

Some historical dates about the IFMGA

The idea to unite all the mountain guides of the world in one single family did probably grow from the idea of our unforgettable Dr. Toni Gobbi and Bernhard Biner from Zermatt which they had on the occasion of the Centennial of the Mountain Guides Association of Courmayeur in the year 1950. This idea was though not carried on because of unknown reasons. Only in 1965 the undersigned got in touch with Toni Gobbi and Roger Frison-Roche, the alpine author and guide from Chamonix who should be well known to all our colleagues. The contacts have been intensified during the Valais Mountain Guides Ceremony in Zermatt of 1965 and in

1965, October 15th

it came to the foundation of the federation at the summer residence of our friend Maurice d'Allèves. In addition to the above mentioned also the following persons were present:

<i>Dr. Toni Gobbi</i>	<i>President of the Italian Guides</i>
<i>Pierre Perret</i>	<i>President of the French Guides</i>
<i>Camille Tournier</i>	<i>President of the Guides of Chamonix</i>
<i>Jean Maistre</i>	<i>Secretary of the French Guides</i>
<i>Roger Frison-Roche</i>	<i>Former President of the French Guides</i>
<i>Gottlieb Perren</i>	<i>President of the Swiss Guides</i>
<i>Felix Julen</i>	<i>President of the Guides of Valais</i>
<i>Xavier Kalt</i>	<i>Secretary of the Guides of Valais</i>
<i>Hias Noichl</i>	<i>President of the Austrian Guides</i>

The provisional managing committee was formed by Roger Frison-Roche as President and Xavier Kalt as Secretary – Treasurer. Seat of the federation: Sitten (Valais / Switzerland).

1967, June 24th

First Delegates' Conference in Kippel-Lötschental (CH). Confirmation of the managing committee and approval of the bylaws.

1967, October 8th

General Meeting in Beaufort (F). Creation of an international member card and appointment of Maurice d'Allèves as honorary president.

1968, June 22nd

Delegates' Conference in Salvan (CH). The German mountain guides are interested in this movement and send Anderl Heckmair and Gustl Spiwak as delegates. The honorary president offers us the flag.

1968, September 20th

General Meeting in Aosta. The international card is approved. Adolphe Rey, the great guide from Courmayeur is appointed honorary member.

1969, June 7th

Delegates' Conference in Fiesch (CH). Germany applies for membership. Austria proposes to create a Technical Commission.

1969, November 8th

General Meeting in St. Johann / Tyrol (A). Germany is admitted into the federation, the Technical Commission is founded and Yves Pollet-Villard, the known guide and instructor of the ENSA Chamonix, is elected as the first president.

Frison-Roche is made an honorary member and Hermann Steuri (CH) becomes his successor as President. Hias Noichl becomes Vice-President. Norway applies for membership.

1970, June 20th

Delegates' Conference in Montana (CH). Discussion about the application for membership into the ICAR. Elaboration of a work program for the Technical Commission. The Germans make the proposition to create as an international mountain guide sign a metal badge with the same IFMGA logo as on the member card. Fatal accident of our dear friend and member of foundation Toni Gobbi.

1970, November 7th

General Meeting in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER). The international badge is approved by the assembly. Approval for the publishing of an international leaflet. Approval for the production of a poster for the huts and funicular companies which points out the membership and which says that only the owners of the international member card are fully entitled to obtain reductions.

1971, June 26th

Delegates' Conference in St. Niklaus (CH). The present situation of the Italians is not very clear. It does not at all correspond to art. 4 of our bylaws, because the Italian Guides Association is still under the CAI. It's not possible that the president of the CAI is at the same time the president of the mountain guides. Only the Association of the Aosta Valley can be accepted as an independent mountain guides association.

1971, October 15th

General Meeting in Méribel (F). Resolution about the use of the mountain guide fees: If a guide is working in a foreign country where the fees are higher he has to use these fees. The annual subscription is changed from one to two Swiss Francs (sic).

1972, June 17th

Delegates' Conference in Zinal (CH). The delegates are asked to get in touch with the different mountain and funicular companies to obtain a discount for the transportation costs and to elaborate a general list of it. (Unfortunately only the Germans did so until now.) Yugoslavia made an application for membership which could unfortunately not be accepted because of the dependence of the association. Heavy consequences for 6 Italian instructors who didn't accept one candidate because of disciplinary reasons. These 6 instructors were dispensed for two years by the CAI, this makes the problem of the unclear situation even worse.

