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### TEAM 100

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# ASTA's Advocacy Dinner

Monday, September 11, 2006  
The Portofino Bay Hotel, Venetian Ballroom  
Orlando, Florida



Cocktail Reception, Citrus Piazza

#### Dinner

Yellow and Red Tomato Carpaccio with Arugula  
and Spinach, Lemon Caper Vinaigrette  
Seared Crab Cake and Grilled Beef Medallions  
Root Vegetable Hash, Oven Dried Tomatoes, Wilted Swiss Chard,  
Baby Carrots and Smoked Onion Demi Glaze  
Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter  
White Chocolate Crunch Cake with Sour Amarena Cherry Sauce  
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Gourmet Teas

White Wine-Concilio Pinot Grigio  
Red Wine-Mondavi Coastal Merlot

#### Welcome Remarks

#### Private Showcase Presentation

Monty Python's SPAMALOT  
The production that set musical theatre  
back a thousand years!

It is my great pleasure to welcome and thank all of you for making ASTA's Third Annual Advocacy Dinner a huge success. We are gathered here to celebrate the power of our collective voices that, when raised in unison under the banner of ASTA, deliver vital messages on Capitol Hill and at the State levels. The industry has a strong voice-our One Voice-and, judging by the people here tonight, it is a worthy advocate that will never stop working to improve the professional lives of us all. Thank you, and enjoy!

**Kathryn W. Sudeikis, CTC, ASTA President & CEO**

#### Industry Coalition Partners

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

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The ASTAPAC Governing Board wishes to give special recognition to the ASTA Corporate Advisory Council for providing 2006 "charitable matching" dollars, which have significantly enhanced ASTAPAC's fundraising efforts for the past two-years.

## ASTA Advocacy Achievements and Activities — ONE VOICE 2006

#### ASTA Legislative Summit

In June, more than 70 ASTA members were briefed by a high ranking government official and industry leaders on critical legislative and regulatory priorities impacting the travel agency industry, including the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, affordable health care legislation, cruise lines' safety and security measures, pending state legislation impacting travel agents and Department of Transportation activities.

#### ASTA Federal Legislative Accomplishments

In response to ASTA testimony in June 2005, the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security jointly announced in January 2006 a project to create a People Access Security Service (PASS) card to be used for border crossings in conjunction with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

At ASTA's urging, Senators Burns (R-MT) and Rockefeller (D-WV) introduced S. 2572 extending for one year Sec. 145 of the 2001 Aviation and Transportation Security Act to provide consumers the "right to alternate carriage" in the event a bankrupt airline ceases service.

#### ASTA Federal Legislative Priorities

Seek a single implementation date of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

Prevent insurance organizations from denying or refusing life insurance coverage for a traveler's past or future lawful travel plans to foreign tourism destinations

Pursue legislation that seeks access to affordable health care options for ASTA members

Urge U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other governmental agencies to develop a single protocol for collection, storage and reporting of travel information by travel agents

#### ASTA Federal Filings

- July 14 Federal Trade Commission: Business Opportunity Rule
- March 1 Department of Health Human Services/Center for Disease Control: Control of Communicable Diseases
- Feb 13 Department of Transportation: Price Advertising
- Jan 18 Federal Communications Commission: Junk Fax Regulations
- Jan 12 Federal Communications Commission: Petition for Declaratory Ruling on FCC's Proposed Junk Fax Regulations

#### ASTA's State Government Activities and Accomplishments

ASTA member Janet T. Turner, CTC, testified before the Georgia General Assembly Ways and Means Subcommittee on Taxation regarding taxing travel agents service fees via a hotel occupancy tax measure. The proposed tax measure was successfully defeated from a lack of support by committee members' to advance the issue.

Assisting the Car Rental Industry, ASTA wrote key Florida state legislators to oppose a \$2 per day increase to the existing \$2 daily excise tax on car rentals. ASTA Florida members rallied in support by contacting Governor Bush who vetoed the measure on the merits of taxing tourist without representation.

#### ASTA's Industry Affairs Activities

Created Travel Agent's Guide to the GDS' Optional Full Content Programs and Travel Agent's Guide to the Selling Tours

Produced Business Executive Series, providing members with access to subject matter experts through new media channels - "The Global Distribution Systems (GDS) and Airline Content Wars: Agents Caught in the Middle I & II"

Supported the cruise industry during the hearings on cruise industry crime and cooperation w/ ICCL on other legislative issues (WHTI)

Joined the Tourism Emergency Response Network (TERN) and issued Avian Flu updates and travel tips

Represented agents' interests before ARC's Joint Advisory Board - Agent Reporting Agreement (JAB-ARA)

#### Message from the ASTAPAC Chairman

Representation in the political process is a vital link to the prosperity and growth of our businesses. Through ASTA's lobbying arm and ASTAPAC, our collective voices are definitely heard. Individually, it is up to us to strengthen our political influence by participating in grassroots efforts and backing the PAC. Many thanks and appreciation goes to the 2006 ASTAPAC donors for their understanding of this process.

**John F. Haskins, 2006 ASTAPAC Chair**

