

A Night of Celebration

ASTA'S ADVOCACY DINNER

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Le Windsor Ballroom

Montréal, Québec, Canada

Honored Guest:

The Honorable Thomas M. Sullivan

Chief Counsel for Advocacy

U.S. Small Business Administration

Cocktail Reception

Dinner

Frivolity of Matane shrimps Mikado

Cream of carrot with ginger

Prime rib of beef with black peppercorns

St. Gregoire cake, vanilla sauce

Coffee, tea and herbal tea

Red Wine – Pinot Noir, vin de pays Loire – Cave du Haut Poitou, France

White Wine – Chardonnay, vin de pays d'Oc – G. Duboeuf, France

Opening Remarks

Introduction

The Honorable Thomas M. Sullivan

Private Showcase Presentation

The World Premier Stage Production of

The Lord of the Rings

Which opens at The Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto on March 23, 2006



Welcome and thank you for your participation in ASTA's Advocacy Dinner honoring The Honorable Thomas M. Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). ASTA recognizes the SBA Office of Advocacy for its leadership role in supporting the interests and growth of U.S. small businesses and for its exceptional dedication and assistance to the travel agency community when called upon by ASTA.

Kathryn W. Sudeikis, CTC, ASTA President & CEO

ASTA VOICES

Our successes come from the dedication of many people. It comes from the members who respond to ASTA grassroots "Call to Action" alerts, along with those who testify before Congress and State Legislatures and participate in federal government stakeholder industry meetings. Our special thanks to these volunteers who went the extra mile to advance travel agent advocacy issues:

John Bailey	Mike Galvin	Irene Ross
Bob Buesing	Vickie Greenly	Rae Anne Ryan
Jean Covelli	Charlie Jones	Arthur Salis
Shawn Davidson	Tom Keefe	Kari Thomas
Michael Dixon	Lisa Kossiski	Bill Rubinsohn
George Fant	Tammy Lee	Robert Walters, Jr.
Alan Fiermonte	Terry McCabe	

INDUSTRY COALITION PARTNERS

American Bus Association	National Tour Association
American Hotel & Lodging Association	Society of Government Travel Professionals
Cruise Lines International Association	Student Youth Travel Association
Interactive Travel Services Association	Travel Industry Association of America
International Council of Cruise Lines	United Motorcoach Association
National Business Travel Association	

ASTA CORPORATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

American Express	Protravel International, Inc.
Azumano Travel/American Express	RADIUS
Carlson Travel Franchise Group	The Travel Authority/TTA, Inc.
Cendant Retail Travel Services	Travelocity.com
Ensemble Travel	Uniglobe Travel (International) Inc.
IAC Travel	Vacation.com
Jurni Network/Nexion	Virtuoso
Omega World Travel	

ASTA ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ONE VOICE 2005

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Passed legislation preventing the issuance of costly rules requiring written consent before sending commercial faxes.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Permanently extend to consumers the "right to alternate carriage" in the event a bankrupt airline ceases service.
- Shift the jurisdiction over travel agencies from the Department of Transportation to the Federal Trade Commission exclusively.
- Seek financial relief legislation for travel and tourism entities impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

- Impact Hurricane Katrina had on small businesses and the travel and tourism industry in the Gulf Coast region.
- Effects of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requiring U.S. citizens to have passports for exit and entry in the United States and its impact on the travel and tourism industry.
- Barriers to service-disabled veteran-owned travel agencies gaining access to federal travel procurement contracts.

ASTA FEDERAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Established ASTA as a contributing stakeholder in the Department of Homeland Security's Secure Flight program.
- Defeated proposed DOT rules that would have interfered with travel agent advertising of service fees and prevented collection of some kinds of fees altogether.
- Supported SBA effort to change travel agencies size standard from revenue to employee based classification.
- Created the *Travel Agents' Guide to Airline Bankruptcies*.

ASTA FEDERAL FILINGS

- *Departments of Homeland Security/State*: Documents Required for Travel Within the Western Hemisphere
- *Department of Transportation*: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel.
- *Department of Transportation*: Disclosure of Code Sharing.
- *Federal Trade Commission*: CAN-SPAM regulations.
- *Small Business Administration*: Size Standards.

ASTA'S STATE GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Averted the adoption of hotel occupancy tax measures on travel intermediaries in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and the city of Millbrae, Calif.
- Postponed harmful "Sellers of Travel" legislation in Pennsylvania.

ASTA'S VOICE AT ARC

- Successfully negotiated rules on voiding tickets, leading to better exchange rules.
- Delayed the elimination of agency coupons, which led ARC to produce enhancements to the document retrieval service.

ASTA'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- Out-paced other travel related industry PAC's - reached contribution levels not achieved in more than a decade.

The ASTAPAC Governing Board wishes to express its sincere thanks to this year's ASTA members for their personal, voluntary contributions. Special recognition goes to the Corporate Advisory Council for setting aside a portion of their dues to support a "charitable match" program for ASTAPAC. As a result of the matching fund program, ASTAPAC is out-pacing other travel related industry PAC's, showing increased contribution levels not achieved in more than a decade. Great job everyone!

John F. Haskins, 2005 ASTAPAC Chair

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Haskins, John

Haskins, Margaret
Matthews, Laurie

Sabre Inc. PAC

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Reflects 2005 contributors as of October 17, 2005

The 2006 Advocacy Dinner will be held on September 11 in Orlando, Fla. at **THETRADESHOW**