1972, October 7th

General Meeting in Oberstdorf / Allgäu (GER). The main topics were the relationship between mountain guides – ski instructors and the number of guests in one roped party.

1973, June 23rd

Delegates' Conference in Grindelwald (CH). The Canadian Mountain Guides Association applies for membership. New discussions about the situation of the Italian mountain guides. Austria organizes an international race without informing the IFMGA.

1973, October 21st

General Meeting in Triesen (FL). Because of the completely unclear situation of the Italian guides this meeting which should actually have taken place in Bergamo (I) was transferred into a neutral country. Hias Noichl (A) is the successor of Hermann Steuri as President. The membership of the Canadians is acknowledged.

1974, June 22nd

Delegates' Conference in La Sage (CH). Pollet-Villard wants to relinquish his position as President of the Technical Commission. The 2nd International Mountain Guides Race takes place very successfully in Neustift (A), whereas the wishes of the IFMGA were this time taken into consideration.

The situation of the Italians did not improve. Only the association of Aosta corresponds to the condition of independence. In all the other regions the CAI is still in the leading position.

1974, October 12th

General Meeting in Briançon (F). Hermann Steuri is elected as President of the Technical Commission and Ulysse Brunod as Vice-President of the IFMGA. The association of South Tyrol applies for membership. This application has to be rejected because it's only possible to accept one association per country as a member. They are told to get in touch with the Italian association (complete illusion).

1975, June 14th

Delegates' Conference in Zermatt (CH). Nothing special.

1975, October 4th

General Meeting in Sitten (CH). 10th anniversary of the IFMGA.

The mountain guides of Great Britain apply for membership. This has though to be postponed because of differences concerning the bylaws.

Discussion about the new mountain guides law in France. The assembly decides that guides who are older than 60 years are of course allowed to keep their international member card, but don't have to pay the subscription anymore. There is a stamp which says "no subscription".

1976, June 20th

Delegates' Conference in Anzère (CH). The international leaflet is revised. The English are still not fulfilling our guidelines and therefore their application is rejected again.

1976, November 6th

General Meeting in Innsbruck (A). The guides from South Tyrol became members of the consortium of the Italians and get the international card without the denomination "CAI".

Attempt of an alignment of the daily fees on international basis.

The Canadians apply for the organization of the international skiing race.

1977, June 26th

Delegates' Conference in Wiler-Lötschen (CH). Big discussion because of Canada's application for the organization of the international skiing race.

Again long discussions about the admission of Great Britain.

1977, November 12th

General Meeting in Aosta (I). The guides of Great Britain are admitted. Oliviero Franchey is the new President. This is astonishing because the Italian association still depends on the CAI. Franchey is although from the Aosta Valley (Champoluc), he is unanimously elected.

The “mountain leaders” start to come up already at that time and the associations are asked to observe this new “sector” precisely. If this new “trend” should be successful and if we are not able to control this movement, we could get in trouble because this would mean a certain danger for our profession.

Because of financial problems the international skiing race cannot take place in Canada. Some tough mountain guides still made the journey to Canada where they enjoyed a great hospitality.

Mario Senoner from the Grödnertal is elected as new President of the Technical Commission.

1978, June 17th

Delegates’ Conference in Champéry (CH). Austria appeals against the admission of the English. Austria says that the guide courses would not correspond to the guidelines of the Technical Commission. It is decided to send different members of the TC to one of these courses as observers.

The Swiss President, Dr. Truffer presents his association in a very clear report.

1978, November 15th

General Meeting in Berchtesgaden (GER). Norway’s application for membership has to be rejected again because some formalities don’t fulfill the bylaws. The same occurs to the application for membership of Spain that doesn’t fulfill the independence article 4.

Revision of the bylaws.

The Swiss colleagues inform about the construction of a new hut on the Ober-Mönchsjoch what became necessary after the big fire at Jungfraujoch.

1979, June 30th

Delegates’ Conference at Bettmeralp (CH). It seems that the association of the Italian mountain guides has now finally found the right way. They’re only partially dependent from the CAI.

The Swiss association has taken on the mountain guides training in Peru together with the support for underdeveloped countries of the Technical Commission.

Our friend and Vice-President Ulysse Brunod dies unexpectedly due to a heart attack.

