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### ASTA CHAPTER SUPPORT

The following chapters are recognized for their contributions supporting the operational costs of ASTAPAC: Allegheny, Arizona, Carolinas, Central Atlantic, Connecticut, Delaware Valley, Hawaii, Hudson Valley, Long Island, Maine Subchapter, Michigan, Mid-America, Midwest, Missouri Valley, New England, New Jersey, New York City, Oregon, Puerto Rico/VI, South Florida, Southeast, Southern California, Southwest, Upper Midwest, Upstate New York, Wisconsin/UPM

*(Lists as of 8/20/07)*

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Monday, September 10, 2007  
Caesars Palace  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## 2007 ASTA Advocacy Dinner

### Cocktail Reception

### Dinner

Lolla Rosa & Frisse Salad with Roquefort, Baby Seckle Pear,  
Vine Ripe Tomatoes and a Sweet Tomato Vinaigrette

Cast Iron Fillet of Beef with Gulf Shrimp

Potato Puree, Rosemary Red Wine Sauce

Chef's Selection of Vegetable

Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter

Fruit Strudel  
(apple, blueberry and kiln dried cherry strudel with mixed berries  
and Chantilly cream)

Coffee, tea and iced tea

Concannon Cabernet Sauvignon

Concannon Sauvignon Blanc

### Welcome Remarks

**Special Showcase performance**  
from Andrew Lloyd Webber's  
current London production of  
*The Sound of Music*

Welcome to ASTA's 4th Annual Advocacy Dinner celebration.

Tonight's special gathering is dedicated to you, a valued member of ASTA, and is an important part of our legislative mission to allow travel professionals across the globe to flourish in the industry. We also want to use this time to personally express our gratitude for your significant contributions in fortifying the industry's One Voice before Congress and the state legislatures.

It is our pleasure to acknowledge and honor your dedication and commitment in supporting ASTA's advocacy agenda. Your passion and continued involvement has made an important difference for the future of the travel and tourism industry, and we look forward to achieving many more milestones in the year together.

Thank you for joining us, and we hope you enjoy the evening.

**Cheryl Corey Hudak, CTC**  
ASTA President & Chief Executive Officer

#### ASTA'S CORPORATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Established in 2002, the Council works on many of the crucial industry issues brought before ASTA which commonly impact you and the rest of the retail travel agent community. For the last three years, it has provided charitable matching funds to support our PAC fundraising efforts.

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#### ASTAPAC SALUTES THE 2007 DONORS

Through ASTA's lobby arm and our political action program, legislative concerns of travel agents are being heard where they count the most. Our political influence is sustained by the following travel leaders, and we are extremely grateful for their support.

**John F. Haskins, 2007 ASTAPAC Chair**

## ASTA Advocacy Achievements and Activities — ONE VOICE 2007

#### ASTA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In response to some of the legislative challenges presented to the retail travel community, ASTA is addressing the following legislative issues:

- Urge the United States Congress to take a stronger approach to resolving chronic passenger rights issues by limiting federal pre-emption and providing funds for enforcement.
- Assist the Coalition Against Discriminatory Car Rental Excise Taxes legislative initiative, which prohibits discriminatory car rental excise taxes while protecting the rights of all car rental consumers.
- Pursue legislation that seeks access to affordable health care options for ASTA members.
- Seek Tax Code changes to reduce the Tax Gap without penalizing small businesses using independent contractors by supporting the Coalition for Fairness in Tax Compliance (CFTC).

#### ASTA FEDERAL TESTIMONY AND FILINGS

- July 17 Department of Transportation: Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities: Passenger Vessels
- May 1 United States International Trade Commission: Travel Restrictions to Cuba
- April 20 United States House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation: Aviation Consumer Issues (Passenger Rights)

#### ASTA 2007 STATE ACTIVITIES

ASTA coordinated state legislative grassroots efforts that resulted in positive outcomes in the following states:

**Illinois:** Defeated the Governor's proposed gross receipts tax on all Illinois businesses.

**Benefit to members:** Stopped a 1.95 percent tax levy on travel agencies.

**Michigan:** Defeated the Governor's proposed gross receipt tax on service industries.

**Benefit to members:** Prevented a two percent tax increase on travel agency services.

**Montana:** Stopped the state legislature from enacting a new hotel occupancy tax on travel agency service fees.

**Benefit to members:** Averted double taxation on travel agents' income stream.

**Massachusetts:** Testified against the Governor's proposal closing corporate tax loopholes and legislation that imposes a new hotel occupancy tax on travel agent service fees. This issue is pending.

**Benefit to members:** Averts double taxation on travel agents' income stream.

**New York:** Defeated the Governor's budget proposal to subject travel agents' service fees to a new hotel occupancy tax when booking hotel rooms in New York.

**Benefit to members:** Averted double taxation on travel agents' income stream.

**Oregon:** Stopped passage on a revenue raiser bill increasing corporate taxes.

**Benefit to members:** Avoided agents from being subjected to a sliding scale gross receipts tax.

**Texas:** Achieved regulatory and statutory clarifying language defining a travel agency's "net" vs. "gross" taxable revenue for federal and state tax filing purposes as well as gained expanded small business exemptions related to the new Texas franchise tax. Special funding for this effort was provided by Corporate Advisory Council.

**Benefit to members:** A priceless achievement that will benefit Texas travel agents.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We'd also like to acknowledge that this year's state victories are attributed to the following outstanding ASTA members, who have testified and/or provided invaluable time and assistance with various state travel agent issues:

Jeff Brown Colpitts World Travel Dedham, MA	Robbi Hamida, CTA, DS Tur Travel Irving, TX
Donna Daniels, CTC, MCC Fox Travel Spring, TX	John Haskins Viking Travel Service Naperville, IL
Kris DeSylvia World Travel, Inc. Portland, OR	Don Johnson Town & Country Travel, Inc. Pittsford, NY
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John Giordano  
Plaza Travel Center  
Latham, NY

ASTA also extends our special thanks to the Interactive Travel Services Association (ITSA) for its financial and lobbying assistance and guidance in defeating the state hotel occupancy taxes in multiple states over the last four years.

