



May 2016

ASTA Mid America Chapter



## 2015 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Dear «First Name»,

As I promised in the April Newsletter, I am pleased to announce Ike Reynolds as the first recipient of the "Barbara H. Markham" Advocacy Award. This important recognition was presented by Eben Peck, ASTA's SVP of Government and Industry Affairs, at our first annual all chapter meeting. Barbara's husband, Tom Markham, her sister, Sue Smith, and a number of her other family members were in attendance when the award was presented at the Greenbrier in West Virginia.

Ike Reynolds' accomplishments both as a businessman and an ASTA member made him an ideal example of the commitment and expertise that we believe the Mid-America Advocacy Award was intended to recognize.

Ike's leadership has helped the Mid-America Chapter achieve outstanding results, culminating in our Chapter's recognition as the Silver Award Advocacy winner in 2015.

As a follow up to the all chapter meeting which seemed to be well received, Mid-America's event at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, in conjunction with the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 race that was held at the track Saturday, May 21st saw a record attendance.

ASTA Mid-America will be coming to your city in the near future, watch your email for details.

To hear more about what ASTA is doing on your behalf, [click here](#) to view our Legislative Day video.

Lastly, in an effort to help our members receive important travel designations, ASTA Mid-America and the Travel Institute have partnered to help you receive your CTA. Watch for additional information in the near future.

### Calendar of Events

#### **Upcoming Chapter Events:**

You're Invited to a **Cayman Island Beach Party** on June 14, 2016 - Look for more details in your inbox.

Join us on June 22, 2016 for the **NACTA / ASTA Travel Information Night**. Look for more details in your inbox, as well.

#### **Upcoming ASTA National Events**

We hope you'll join us at one of our upcoming shows!

- **ASTA Destination Expo** – June 2-5, 2016: There are already over 100 registered attendees signed up for next year's ADE in Seville, Spain! Nothing beats actually being there. [Register here!](#)
- **ASTA Global Convention** – September 25-28, 2016: Laugh at midnight, dance 'til dawn. Reno Tahoe has all the excitement you can imagine. [Register here.](#)

Kind Regards,

Claudia Darling  
Chapter President

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



## May 2016 News from Headquarters

ASTA Destination Expo (ADE) attendees have the opportunity to sign up for one half day sightseeing tour (either on June 2 or 4) and one full day sightseeing tour on June 5. Registration for these tours closes on May 18th. No edits or additions can be made after this date so be sure to sign up now in the [Attendee Service Center](#), where you can also sign up for special events.

We have several special events (listed below) that must be signed up for in advance and again, Registration closes on May 18th.

• **Site Inspection of CroisiEurope's Belle de Cadix, Thursday, June 2, 2-4pm:** Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to visit the only ship able to navigate on both river and ocean sailing on the Guadalquivir and Guadiana rivers and enjoy a cocktail reception onboard. Ship will be docked at Muelle de las Delicias.

• **Tapas Tour, June 3, 9-11:30pm:** After our evening event on Friday, June 3, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a self-guided tapas tour through Seville. This delicious tour costs \$35 and includes tickets for 3 tapas and 3 drinks to be used/accepted at numerous bars throughout the city, a city map of the bar locations and descriptions, along with contact numbers for the tour coordinators in the area in case you need guidance.

### Introducing ASTA Fellows Professional Development Awards

This year we have 12 individually funded awards available, valued from \$1500 - \$2500, first 30 applicants considered. You can customize your professional development by bundling a variety of professional development activities – and awards may be applied to: attendance at ASTA Destination Expo, ASTA Global Convention, and a variety of online courses, including travel agent certification course. Qualifications and Details: U.S. or Canadian citizen or permanent resident, professional travel agent, letter of reference from a manager or peer, a personal statement supporting your request for the award. [Learn more and apply today.](#)

**Innovation, project management & staying relevant in the ever changing travel world**



Join YPS on May 11th at 1:00 PM EST as we chat with Sheena Young, from Valerie Wilson Travel.

"When it comes to meetings, instead of going around the room and answering the question of "What are you working on?" answer the question of "What do you **want** to work on?" What new ideas have been going through your mind? Where is there an opportunity for improvement that you've been thinking about? Or take one department, one challenge or one person's idea and collaborate as a team to think through it. Instead of a meeting, you now have a think tank! There will be more innovation, connectivity and people will want to go to this type of meeting."

How to join: Details on how to join will be sent on May 11th. We hope you can join us for this informative podcast.

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### **Upcoming Webinar from ASTA Headquarters**

[Webinar - Becoming a Travel Agent - A Great Career Choice](#) | May 17, 2016

### **Recent ASTA Member Alerts & Press Releases**

[ASTA, ITN Productions Launch 'Travel Agents Taking Off' News Program](#) | May 6, 2016

[New Study Finds Travel Agents Save Consumers an Average of \\$452/Trip](#) | May 2, 2016

[ASTA Launches 'Becoming a Travel Agent' Course](#) | April 29, 2016

[ASTA Asks Disney Cruise Line to Reconsider Commission Cap](#) | April 15, 2016

[AMG Supports National Trade Association with Reduced Membership](#) | April 14, 2016

[Leisure Travel Alliance Offers Members Special Deal to Join ASTA](#) | April 11, 2016

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

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