Proposition for an increase of the annual subscription and creation of a commission which is responsible for the edition of a bulletin.

1979, September 15th

General Meeting in Les Diablerets (CH). We were asked to hold our General Meeting in Les Diablerets so that the 10th anniversary of the Mountain Film Festival of Les Diablerets gets an international touch.

It is decided to increase the annual subscription to CHF 5.-.

Report about the observation of the English guide course in Scotland: quite positive!

Discussion on publishing a bulletin.

1980, June 21st

Delegates’ Conference in Zinal (CH). Application for membership New Zealand.

Long but unsuccessful discussion about the “sponsoring” system. There was no decision about how, where and when this should take place.

*The rules for the organization of the international skiing race are fixed.
Our international badge was printed on an aluminum sign of 30 cm in diameter and can be bought by interested people for CHF 50.- This sign can be used by mountain guide offices or mountaineering schools that are also giving international information.
The financial problems of the Technical Commission are explained.*

1980, November 22nd

*General Meeting in Grenoble (F). Austria and the Secretary do not agree in what concerns the increase of the subscription.
The international leaflet is reviewed.
Norway's application for membership has to be rejected again.*

1981, June 27th

*Delegates' Conference in St. Niklaus (CH). The differences between the Secretary and Austria could be solved with the help of the honorary president.
Animated discussion about "women as mountain guides".
Positive report by a representative of the TC about the visit of the guide course of New Zealand.
The new published international leaflet is handed out to the delegates.
Tragic fatal accident of our Past President of the TC, Yves Pollet-Villard.*

1981, November 7th

General Meeting in Mieming (A). Admission of New Zealand. Franz Rasp (GER) is the new President of the federation and Horst Fankhauser (A) is the new President of the TC.

1982, June 19th

*Delegates' Conference in Evolène (CH). Resignation of Horst Fankhauser, President of the TC because of too much pressure of work. Until fall provisional President Walter Strolz (A). Finally the "Bulletin No. 1" of the IFMGA was published and could be handed out to the delegates in the needed number for their countries.
Quite long discussion about the content of the future "bulletin". The problems concerning the translations are especially mentioned. A commission with Roger Frison-Roche, Dr. Bernard Truffer, Walter Strolz and the reporter will examine this issue.
The topic of the "mountain leaders" seems to get real and the managing committee has got the difficult work to write the basic conditions.*

This report is not at all complete, it shall though give an impression of the movement of our association in the first 17 years. Longer descriptions on the base of 32 minutes would be too much.

Sitten, 10.10.92

Xavier Kalt, Secretary General

Further dates:

1982

June 6th, DM, Neustift, Stubai ?

November 28th, GM, Seins, South Tyrol (I)

1983

June 18th, DM, Saas Fee (CH)

October 1st, GM, Hindelang (GER)

1984

June 30th, DM, Montana-Verwall (CH)

GM, IFMGA Info booklet 1984

1985

DM

GM

1986

June 13th, DM, Chamonix (F)

November 16th, GM, Elm (CH)

1987

July 4th, DM, Blatten, Lötschental (CH)

October 26th, GM, Pichl, Ramsau ?

1988

June 17th, DM, Les Deux Alpes (F)

October 26th, GM, Orta (I)

1989

June 17th, DM, Riederalp (CH)

October 20th, GM, Seis am Schlern (I)

1990

July 13th, DM, Zermatt (CH)

November 17th, GM, Hochschwarzeck Berchtesgaden (GER)

IFMGA Info booklet 1990

1991

June 6th, DM, Bormio (I)

November 23rd, GM, St-Vincent, Aosta (I)

1992

June 27th, DM, Chichilianne (F)

500th anniversary of the first ascent of the Mont-Aiguille in Vercors (F)

IFMGA Info booklet 1992

November 21st, GM, Vent (A)

1993

June 26th, DM, St. Niklaus (CH)

November 28th, GM, St. Moritz (CH)

1994

June 18th, DM, Martigny (CH)

Meeting on the occasion of the Cantonal Mountain Guide Ceremony of Valais, The European Platform is accepted as basis for the training.
November 25th, GM, Chamonix (F)

1995

June 17th, DM, Saas Fee (CH)
30th anniversary IFMGA
November 25th, GM, Sterzing, South Tyrol (I)

