

ASTA Southwest Chapter



Four distinct states, one fantastic chapter!

March 24, 2009

Fran Lindsey, Chapter President

I have just returned from the International Destination Expo in Sun City, South Africa. Despite the long travel time, I can honestly say it was the most unbelievable trip I have ever made. ASTA President, Chris Russo began every speech with "Pinch me. I can't believe I am in South Africa!" and he certainly spoke for all of us. The 30 plus members of the Southwest chapter who attended this meeting can back me up! IDE is a fantastic experience, so start planning now to join me in Turkey in 2010!



Yolanda Meador, Chapter Treasurer

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ASTA is taking it to the sea in 2009

Don't Miss this year's SWASTA Chapter Annual Meeting!

When: Thursday August 27th thru Monday August 31st, 2009
Where: Aboard the Carnival Ecstasy
Departs: Galveston, Texas
Itinerary: 4-Day Western Caribbean - Galveston, TX ; Fun Day At Sea (Training); Cozumel, Mexico ; Fun Day At Sea (Training) ; Galveston, TX

SAY, YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE!

Well this 4-day chapter event is being designed specifically for you. We will offer education, training and network opportunities to enrich your career and increase your sales. Learn how to survive in this struggling economy. Find

out what your colleague are doing to make through. By attending the Southwest Chapter Annual Meeting, you will gain the vital knowledge and expertise to make your travel business more successful.

DON'T MISS THE SHIP!



Show your ASTA pride. Display the 2009 ASTA Member Window Decal. Decals are for the exclusive use of ASTA members. The opaque static cling decal, which adheres to the inside of window glass, measures 4.25 in. x 4 in. There is no limit on the number of decals that may be ordered by an ASTA member.

Melinda Kelly, Chapter Secretary

Well, spring has sprung in Taos, New Mexico. Our town is full of spring breakers skiing in the sunshine. Our agency has been buzzing the last month as well, especially with family travel to spots as close as Disneyland and as distant as South America and Europe. So I'm feeling cautiously hopeful, and glad to be able to help people take advantage of the low air and cruise fares. It's good to see the dollar strengthening against the Euro and the Canadian dollar.

I am concerned about the bad rap the entire country of Mexico is getting due to very real dangers in several border towns. We are urging our clients to purchase insurance and showing our value as agents by helping them sort out the changing face of travel around the globe. That's the news from Taos, and hope all is well around the Southwest Chapter.

Dawn Ellzey, ASTAPAC Chair

As we begin 2009 Travel Agents should be concerned about politics and our role in the governing process both nationally and on the State level. As your ASTAPAC Chapter Chair your support is more important than ever. I realize that the industry and the Nation are in turmoil and we must find a way to pull together and turn things around.

ASTAPAC represents One Voice in the travel industry before Congress and with the New Administration. Without the voluntary participation of you and your colleagues, we are just another "interest Group" in DC. With your active support, ASTAPAC becomes One Voce Representing Many, including constituents whom elected representatives listen to and look for support from.

I hope you will work with me to continue to build political influence for the travel agency community. We

have the power to make a difference and it begins with you deciding to support ASTAPAC. I'm asking each member to donate at least \$25.00 (that's only 2 dollars a month). Please make your personal check to ASTAPAC and mail it back to me at the address below, I will send it to Washington for you.

Dawn Ellzey, ASTAPAC Chair
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Save the Dates!

 ASTA Southwest Chapter
Retreat @ Sea

Carnival Ecstasy
August 27-31, 2009



Visit www.astasw.org to book your space today!

Photo Courtesy, Carnival Cruise Line

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