discover for yourself why it was named *European Green Capital 2016* as you visit the **Botanic Gardens**, home to more than 4,500 different species, wander the city’s picturesque embankments along the **river Ljubljanica** and indulge in local **Taste Ljubljana produce**.

The ultimate indulgent Slovenian spa break

Now it is your turn to discover why people have been travelling to Slovenia to bathe in our **thermo-mineral waters** since Roman times. Visit our **certified natural and thermal spas & resorts** to enjoy wellness treatments intertwined with



centuries-long tradition, experience with thermal waters and the latest discoveries from health experts to **enrich your body and invigorate your soul**. All combined with relaxing **luxury hotels** and the **finest local food!**

Slovenia through the centuries

Slovenia might be a young and beautiful country, **turning 25 next year**, but the Slovenes are an ancient nation steeped in history and tradition. Learn about the **vibrant and intense history** from the first settlers, to one of the **greatest battle of the Roman times** and the **turbulent wars of the 19th century** that have shaped today's independent country.

WTMG members interested in obtaining details and contact information for arranging a press trip, please contact Jim Thompson.

Thoroughbred Country, South Carolina

Situated between Atlanta and Charleston – just east of Augusta, Georgia, lies Thoroughbred Country, South Carolina, an undiscovered area of rolling countryside, parks, antique shops, Civil War sites, plantation homes of yesteryear and more, encompassing the counties of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell.

This area of South Carolina offers a treasure trove of story opportunities and a chance to explore America's rich history.



Here are just a few of the Annual Events that make this a unique place:

- Julius Daniels Memorial Blues Festival (February)
- Battle of Aiken (February)
- Juilliard in Aiken (March)
- Salkehatchie Stew (March)
- Allendale Cooter Fest (May)
- Savannah River Fishing Tournament (May)
- Schuetzenfest (August)
- Model T's to Olar (October)
- Colonial Times A Day to Remember (October)

WTMG members interested in obtaining details and contact information for arranging a press trip, please contact Jim Thompson.

Ft. Worth, Texas Media Trips



Get out your chaps and boots and ‘get your cowboy’ on! WTMG members are invited to visit Ft. Worth, Texas for a view of ‘real’ cowboy culture.

Ft. Worth is the 16th-largest city in the United States and part of the No. 1 tourist destination in Texas, welcoming 6.5 million visitors annually. But, Fort Worth is not just about cowboys. Comprised of seven primary entertainment districts, this exciting city offers distinct dining, shopping, entertainment and cultural amenities. In only a few days you can enjoy a range of experiences from NASCAR racing to rodeos, world-class museums to

cowboy cuisine, boutique shopping to a Top 5 zoo, biking to horseback riding.

Fort Worth is conveniently located 17.5 miles from DFW International Airport. With 1,850 flights daily, DFW Airport serves as a gateway for visitors from around the globe, making Fort Worth an easily accessible international leisure destination.

In their own words: “Cowboys and Culture isn’t just a tagline, nowhere else can you find the western heritage that is so quintessentially Texas. Today, visitors can experience the Old West beautifully preserved and honored through our Stockyards National Historic District and downtown’s Sundance Square.

“Also known as the ‘Cultural Capital of the Southwest,’ Fort Worth is home to a world-renowned Cultural District, home to five world-class museums housing some of the most important works of art of the 20th century.

“The city leaders who celebrated Fort Worth as “Where the West Begins” also had the vision to establish the city as the cultural destination of the Southwest. This ideal is apparent in our coveted Van Cliburn Piano Competition, Bass Performance Hall, museums and galleries, world-class symphony, opera, ballet and theatre programs.

“Our reputation for being safe and friendly makes us a perfect getaway for families as well. The Fort Worth Zoo is a top five zoo in the nation and a national draw.””



WTMG members interested in obtaining details and contact information for arranging a press trip, please contact Jim Thompson.



Best Wishes for 2016

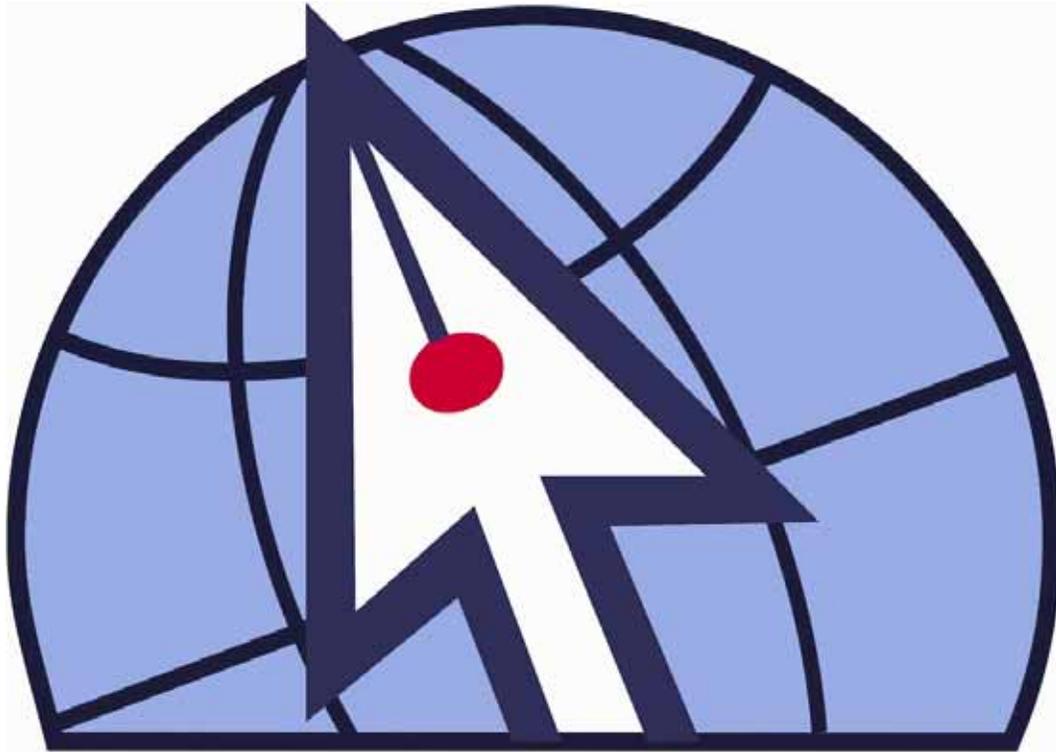


The Leadership Committee to the World Travel Media Guild sends the very best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year to all of our members and friends.

Remember that we are here to serve you throughout the year and into the future.

Happy 2016!!





WORLD TRAVEL MEDIA GUILD