1996

May, 15th, DM, Banff (Canada)
100th anniversary mountain guiding in Canada
October 5th, GM, Zermatt (CH)
Mountain guide ceremony.
Anniversary ceremony 30 years IFMGA. Legal protection of trademark of the mountain guide badge. IFMGA sponsors: Benetton Sports System as well as Ortovox,
IFMGA Info booklet 1996

1997

June 14th, DM, Formigal (E)
November 22nd, GM, Kals (A)
Sponsors IFMGA: Ortovox, Casio, Foundation Canyoning Commission (Sub-commission of the TC of the IFMGA)

1998

June 20th, DM, Strbské Pleso (Slovakia)
November 21st, GM, Berchtesgaden (GER)
Foundation Commission Guided Expeditions, Foundation Commission Alpine Accidents (Sub-commissions of the TC of the IFMGA), IFMGA Info booklet 1998

1999

May 4th, DM, Zermatt (CH)
Afterwards Intern. Skiing Championships in Zermatt
November 27th, GM, Bardonecchia (I)
1. International Climbing Championships in Arco (I)

2000

June 6th, DM, Courmayeur (I)
Afterwards 28th Intern. Skiing Championships in Courmayeur and La Thuile, Georgia not anymore applicant country of IFMGA.
November 25th, GM, Chambéry (F)
Resignation of the IFMGA Secretary Leo Blättler (CH), election of the new IFMGA Secretary Armin Oehrli (CH), IFMGA platform / standards is printed. Creation of the IFMGA identity card. Admission of Poland.
In fall: 2nd International Climbing Championships in Munich (GER). Nils Faarlund, Norway, new honorary member.

2001

May 11th, DM, Vent (A)

Beginning of the discussion “To ski or not to ski”. Claude Rey (F) is the president of this commission. Chile new applicant country.

The Skiing Championships take place in Sölden (A) on May 12th.

Climbing Championships in Lecco (I) at the end of September
October 27th, GM, Oye (N)

Antonio Carrel new honorary member and Peter Geyer (GER) is elected as new President. Vice-President, Claude Rey (F). The President of the TC, Othmar Prinoth resigns and Sepp Gloggner (D / CH) is his successor. The supporting program organized by the Norwegian friends is great. Our honorary member Hermann Steuri dies in Grindelwald at the age of 92. The IFMGA Info booklet is printed new.

2002

May 10th, DM, Sulden (I)

Again animated discussions about “to ski or not to ski”. The new Info booklet is given to all countries. The partner contract with Ortovox is adapted. After the meeting in Sulden the TC meets for 4 days in Davos (CH).

The Climbing Championships take place on October 12th and 13th in Sexten, Dolomites (I) November 22nd, TC meeting in Galtür (A). Mutual visits and exchanges of instructors should improve the level and the mutual acknowledgement. Info Point: the mountain guides should communicate in a better way when they’re in the huts.

23rd November, GM, Galtür (A)

It is discussed about the guidelines for applicant countries which have been proposed by the Secretary Oehrli, decisions will only be taken in spring 2003.

19.12.02, our foundation and honorary member Hias Noichl dies in St. Johann, Tyrol (A).

2003

In May the TC visits the ski touring training course of the Association of South Tyrol in the area of Jungfrau. Afterwards, there is a short meeting of the TC in Grindelwald (CH) on May 8th.

The Delegates’ Meeting takes place on May 9th on top of Schilthorn, Mürren (CH). The regulations about the admission of applicant countries and the regulation about skiing which have been revised by Peter Geyer are approved.

On May 10th the International Skiing Championships of the Mountain Guides take also place at Schilthorn. It is a very nice event.

The International Climbing Championships take place from October 17th to 18th in Meiringen. There were 74 participants which is a record. It was very well organized.

The fall meeting takes place on 22.11. in Bled (SLO). The Slovenian friend organize a nice side event for us.

2004

The Meeting of the TC takes place in Chamonix. The Delegates’ Conference takes place on May 7th. The International Skiing Championships of the Mountain Guides take place on May 8th in Chamonix. In the village there fell about 30 cm of fresh snow. Same as the Skiing Championships also the Climbing Championships from 8th to 10th October are perfectly organized by our friends from Chamonix.

On this occasion the managing committee meets. The managing committee also accepts an invitation of our honorary president Mr. Maurice d’Allèves in Sion.

