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December 2016

ASTA Mid-America Chapter eNews



2016 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Dear «First Name»,

We have just completed an electoral process that has captivated the attention of the whole world as well as a huge number of American citizens.

Now that we have a President Elect, the highly negative and divisive messages seem to be shifting toward a more positive and productive theme of working together and allowing the new administration and opportunity to prove itself.

It seems possible that as we head into the holiday season and people examine the accompanying sentiments of healing and hope we may find it easier to come together as a country. I think most of us are anxious to look forward and seek issues that will unite us.

Your chapter has tried to keep its eye on the ball. We continue to seek your input as we begin to refine our business action plan for 2017.

Actually many of the topics were important in the recent election are going to make 2017 more interesting and exciting for ASTA Mid-America. For example, education of the type that makes our businesses run more efficiently and effectively. We are proud to point to our first scholarship participant to graduate from the Travel Institute's CTA program. Amy Stewart, from Central Travel, completed her studies and other participants have commented favorably on the experience.

Another ASTA Event that will be highly significant to our industry and association will be the annual [Legislative Day](#) that will take place in Washington DC in June 2017. The possibility of a more business friendly and less regulatory environment needs to be recognized by our National Association and our advocacy professionals. We must assume an aggressive posture to assure the interests of small business people are advanced.

I ask that each of you consider taking part in this year's event which will give you the opportunity to have an impact on Capitol Hill and possibly reverse some of the burdensome requirements that can make our businesses less profitable.

Finally, our "All Chapter Meeting" will take place at the [Nemacolin Woodlands Resort](#) just south of Pittsburgh. Our featured speaker will be Arnie Weissmann, Editor and Chief of Travel Weekly. Arnie is an important and well respected voice for our industry. He can be expected to discuss "big picture" issues that will be important to our business interests in 2017.

So in a season of hope, I hope you will join us at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, bring your energy and expertise to the event. It is a well-recognized fact that membership involvement has allowed ASTA Mid-America to repeat as the National Chapter of the

Year in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Chapter Events

• **Holiday Celebrations in Cleveland & Evansville** - December 12 & 15, 2016, respectively. Look for your invitation in your inbox! [Reservations are required.](#)

Did you mark your calendars for these two upcoming Chapter Events in 2017?

• **TravelFest** - April 3-6, 2017 - Registration email will be sent out after the first of the year.

• **All Chapter Meeting** - June 8-10, 2017 - All of the details coming soon!
Keynote Speaker: Arnie Weissmann, Editor in Chief, Travel Weekly

Upcoming ASTA National Events

ASTA has an exciting line-up of informative, educational and enjoyable events planned through 2017. We hope you will join us for:

- [ASTA Destination Expo with optional Masai Mara Safari](#), February 24-28, 2017
- ASTA Capital Summit - June 4-6, 2017, Washington DC; which includes:
(Registration for these meetings opening soon!)
 - [Premium Business Summit](#), Washington DC, June 5-6, 2017
 - CAC Meeting, June 6, 2017, and
 - [ASTA Legislative Day](#), Washington DC, June 7, 2017
- [ASTA / NACTA Bahamas Showcase](#), - June 21-24, 2017
- [ASTA Global Convention](#), San Diego, CA - August 26-29, 2017

Thank you for your continued support. Please allow me to extend my personal wish to each of you for a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!

Claudia

Claudia Darling
Chapter President

Board Members:
Barbara Mazzola, 1st Vice President
Pam Faust, 2nd Vice President
Pat Reynolds, Treasurer
Connie Corbett, Secretary





In the News at ASTA.org

- Travel Weekly: [44% of ASTA members are home-based agencies](#)
- Travel Weekly: [Industry voices cautious optimism about Trump presidency](#)
- Travel Agent Central: [ASTA Announces Staff Promotions and Additions](#)
- Travel Age West: [A Must-Read Guide to the 5 Largest Travel Agent Networks](#)
- Travel Market Report: [ASTA Announces Appointments To Key Roles](#)
- Travel Market Report: [Successful "Land & Sea" Event Wraps Up NACTA 30-Year Anniversary](#)

Why does ASTAPAC matter?

A PAC, or political action committee, provides a unique and effective way for travel agents to become actively involved in the political process which shapes our country. A strong PAC indicates the Society's determination to be a major component in the democratic process and identifies the travel agency community as a recognizable force in seeking good government for the industry and the small business community at large. In pooling resources, a PAC provides greater impact for delivering what we send to Congress – it is one voice representing many. [Click here](#) to make your voice heard today.

Upcoming Webinar from ASTA Headquarters

[Making the Most of your ASTA Membership](#) | December 14, 2016 2:00 PM ET

[Israel - Land of Creation](#) | December 15, 2016 2:00 PM ET

Recent ASTA Member Alerts & Press Releases

Nov. 30, 2016: [Premium-Only Update: Display Bias Rules Coming, OT Development](#)

Nov. 23, 2016: [Federal Judge Blocks Implementation of Dept. of Labor's New OT Rule](#)

Nov. 9, 2016: [The 2016 Election and Its Impacts on Our Industry](#)

Nov. 14, 2016: [ASTA Welcomes Kim Sherrett, Announces Staff Promotions](#)

The global advocates for travel. Go with the pros.

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