



June 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.

One additional reminder, as the convention approaches, July 1st is the last day to apply for the mentoring program. This program will cover registration, hotel, airfare and much more. This program is for young agents that have not attended the convention for the last 2 years. Please contact me directly if you might be interested.

Calendar of Events

Chapter Events:

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

Collette Tours & ASTA Mid-America Present: A Dinner Presentation:

"USA & Cuba Travel Changes"; Wednesday, July 15, 2015 from 6pm-7:30pm at
Buca di Beppo - Castleton Square, 6045 E 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46250; Phone: 317.842.8666

[Registration is Required!](#) Free for ASTA Members - \$5 for Non-ASTA Members! Sign Up today!

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

June 2015

News from Headquarters

Nominate a Mentee Before July 1, Send an ASTA Member to AGC!

ASTA and Tourism Cares are looking for your nominations by July 1 for a new mentoring program, Travel Talent for Tomorrow. If you are the head of a travel agency or a direct manager of someone you know who is an ambitious young travel agent (anyone under the age of 40), [please nominate them](#) for the program by July 1. Up to 12 nominees will be chosen, and they will receive complimentary registration to the ASTA Global Convention Aug. 29-Sept. 1, \$500 in travel reimbursement for airfare and ground transportation, hotel accommodation and meals, special attendance to the black tie Advocacy Dinner and an invitation to the Young Professionals Society Ghost Tour/Pub Crawl in Alexandria, Va., on Aug. 30. Travel Talent for Tomorrow matches experienced mentors with mentees for leadership development, and will debut at the Global Convention. It is funded by ASTA, the Mid America/Allegheny and Southeast chapters, Marriott International and travAlliance Media. Nominations for Travel Talent for Tomorrow can be submitted to www.tourismcares.org/ttnomination.

Staci Blunt Joins CPC Representatives on ASTA National Board, Mike Weingart to Be Next Chair

Congratulations to Staci Blunt and Mike Weingart! During its meeting in Chicago before the Premium Business Summit on June 6, the ASTA Chapter Presidents Council (CPC) voted for Arizona Chapter President Staci Blunt, New York Chapter President Ralph Vasami and Southwest Chapter President Mike Weingart to represent them on the national Board of Directors for the next term, effective at the conclusion of the ASTA Global Convention. Blunt is a new addition to the board. In addition, Weingart will take over as CPC Chair, replacing Northern California Chair Marilyn Bell Zelaya, who is terming out after four years. During the CPC meeting, it was noted that all ASTA members should be aware that they may join any chapter they choose (they are not restricted by state lines), and they are encouraged to attend other chapter's functions. A full list of ASTA's chapters can [be found here](#). By clicking on the Chapter tab, ASTA members will see upcoming events and other news for each chapter.

Here's What is New at Global Convention

We continue to add to the [program](#) for the ASTA Global Convention, Aug. 29-Sept. 1. If you have not registered yet, a price increase will be coming soon, [so please make your plans now](#). We want to

reward agents who sign up early with the lowest prices. The festivities actually start on Friday Aug. 28. Anyone wanting to attend a **Washington Nationals baseball game** (playing the Florida Marlins), can do so at 7 p.m. International members and Young Professionals Society members are coming compliments of ASTA. Other tickets will range from \$20-\$40. Seating still to be determined. Also that evening, if you want to watch the **Evening Parade silent drill team and Marine Cops Band**, we have a few reserved seats left. For details, call Andrea Caulfield in ASTA Headquarters, 703.739.6888. If you are a YPS member, a special evening is planned for Saturday Aug. 29—**Ghost Tour and Pub Crawl** is on in Alexandria, Va.! A **post-AGC FAM trip** is also now being planned for Sept. 2-4 to historic Brandywine River Valley, Md. Registration details coming soon. To kick off AGC, a **Global Travel Exchange** will take place 9 am-12:30 pm on Aug. 29 to forge new business relationships between International Members and ASTA's core members in the U.S. Special perks and prizes will be on hand to anyone attending this education and networking event. Also watch for a new panel to go on the schedule on **how to sell to the gay and lesbian market** that will include IGLTA President and CEO John Tanzella.

Rep. Shimkus Addresses ASTA's Premium Business Summit

Among the high-profile speakers at ASTA's Premium Business Summit in Chicago June 8-9 was Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL), who sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the international side of the travel industry – Brand USA, inbound travel, the so-called International Travelers Bill of Rights – as well as consumer protection issues that can impact travel agencies like cracking down on patent “trolls” and data security/privacy. The insight the Congressman provided attendees on the congressional state of play with regard to travel and tourism policy debates was well-received, timely and illuminating. Comment from one member... “It was a very informative and inspirational meeting! We came out convinced that we need to be an ASTA advocate. ASTA is a great organization...and together we will make it better!”

ASTA's Premium Members also broke into groups and took the new [Travel Agency Regulatory Compliance Course](#). As a direct result of that exercise, Signature Travel Network and Virtuoso have now purchased the course for all or a large portion of their U.S.-based agents.

Washington Legislature Kills Tax Hike on Travel Agents

ASTA applauds the Washington legislature for its decision to keep in place a special tax rate for travel agent commission income, saving agents more than \$14 million over two years. ASTA members played a critical role in opposing a proposal to repeal the provision, including testifying at hearings and making their case through phone calls, face-to-face meetings and in more than 200 advocacy messages sent to state policymakers through [ASTA's online grassroots site](#). For more information, read our [full press release here](#).

Upcoming Webinars from ASTA Headquarters

[Webinar - Nezasa: The easiest way of creating and selling tailor-made itineraries](#)

[Webinar - ASTAPAC Update](#)

[Webinar - ASTA Global Convention - Everything You Need to Know](#)

[Webinar - Understanding U.S. Travelers through Psychographics](#)

[ASTA Members Only]

[Webinar - ASTAPAC—Representing Travel Agents](#)

Recent ASTA Member Alerts & Press Releases

[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

[ASTA Joins Engage Cuba Coalition](#) June 16, 2015

The global advocates for travel. Go with the pros.

To decline all e-mails from this chapter, [click here](#).