The General Meeting takes place on November 27th in Zakopane (PL). As first country without skiing Bolivia becomes member of the IFMGA. For the moment the ENSA in Chamonix is responsible for the training.

2005

The funeral of our honorary member Anderl Heckmair, 12.10.1906 – 1.2.2005, takes place on February 9th in Oberstdorf (GER).

The General Meeting takes place on May 6th in St. Moritz (CH). Nepal, Bulgaria and Romania want to become members of the federation. Different issues have to be clarified first.

The International Skiing Championships of the Mountain Guides take place on May 7th at Piz Corvatsch. It is a very well organized and nice event.

A memorial stone for our honorary member Hermann Steuri who died in 2001 is unveiled on June 9th in Grindelwald next to the church. The Secretary Armin Oehrli holds a short speech.

The Climbing Championships of the Mountain Guides take place on October 20th/21st in Imst (A), the managing committee of the IFMGA has a meeting at the same time.

The General Meeting takes place on November 26th in Chamonix (F).

Argentina and Greece are accepted as new members. Greece still needs support in the future in its training.

There is a change in the managing committee. Claude Rey (F) takes over from the President Peter Geyer and Alexis Mallon (F) from the President of the TC Sepp Gloggnier. Edi Bohren (CH) is the new Vice-President.

All the work that exceeds the usual workload of the managing committee (about 10 days), will in the future be reimbursed.

2006

The managing committee meets on January 10th in Brig (CH).

A work group has the task to advance the regulations about the aspirants and other important duties.

The spring meeting takes place on May 5th in Neustift (A). The ski race takes place there on May 6th. With a clear majority it is decided among all the participants that this event shall take place in May also in the future!

Ecuador is accepted as an applicant country.

On June 10th the 40th anniversary of the IFMGA is celebrated in Grindelwald with simple festivities together with the 100th anniversary of the SBV (Swiss Mountain Guides Association) and of BBV. Visit at the memorial stone of our honorary member Hermann Steuri. The Vice-President, Edi Bohren acknowledges again Steuri's work with a good speech. About 30 people of the IFMGA celebrate a wonderful evening together with the other persons celebrating their jubilees.

Unfortunately the Vice-President Edi Bohren, Grindelwald, has to resign his position due to personal reasons.

The Climbing Championships in Bad Tölz (GER) are a great success!

The General Meeting takes place in Kalampaka, Meteora, Greece.

The Czech Republic is accepted as a new member.

Nepal is accepted as an applicant country and Erich Gutgsell, South Tyrol, becomes honorary member of the IFMGA. Our Greek friends organize a nice supporting program (Mt. Olymp and Meteora).

2007

The TC works closely with the heads of training of the Alpine countries.

A meeting of the managing committee takes place in Chamonix.

The ski race of the mountain guides in Bormio is very well organized by Erminio Sertorelli.

Hermann Biner, Zermatt (CH), is elected as new Vice-President on the occasion of the GM in Bormio.

On July 28th the IFMGA President, Claude Rey, has a fatal accident. It was a fall into the marginal crevice at the stairs to Konkordia hut. With an impressive funeral service we could bid farewell to Claude on August 4th in Aussois. He has left a big void. His commitment in favour of the mountain guides all over the world was unique.

The IFMGA meets in November in Matsumoto (J). Our friends organize a great additional week on the spot for all those who love travelling. After the meeting it's time for the ascent of Mt. Fuji. It was a perfectly organized journey with lots of nice experiences.

Bruno Pellicier (F) is elected as President of the IFMGA and takes Claude Rey's position, who passed away in July.

2008

The ski race of the mountain guides takes place at the beginning of May in La Grave. The day with common skiing, a great atmosphere and the whole organization will stay in our memories.

The Climbing Championships take place in Torino, a successful event.

The GM takes place in Stockholm (S). The amendment of the bylaws (enlargement of the managing committee) and a new expenses regulation are approved.

2009

The Ski Championships take place in Engelberg (CH), the skiing day the day before the race is kept.

The Climbing Championships take place in Dornbirn (A), unfortunately there are only 40 participants present.

The General Meeting takes place on November 27th in Chambéry (F). The newly revised platform is signed. Bruno Pellicier becomes Past-President and Hermann Biner President of the IFMGA, Manfred Lorenz becomes Vice-President.

In the TC Alexis Mallon becomes Past-President, Peter Kimmig (CH) President and Hans Bergmann (A) Vice-President.

