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October 2016

ASTA Mid-America Chapter



Chapter eNews

2016 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Dear «First Name»,

The ACG conference has concluded in Reno with ASTA's 2016 National Awards. Over 300 travel industry professionals attended this conference. I am very pleased to be able to announce that ASTA Mid-America has been selected as ASTA's "Chapter of the Year" for the third year in a row.

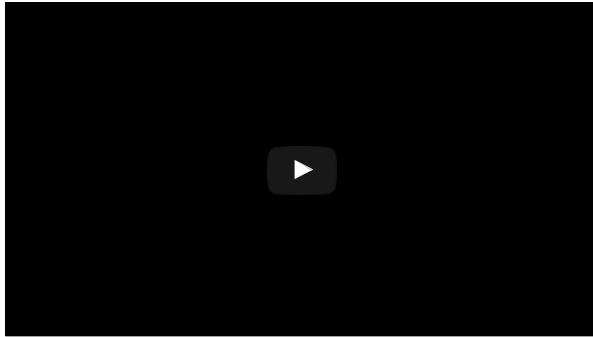
When our chapter was selected for the first time in 2014 we were pleased and a bit surprised, because it had never happened in the history of our chapter. You might recall we said "this is great ~ but it is not time to rest on our laurels. We need to challenge ourselves to stay at the top and be a standard for other ASTA chapters to measure themselves against.

When we were honored for the second time we were convinced our own challenge but were still surprised because it is always more difficult to repeat a success in a competitive environment. As business professionals we all know it is hard to step back from a winning mindset and we did not intend to do so, since the whole point of the "Chapter of the Year" award is to serve your members well.

So here we are again "Chapter of the Year" for the third straight year 2016 and looking forward once more to what we can do to deserve the "Chapter of the Year" award for 2017. If there is one thing that has become evident to your board, this would not and could not have happened without the strong support of our members. You came out to events, responded to our requests for support, offered opinions and took part in our new initiatives. That is why membership has grown, programs have increased, and we have been recognized in the travel press as an organization that does things others typically do not do. I am very proud that 15 of our members took advantage of our CTA scholarship program. [Click here](#) to see what the Travel Institute has to say about ASTA Mid-America.

I must tell you other chapters have taken notice of our success and the task of winning an unprecedented fourth "Chapter of the Year" award will require not only stepping up our game again but stepping up our game again, but stepping outside and beyond what others might feel would be good enough to be the best.

Therefore, once again, as we execute our 2017 "plan of service", we thank you for your past support and seek your evaluations of all you experience as valued members of this chapter.



Calendar of Events

Upcoming Chapter Events:

- **Avanti Destinations Luncheon Presentation** – Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016.
[deSha's American Tavern & Grille](#) | **Reservations Required**.
Look in your Inbox for the details. RSVP by October 7, 2016
- **Cayman Island Lunch & Learn**, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016 - 12N - 1:30PM
RSVP by September 30 to jginther@caymanislands.ky
- ASTA Members **"You're Invited to Lunch with the ASTA Board"** - Friday, October 7, 2016. [Brio Tuscan Grille](#) | **Reservations Required**

Upcoming ASTA National Events

We hope you'll be joining us at these upcoming events!

- **NACTA National Conference** - Fort Lauderdale, Nov 3-9, 2016.
[Register here](#).
- ASTA Premium Business Summit, Washington DC, June 5-6, 2017
- ASTA Legislative Day, Washington DC, June 7, 2017 Leg Day Website
- ASTA / NACTA Bahamas Showcase, June 21-24, 2017 Bahamas Website
- ASTA Global Convention, San Diego, August 26 – 29, 2017 Advanced Registration

Kind Regards,

Claudia Darling
Chapter President

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





October 2016 News from Headquarters

ASTA Global Convention 2017- Big Success!

Here is some feedback from members that attended AGC 2017: "This was a great opportunity for education that goes beyond what other shows have. ASTA offers more opportunity to learn about regulations that apply to running a small business than any other conventions we attend."

"This year I attended three of the major consortia's shows and was impressed by the content and delivery of the information at the ASTA Global Convention. I loved the interaction with industry icons such as Peter Greenberg, Samantha Brown and Sully Sullenberger. I am excited to experience what the next show has to offer."

"If you are a serious travel professional, the ASTA Global Convention is the best non-consortia based international conference to attend. It's focus on Advocacy is so important to the travel community, I can't express enough the importance of educating Agents and suppliers what ASTA does to protect them."



We would love to hear what you thought of the event.
Email us at askasta@asta.org.

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. In pooling resources, a PAC provides greater impact for delivering what we send to Congress – it is one voice representing many. [Click here](#) to make your voice heard today.

Register today for ASTA Destination Expo 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya



Discover the heartbeat of Kenya on your journey to becoming a Kenya Destination Specialist. Join us February 24 to 26, 2017 for ASTA Destination Expo 2017.



Feel the magic as we learn about the terra-cotta sunsets, astonishing golden grasslands, and the towering peaks of Mount Kenya from our home base in Nairobi, Kenya. Stay in 5-star accommodations and receive discounted air.



Plus, add on a 3-day optional extension to the Maasai Mara, a large game reserve contiguous with the Serengeti National Park in neighboring, Tanzania. Registration starts at just \$314. Don't wait, register

Upcoming Webinar from ASTA Headquarters

[Webinar - Come Back Refreshed, Inspired and Motivated to sell Princess Cruises!](#) | November 14, 2016, 2:00 PM ET

[Webinar - Scenic Cruises](#) | November 16, 2016, 2:00 PM ET

[Webinar - Israel \(registration not open yet\)](#) | November 16, 2016, 2:00 PM ET

Recent ASTA Member Alerts & Press Releases

[Corporate Advisory Council Makes Advocacy Investments, Elects New Leadership](#) | October 7, 2016

[AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL AGENTS LAUNCHES "TRAVEL AGENTS TAKING OFF"](#) | September 29, 2016

[Nexion Enhances Relationship with ASTA, Introduces Independent Agent Membership Initiative](#) | September 15, 2016

[Update on DOT Ancillary Fee Rulemaking](#) | September 1, 2016

The global advocates for travel. Go with the pros.