



July 2015

ASTA Mid America Chapter



CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2014

Dear «First Name»,

I am looking forward to ASTA's Global Convention which will take place from 8/29/15 - 9/1/15 in Washington D.C. In addition to an interesting and impactful program, the focus of the entire nation leading up to the 2016 Presidential Election will be drawn back to Washington and the political process in this country.

I mention "focus" because we must not lose sight of the many industry specific issues facing our businesses!

This year's convention gives all of us a chance to get closer to the political process and to impact outcomes that favor small business.

I hope the attendance will exceed expectations and that the "take aways" will far exceed the time and resources expended by ASTA members who come to Washington.

Calendar of Events

Chapter Events:

Join Collette & ASTA Mid-America for a Luncheon Presentation:

"USA & Cuba Travel Changes", Friday, August 7, 2015 - 12Noon-1:30PM
at [DiLegge's Banquet Room](#), 607 North Main Street, Evansville, IN 47711 | Phone: (812) 428-3004
[Registration is Required!](#) Free for ASTA Members - \$5 for Non-ASTA Members! Sign Up today!

- August 5, 2015: Deadline for Election Ballots
- August 10, 2015: Election Results!
- August 29-Sept 1, 2015: ASTA Global Convention
- August 30, 2015: Outgoing Board of Directors Meeting
- August 30, 2105: New Board of Directors of Elections Executive Committee meeting

- Recommended Webinars are now listed on the website and below at the bottom.

Upcoming National Events:

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

Best Regards,

Claudia

Claudia Darling
Chapter President

Board Members

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



ASTA Global Convention

Washington D.C. Aug 29 - Sept 1

July 2015

News from Headquarters

The amount of new and exciting developments coming out of ASTA Headquarters this month is on overdrive. Many of them have to do with ramped up efforts to make this year's Global Convention a huge success. (As of July 17, there were 500 attendees registered—that is halfway to the 1,000 goal!)

With so much to talk about, let's get right to it.

Agents Given Exclusive On-Site Enrollment in Global Entry Program

ASTA has just arranged for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to be on-site in Washington, D.C., for two days during the [ASTA Global Convention](#) to conduct "mobile enrollments" into CBP's Global Entry trusted traveler program. The enrollments will take place between 9am and 5pm Saturday, Aug. 29 and Sunday, Aug. 30 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Attendees who [apply](#) for Global Entry by Aug. 14 and receive a conditional approval from CBP can schedule their in-person Global Entry interview with a CBP officer and become enrolled in the program at the ASTA Global Convention.

On-site Global Enrollment is open to you if you have:

- Applied for Global Entry through the [on-line application](#) by Aug. 14 and paid the application fee (\$100 for five years).
- Received a conditional approval from CBP prior to the start of the conference.
- Scheduled an interview in advance of arriving in D.C., which will be conducted at the convention (when prompted during the interview scheduling process, [use interview location code "2015 ASTA"](#)).
- Bring a valid passport and second form of identification (i.e. driver's license or ID card) with you to present at the time of the interview. If you are a lawful permanent resident, you must also present your permanent resident card.

Omni Shoreham Lowers AGC Hotel Rates, Retroactively, to as Low as \$159

This almost never happens, but the historic Omni Shoreham Hotel, where all of the sessions for the [ASTA Global Convention](#) are taking place, has offered to lower the room rate by \$10 in all categories to entice more agents to stay during the AGC. This rate reduction is retroactive, so that those who are already booked will receive the discount. **Please act soon!** The ASTA room block will be released on Aug. 7, so we cannot guarantee space after that date. Please **(A)** register for AGC by Aug. 1, when conference registration rates go up by \$25, and then **(B)** book your hotel by Aug. 7. The rates are now: \$159 for a single; \$169 for a double; \$179 for a triple; and \$199 for a quad.