The annual subscription is now fixed at CHF 50.- or € 32.-. The free membership is changed from 60 to 65 years.

Elected as honorary members are: Bruno Pellicier (F), Alexis Mallon (F) and Othmar Prinoth, South Tyrol. Bruno Pellicier and Hermann Biner visit the associations, national parks and ministries in South America.

2010

The spring meeting and the ski race take place in Mayrhofen (A). For the first time an ascending competition is organized with more than 30 participants.

On October 29th/30th the VDDBS organizes the Climbing Championships of the Mountain Guides in Berchtesgaden. It is a great event.

2010

The fall meeting takes place in Boulder, Colorado (USA). It was organized in a very generous way by our American friends. Climbing at the Supercracks of Moab and other activities help to cement the friendship among the mountain guides. Some national parks and the National Forest Service are visited in order to discuss the topic of free access to the parks.

2011

The spring meeting and the ski race take place in Sulden am Ortler (I). Everything is well organized and the weather is wonderful. The IFMGA gives itself a new mission statement and the website shall be created newly. After big efforts for a common training system, Spain gets back the full membership.

Our honorary member and Past-President Alois Pirpamer passed away in Vent, Tyrol, on September 19th.

The General Meeting takes place in Prague. Foundation of the Commission Rope Access. Task specifications shall be elaborated for all sub-commissions.

Greece as an association is definitely excluded from the federation. The association is not capable of surviving with 5 members. These 5 shall get members in other national associations and attend their further educations there.

2012

The meeting takes place on May 3rd in Tignes (F). Nepal is accepted as a new member. There is a discussion about new structures for the federation. The managing committee keeps on working on this subject. There is consensus about the idea that mountain leaders should be trained without auxiliary means. The ski race with about 160 participants does also take place in Tignes.

GM in Aviemore, Scotland: The Commission Risk Management is headed by Marc Piché (Can). The Commission Expeditions and Trekking elaborates a manual headed by Walter Zörer (A). The Canyoning Commission is new headed by Adrian Kälin, (CH). The new Commission Rope Access is headed by Urs Wellauer (CH).

New elections into the managing committee: Kurt Walde, South Tyrol as Vice-President TC, Christian Trommsdorff (F) and Cesare Cesa Bianchi (I) as Vice-President of the IFMGA. Hanno Dönz, Vorarlberg (A), is elected as new President. Hermann Biner becomes Past-President according to regular cycle and honorary member, Peter Kimmig becomes Past-President of the TC and honorary member. Roger Payne (GB) who died in an avalanche (serac collapse) at Mt. Tacul is posthumously appointed honorary member. Roger was intensely committed to the free exercise of the profession in Europe. His work is continued by Peter Cliff (GB).

Other topics are: sponsoring, new homepage, illegal guides.

2013

The meeting takes place in Whistler (Can). Reciprocity is the main topic. In France the procedure is more than complicated. The French colleagues try to simplify this law and the procedure.

A training expedition is executed by the Commission Expeditions and Trekking at Mt. McKinley. The expedition is headed by Walter Zörer (A), there are members from 12 different nations who work as instructors in their associations.

The expedition is supported by Arcteryx, Dynafit, Garmin and Pieps. It is tried to get in touch with the local mountain guides in order to get closer to the goal concerning the permits.

The Skiing Championships take place in St. Moritz and the Climbing Championships in Chamonix. The fall meeting takes place in Huaraz, Peru. Camille Bournissen, Arolla CH, is elected as honorary member of the IFMGA. For years he has been supporting the training of the Peruvians. Reiner Taglinger, GER, and Urs Tinner, CH, are elected as new members on the board.

2014

The Skiing Championships and the spring meetings take place in Obergurgl, Tirol, AUT.

Money is collected for the victims of the disastrous ice avalanche at Khumbu, Everest.

Thanks to Hermann Biner's connections a considerable amount can be collected.

The DEZA-fund (Departement f. Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit der Schweiz – Department for Development and Collaboration of Switzerland) which was founded by the

Secretary Armin Oehrli in 2006 has got a capital of CHF 150'000. Money of these funds is taken in order to support emerging nations in their training with specialists. A subsidiary account was opened in order to support the colleagues in Nepal. In this connection it may also be counted on Patrick Z'Brun's help, wine cellar "Cave des Chevalliers" in Salgesch, CH and mountain guide.

