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August 2015

ASTA Mid America Chapter



## CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2014

Dear «First Name»,

As our national convention in Washington D.C. approaches we are excited about the number of ASTA Mid-America members planning to attend the convention, the Advocacy Dinner and other events such as the White House Tour and the embassy events.

Personally, I am looking forward to speaking with many of you while we attend these meetings, seminars and other activities. In addition, we will be holding a Board Meeting to explore topics that confront ASTA and specifically ASTA Mid-America. Zane Kerby our CEO will attend so that we can have these discussions at a very high level.

As I start my second term as the Mid-America chapter president and the new board members assume their positions, we are considering a number of face to face events across our chapter to talk about the future of the chapter system in ASTA.

Beyond this forward looking convention we want to obtain your evaluation of what has been accomplished as well as your guidance on what ASTA Mid-America can do and should do to bring real value to you and your agency.

I hope to see you at the convention and at our events during 2015/2016. We are proud of what our chapter has done during the last year and we intend to raise the bar in 2016! Please contact me directly any time you have issues your feel should be addressed or examined by the entire membership.

Thank you for your commitment and interest in ASTA Mid-America.

I am pleased to welcome these new members to ASTA Mid-America. We look forward to their active participation as we continue to grow our Chapter:

Susan Vandivier  
Life Trips Travel  
[susanvandivier@live.com](mailto:susanvandivier@live.com)

Richard Zimmerman  
KHM Travel Group  
[Rick@khmtravel.com](mailto:Rick@khmtravel.com)

Kathryn Vella  
Travel Smart Inc.  
[kathy@travelsmart.agencymail.com](mailto:kathy@travelsmart.agencymail.com)

Angela Simpson  
Travel Smart Inc.  
[angie@travelsmart.agencymail.com](mailto:angie@travelsmart.agencymail.com)

**Calendar of Events**

**Chapter Events:**

Join Silversea Cruises and ASTA Mid-America for a Dinner presentation, Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at [Vittoria Ristorante, 10241 Sawmill Parkway, Powell, OH 43065](#). Free to ASTA Members, \$5.00 for Non-ASTA Members. Registration required for both members and non-members. [Register today!](#)

**National Events:**

[ASTA Global Convention | Aug 29 - Sept 1, 2015 | Washington DC](#)

Best Regards,



Claudia Darling  
Chapter President

**Board Members:**

Dan Lanser, 1st Vice President  
Barbara Mazzola, 2nd Vice President  
Ann Waters, Treasurer  
Pam Faust, Secretary

**August 2015****News from Headquarters****ASTA Global Convention, just a few weeks away!**

At AGC you'll have the opportunity to capitalize on success. You'll hear about the future of the Consortium relationship; learn how to become a \$2 million salesperson and what has helped the founder of Sandals Resorts International, the head of Valerie Wilson Travel and their successors stay at the top of the heap. This is the event of the year for our industry! If you fly in to Washington early and want to join approximately 50 of your peers at a Washington Nationals baseball game, you [can buy your \\$31 ticket here](#). This price includes \$10 pre-loaded onto your tickets for the concession stands.

[Register here](#) for AGC.

**AGC Closing Celebration Locked In!**

White House Insider Ann Compton, the venerable ABC News correspondent who has circled the globe with Presidents, Vice Presidents, and First Ladies, will give AGC delegates and inside scoop on the 2016 Presidential election and how it will impact you and your business. You won't want to miss the [closing general session](#) on Tuesday, Sept. 1. Ann will tell us how she broke into the industry during the 1970s, and the journey that led her to the White House. You also will hear ASTA President and CEO Zane Kerby's vision for the association going forward, not to mention a celebration of the destinations hosting us in 2016 for AGC, the Destination Expo and a new show in Hawaii! So don't wait, register today!

## Post AGC FAM

After you've enjoyed your time at the ASTA Global Convention, enjoy a two-night post AGC FAM in beautiful Brandywine Valley/Valley Forge, Pa. This FAM trip is limited to 35 agents, so sign up soon if you are interested. The agenda starts on Wednesday, September 2 and participants will return to Washington around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, September 4. Learn more about this FAM and register [here](#).

## ASTA Elections:

Below are the results of our National Board of Directors election. We had eight candidates vying for five open seats on the board. The election took place from July 20 to Aug. 5. The two-year terms of the newly elected directors will begin at the close of ASTA's Global Convention in Washington, D.C. this coming August.

The following are the newly elected national directors-at-large, in alphabetical order:

- Jay Ellenby, Safe Harbors Business Travel Group
- Caitlin Gomez, HRG Worldwide
- Dave Hershberger, Prestige Travel Leaders
- Toni Lanotte-Day, Toni Tours, Inc.
- Eric Maryanov, All Travel

National Directors serving the second year of their two-year terms include:

- Roger E. Block, Travel Leaders Franchise Group
- Jackie Friedman, Nexion, LLC
- Jorge Sanchez, Mena Tours & Travel Inc.
- Gloria Stock Mickelson, Travel Leaders Franchise Group

## YPS Retreat Registration Extended!

Join ASTA's Young Professionals Society and Millennials in Travel on the *Norwegian Escape* Inaugural

This ship has not yet sailed! ASTA's Young Professionals Society and Millennials in Travel have teamed up with Norwegian Cruise Line to host a leadership retreat on the inaugural of *Norwegian Escape*, November 9-14, 2015. Registration has been extended until Thursday, August 20.

This member-only event will bring together like-minded agents in an environment where business is discussed, ideas are shared and great memories are made by all. Registration is open to all active ASTA YPS and MIT travel selling agent members under 40 years of age. You can learn more about the agenda, the extremely affordable registration fee (\$175 per person) and register [here](#).

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## Upcoming Webinars from ASTA Headquarters

[ASTAPAC- Representing Travel Agents](#) | October 8, 2015 | 2pm ET

## Recent ASTA Member Alerts & Press Releases

[MAST Travel Network is First Consortium to Renew Its Support for ASTA](#) | July 17, 2015

[Virtuoso Invests up to \\$10,000 to Support Its Members' Participation in ASTA's Regulatory Compliance Course](#) | June 24, 2015

[Signature Travel Network Makes ASTA Regulatory Compliance Course a Key Component of Signature University Training](#) | June 23, 2015

[Washington Legislature Kills Tax Hike on Travel Agents](#) | June 18, 2015

**The global advocates for travel. Go with the pros.**

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