YPS Launches New Website, Plans Fall Retreat

The Young Professionals Society is on the move attracting "new blood" to the career of retail travel seller. In addition to a newly updated website—[TheNewBreedofTravelAgents.com](#)—and a [Ghost Tour/Pub Crawl](#) Saturday Aug. 29 at the ASTA Global Convention, the group is planning to team up with Millennials in Travel for a fall leadership retreat. The two groups will be hosted by Norwegian Cruise Line, and will sail on the Norwegian Escape Nov. 9-14. Planned activities include business roundtables, networking with leaders and informal activities. The event is open to all YPS and MIT travel selling agent members under the age of 40. Norwegian is providing the complimentary accommodation for 40 participants. Agents must pay a \$175 registration covering taxes and fees, gratuities, special events and a welcome gift. Registration is now closed, but details can be found [here](#).

MAST Renews Support in ASTA, Signs Two-Year Agreement

The MAST Travel Network has again stepped up to the plate in recognizing the value of ASTA by agreeing to pay a portion of our membership dues so that all MAST members can become ASTA members. ASTA President and CEO Zane Kerby extends a heartfelt thank you to MAST President and COO John Werner for his support. Werner was the first of four consortia leaders to sign a customized membership deal last June, and has now decided to expand that to a two-year agreement. MAST has now more than doubled the number of members that ASTA represents.

Save the Date: Premium Business Summit to be Held Feb. 2-4, 2016

All Premium Members are asked to "save the date" of Feb. 2-4 for our 2016 Premium Business Summit. The PBS will be held at the charming Belmond Charleston Place Hotel in Charleston, S.C. We will see all of our Premium Members next at the Premium Business Meeting being held on Aug. 31 during the ASTA Global Convention. Interested in becoming a Premium Member? Please email Manager of Membership Chelas Poirier at cpoirier@asta.org.

ASTA Members Invited to Participate in NACTA Events

As an ASTA member, you are invited to join many of NACTA's conferences, FAMS and seminars. We are two organizations, but one company. If you find that the dates for a particular ASTA event do not work for you, consider a [NACTA event](#), such as the Annual NACTA Conference in Kona, HI, Nov. 8-12 at the Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa Keauhou Bay.

Do you have a Natitude?

If you arrive for the ASTA Global Convention on Friday Aug. 28, and would like to attend a Washington Nationals (Go Nats!) Baseball game against the Florida Marlins, you can sign up for tickets at [Nationals.com/ASTA](#) soon. The Nats intend to have that site live by Aug. 1. We will let you know when that happens. The cost is \$41, and includes \$10 to spend at the concession stands. All members will be seated together in Left Field. All International Members and YPS members who sign up will be taken to the game for free.

National Director Election Now Open

Eight candidates are vying for the five (5) open national director positions on ASTA's Board of Directors in the 2015 election, which begins on July 20. The candidates, in alphabetical order, are Jay Ellenby, Caitlin Gomez, Dave Hershberger, Pamela Irwin, Toni Lanotte-Day, Eric Maryanov, Leo Zabinski and Marilyn Bell Zelaya. All votes must be cast by 5:00 pm ET on Wednesday, August 5. Election results will be announced Monday, August 10.

If you are a qualified voting member of ASTA, you received your ballot via email from VoteNet (not ASTA) the morning of Monday, July 20 with detailed instructions on how to cast your vote. To review

candidate profiles on ASTA.org, click here. If you have any questions regarding the election process, please contact elections@asta.org.

New York City Chapter Secretary Election Open

Two (2) candidates are vying for the one (1) open Secretary position on the New York City ASTA Chapter Board in the 2015 election, which began July 20, 2015. The candidates in alphabetical order are Joann Costagliola and Jack D. Tillem. All votes must be cast by 5:00 pm ET on Wednesday, August 5. Election results will be announced Monday, August 10.

If you are a qualified voting member of the New York City ASTA Chapter, you received your ballot via email from VoteNet (not ASTA) the morning of Monday, July 20 with detailed instructions on how to cast your vote. To review profiles on ASTA.org, click here. If you have any questions regarding the elections process, please contact elections@asta.org.

ASTA's Latest Press Releases:

- [MAST Travel Network Promotes Membership in ASTA](#) — *June 23, 2014*
- [Travel Editor Peter Greenberg to Join ASTA Agents at Sea](#) — *June 11, 2014*

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