The Secretary announces his resignation for fall 2015.

The Climbing Championships take place in Regensburg.

The fall meeting takes place in Tønsberg, NO. For the first time people from non-alpine countries are elected on the board of the IFMGA. These are Mike Wright, SWE, and Mark Diggins, GB. Reiner Taglinger is elected as new President of the TC. The resigning board members Cesare Cesa Bianchi, IT, and Hans Bergmann, AUT, are appointed honorary members. Emanuel Wassermann, mountain guide, instructor and founder of a mountaineering school as well as mediator could be found as successor for the Secretary. The Commission Rope Access organizes a demonstration about its work (Urs Wellauer, CH).

2015

The meeting and the Skiing Championships take place at Schnalstal, South Tyrol.

There was a destroying earthquake in Nepal. The IFMGA supports the persons affected with the Sherpa Funds. The annual subscription has to be adapted due to the great fluctuations of the currency exchange of Swiss Franc to Euro. Ecuador is elected as applicant country. Marco Heltai, IT, replaces Adrian Kälin, CH, as President of the Canyoning Commission.

Peter Cliff, GB, who deals with Europe, announces that the professional card shall be reality and valid from 2016 in Europe. There is an extensive discussion about a common training for the countries in Eastern Europe. The Skiing Championships shall be postponed to early winter.

The meeting on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the IFMGA takes place in the Valais, CH. The former Secretary and honorary member Bernard Truffer, CH, is going to elaborate a scripture for this event.

Compiled by A. Oehrli, Secretary General, July 2015

GA 2015 in Zermatt:

There was some disagreement and misunderstanding regarding the election to succeed Hanno Dönz as President. Right at the beginning of the meeting Michael Lentrodt, GER, makes an motion on behalf of the founding countries to postpone the elections of the President for half a year. The motion was adopted

Emanuel Wassermann elected as Secretary General to succeed Armin Oehrli who is appointed honorary member with a big applause.

The three board members Hanno Dönz, AT, Christian Trommsdorff, FR and Kurt Walde, IT are unanimously confirmed for another period of 3 years on the board of the IFMGA. In spring there will be a vote about the future President. Mike Wright, Hermann Biner and Mani Wassermann will define an electoral procedure for future elections.

2016

General Assembly in Sicily, May 2016:

Due to unexpectedly high costs for logo protection, finances get into trouble. Michael Lentrodt (GER) and the secretary take care of a solution for the high logo protection costs.

The accountings are being reorganised.

Christian Trommsdorff is elected as new president.

An electoral commission consisting of Paul Moore (UK) and Leif Magnussen (Norway) is defined for future elections of board members and presidents. The commission is supported by the secretary who has an advisory function.

Amendment of the bylaws: In the future it needs the majority of the votes as well as (additionally) the consent of more than half of the member associations for a decision. Further support for ski training in South America.

After the GA, the rock climbing competition took place in a great atmosphere.

The secretary presents a new database. All members can access addresses and important documents of IFMGA.

General Assembly in Chamonix, November 2016:

English will now be the only official language of the IFMGA. Reiner Taglinger, Germany and Urs Tinner, Switzerland have been elected as members of the board for the period autumn 2016 to autumn 2019. Peter Cliff was honored as member for his special effort the last years concerning the EPC.

2017

General Assembly in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, Spring 2017

The delegates decided unanimously to include the Asociacion Ecuatoriana de Guias de Montagna (ASEGUIM) as 24th member of IFMGA

General Assembly in Kathmandu, Nepal, December 2017

Kyrgyzstan becomes member of IFMGA. The Russian Association is now unanimously recognized as candidate member IFMGA.

Juliana Garcia (Equador) and Mark Diggins (UK) elected as members of the Board, Reiner Taglinger (GER) elected as president TC.

Workshop opened to non IFMGA members/countries called «Asian meet». Main conclusion: a big need expressed to assist countries to create or develop the national guides/mountain professionals associations with an identified path to IFMGA status.

Many difficulties with Prior Declaration in the Alpine countries. Issues with regulations in Bavaria & Tirol: Non IFMGA guides and other professionals working legally or illegally in alpine countries via operators & mountain schools based in Germany; actions taken by IFMGA & VDDBS

Eastern EU project / multinational curriculum: successful first step with aspirant guides course

Last module of Ski training in South America: 15 participants out of 22, which started the training in 2015, finished the complete course

2018

First year with only one General Assembly in autumn in Schruns. In spring, an informal meeting with workshops takes place in Samnaun, parallel to the ski race.

