



October 2015

ASTA Mid America Chapter

A background image of a pumpkin patch with several carved jack-o'-lanterns glowing in the dark.

# Chapter eNews

## 2015 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Dear «First Name»,

On October 12, 2016 ASTA members met with Indiana's 5th District Congresswoman, [Susan W. Brooks](#) at the Travel Leaders office in Carmel, IN. A wide range of topics, including travel to Cuba, protecting client information from hacking and other security breaches, funding for Air Traffic Control system improvement, legislative responses to NLRB regulations on classification and compensation of employees, and continuing issues surrounding the "Airline Transparency Act".

Congresswoman Brook's background with the Homeland Security and her experience as a US Attorney gives her special concerns with the safety of the traveling public, both here and abroad. She also feels bioterrorism is a major issue that needs more focus. The agents attending felt the meeting was VERY productive and that we have established a basis for a continuing relationship with her office. A good start that we will follow across the chapter to build visibility with both Federal and State legislators so that when we need their support they know our issues and that we are prepared to stand behind those issues with actions.

Our chapter has held meetings on the status of travel to Cuba and more are being planned. Our city chairs will be conducting events in Pittsburg, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Ft. Wayne, Indianapolis, and Evansville. More details coming soon.

One great opportunity to "spice" up your New Year's celebration is the Mid-America Chapter along with the [American Steamboat Company is offering a very special FAM trip](#). Cruising the Mississippi River over the New Year's holiday aboard the American Queen. Watch for more information.

### **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.
- **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!](#)

Happy Halloween,

*Claudia*

Claudia Darling  
Chapter President

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



## **October 2015 News from Headquarters**

### **ASTA professional development scholarships now available at Tourism Cares.**

These awards include stipends for registration costs at 2016 ASTA conferences as well as certificate programs.

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](#)

### **More highlights from the Inaugural mentoring at AGC**

The next generation of leaders were in the house at the AGC! Thanks to the generosity and commitment of the ASTA Southeast and Mid-America chapters, and travAlliancemedial and Marriott International, 11 young and talented advisors joined the remarkable ASTA community in Washington, where they were paired with veteran agents as mentors. Most were first timers to the AGC and rated it extremely favorably, and they also were given the special opportunity to join the Advocacy Dinner. A special thank you to the mentors representing numerous consortia who gave their time and focus to support these agents at AGC. Learn more on our the Tourism Cares [blog](#).

### **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. [Help grow ASTAPAC's influence today!](#)

In pooling resources, a ASTAPAC provides greater impact for delivering what we send to Congress – it is one voice representing many. [Help grow ASTAPAC's influence today](#) and make your voice heard.

### **Join ASTA at World Travel Market**

ASTA is looking forward to exhibiting at this year's World Travel Market in London, November 2-5. If you are attending WTM be sure to stop by the ASTA booth (booth number NA210). If you have any questions while you are there, feel free to reach out to our ASTA staff by emailing [skresge@asta.org](mailto:skresge@asta.org). We hope to see you there!

## **Upcoming Webinars from ASTA Headquarters**

ASTA Maui Showcase - [Magical and Marvelous! | October 27, 2015 | 2pm ET](#)  
TSA Precheck - [A time to have your questions answered | November 3, 2015 | 2pm ET](#)

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

[ASTA Inducts New Board of Directors, Executive Committee](#) | September 3, 2015  
[ASTA Welcomes Peter Lobasso as ASTA's New General Counsel](#) | September 9, 2015  
[ASTA Statement on the Death of James D. Santini](#) | September 22, 2015

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

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