



November 2015

ASTA Mid America Chapter



Chapter eNews

2015 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Dear «First Name»,

I hope all of you will have the opportunity to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. We are truly fortunate to live in a country that has focused so much of its energy and resources on providing a high level of safety and security for its citizens and residents.

The recent tragic events in Paris both sadden us and bring us closer to the people of France. We cannot allow the terrorists to influence our way of live and our freedom to travel the world freely. If we do that would mean the "bad guys" win!

As travel professional we always seek to provide our clients with the best information we can obtain regarding safety concerns at any foreign destination, but the current threats make our role as an advisor even more important. I know that we will meet this challenge, utilizing the expertise, resources and customer concern that are the hallmarks of our business.

Calendar of Events

Chapter Events: Updates coming soon.

Upcoming ASTA National Events

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

- **Premium Business Summit** – February 2-4, 2016: Seize this opportunity to interact with key industry players as we collectively protect and grow our industry at this important and exclusive event. Registration opens November 2015.
- **Legislative Day** - March 14-15, 2016: Held at the Westin Georgetown in Washington, D.C. At this exclusive event, open to ASTA members only, you will converge on Capitol Hill to speak directly to lawmakers about issues that impact travel agents and the broader travel and tourism industry. Use promo

code "**CPCLeg16**" to receive a \$20 savings on the [registration](#) fee.

- **ASTA Maui Showcase** – May 11-15, 2016: It's always a good time to go to Maui! Space is limited. [Register today!](#)
- **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!](#)

Best wishes to you and your family during the Thanksgiving holiday.,

Claudia

Claudia Darling
Chapter President

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



November 2015 News from Headquarters

If You're Not At The Table, You're On The Menu

Attending Legislative Day is a great way to make sure we are at the table! We are pleased to invite you to [Legislative Day 2016](#), to be held March 15 (8am-5pm) at the Westin Georgetown in Washington, D.C. At this exclusive event, open to ASTA members only, you will converge on Capitol Hill to speak directly to lawmakers about issues that impact travel agents and the broader travel and tourism industry.

Your voice matters! According to a recent study by the Congressional Management Foundation, nothing makes a bigger impression on lawmakers than a visit from constituents.

Going unrepresented in Congress invites disaster at a time when legislators are considering issues that will have a direct impact on your business and work life—from airline ancillary fees and other distribution issues to selling Cuba and new regulations on independent contractors

[Register for Leg Day Here!](#)

ASTA Co-Hosts Event for Cuba Travel Champion Senator Klobuchar

Last evening ASTA co-hosted an event with New Cuba PAC for Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Co-Chair of Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus.

Senator Amy Klobuchar has been a longtime supporter of the travel industry's priorities, and is a champion of Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act – a top issue for ASTA. Klobuchar is a member of a number of committees critical to ASTA's policy priorities, including Commerce, Science and Transportation (FAA reauthorization, cruise issues, Amtrak) and Judiciary, where she is the Ranking Member of the Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights subcommittee.

On behalf of the 53 ASTA member companies in Minnesota we thank the Senator for her consistent support!



For the latest on ASTA's advocacy priorities, stay tuned to our [Advocacy Action Center](#).

The deadline to apply for ASTAs professional development scholarship is just days away! This year, Tourism Cares offers 25 awards with a maximum of \$45,000 available to cover tuition for those entering travel and tourism at certificate programs starting in December 2015 and through October 2016; attendance at ASTA IDE and AGC in 2016; and one award for faculty teaching in the field. All scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit and will be judged by independent reviewers.

Many of the awards are established by specific ASTA Chapters plus there are two national ASTA awards which are open to all; requirements vary. The deadline for applications is Friday, November 9th, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To apply, visit [The Tourism Cares professional development scholarships for 2016 trainings and conferences](#).

Upcoming Webinars from ASTA Headquarters

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Upcoming Webinars from ASTA Headquarters

[The Looming Passport Crunch](#) - December 1, 2015 2:00pm EST

[ASTA Maui Showcase - Live with Robin Basso](#) from Hawaii - January 6, 2016 - 2:00PM EST

Recent ASTA Member Alerts & Press Releases

[IATA Releases Report on What Travel Agents Think About NDC](#) - October 21, 2015

[Update on ASTA Campaign Against Misleading Hotel Marketing](#) - October 21, 2015

[Three States Receive Real ID Extensions](#) - October 16, 2015

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