General Assembly in Schruns November 2018:

Elections to the Board: Romain de Lambert (France), Cesare Cesa Bianchi (Italy), Diego Wellig (Switzerland).

The bylaws are revised again. The tasks of the Board were clarified. The IFMGA has a new website. Kurt Walde has invested a lot of time and enthusiasm in it.

2019

The two high priority areas of professional mobility and quality management were the “hot topics” of IFMGA in 2019, using the most resources & energy.

Complaint by SIM. IFMGA would violate antitrust law. A lot of effort to fend off the lawsuit. IFMGA was 100% right.

General Assembly in Bariloche, Argentina, November 2019

The delegates decided unanimously to include EEMGA (Eastern European Mountain Guide Association) as the 26th member of IFMGA.

Peter Cliff (UK) elected as President. Walter Zörer (Austria) elected as member of the Board.

Workshops: Delegates decide, that Ski/No Ski is not a really discussion. The basic competences of a mountain guide are required: general mountaineering, rock climbing and ice climbing (same as for No Ski countries). IFMGA should not grow too fast, but also should be open for new interested countries.

The delegates decided unanimously that our IFMGA DezaFond becomes the IFMGA development fund. Christian Trommsdorff is appointed as a Honorary Member of the IFMGA.

2020

The Covid pandemic is changing the whole world and also mountain guiding. Travelling becomes almost impossible and in many countries mountain guiding is forbidden. The board is quickly learning to share with video conferencing. The General Assembly in Slovakia will be postponed until spring 2021.

Instead of the assembly in Slovakia, a virtual General Assembly took place. Delegates from around the world exchanged ideas over three days in November 2020. New bylaws were adopted.

Reiner Taglinger and Mark Diggins having completed two periods of 3 years on the Board and are therefore not eligible for re-election. The delegates decided to extend their period to the first GA 2021. Juliana Garçia has been reelected for a second period.

Christoph Schaub was elected unanimously for the period GA Autumn 2021 to Autumn 2024 as IFMGA Secretary.

2021

The pandemic continues to dominate the world in 2021. The meeting in Slovakia cannot take place. Instead, the delegates meet for an informal virtual exchange. Membership fees are halved for 2021. The financial burden on individual members is heavy.

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Compiled by Emanuel Wassermann, Secretary General, July 2021

Founding countries:

Austria, Italy with Aosta Valley, France, Switzerland

Presidents:

1965 – 1969	Roger Frison-Roche	France
1969 – 1973	Hermann Steuri	Switzerland
1973 – 1977	Hias Noichl	Austria
1977 – 1981	Oliviero Franchey	Italy
1981 – 1985	Franz Rasp	Germany
1985 – 1989	André Bertrand	France
1989 – 1993	Leo Caminada	Switzerland
1993 – 1997	Alois Pirpamer	Austria
1997 – 2001	Antonio Carrel	Italy (Aosta)
2001 – 2005	Peter Geyer	Germany
2005 – 2007	Claude Rey	France
♀ 28.7.2007	Crevasse fall at the stairs to Konkordia hut	
13.11.2007	election of Bruno Pellicier	France
2009 – 2012	Hermann Biner	Switzerland
2012 – 2016 (Spring)	Hanno Dönz	Austria
2016 – 2019	Christian Trommdorff	France
2019 –	Peter Cliff	UK

New members:

1969	Germany
1973	Canada
1976	South Tyrol
1977	Great Britain
1981	New Zealand
1982	Norway
1990	Peru
1991	Japan
1994	Spain
1996	Slovakia
1997	Slovenia
1997	Sweden
1997	USA
2000	Poland
2004	Bolivia, first country without skiing. The ENSA in Chamonix is at the moment responsible for the training.
2005	Argentina and Greece. GR has to train ski and high alpine tours in the Alps under supervision.
2006	Czech Republic
2009	Greece's membership is suspended, because there is no training going on.
2011	The five Greek mountain guides have to join another national association and have to attend a further education course there in order to keep their international stamp also in the future.

- 2012 Nepal can be admitted as a member. 24 mountain guides have got the IFMGA certification.
- 2017 Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan
- 2019 EEMGA (Eastern European Mountain Guide Association), first multinational association