

The BTA Bulletin

Business Travel Association/Philadelphia Chapter



Quarterly Edition – 4Q 2011

Notes From The President



So here we are, into the final stretch of a very interesting year. Do we ever stop to think about how time seems to move along at such a rapid pace and how we seem to wish away our days and our moments so quickly? I mean, we dream of summer in February and so quickly write it off by the time the longest day has passed, come 21 June. I see Thanksgiving advertised in August, Christmas in October and I do expect Valentine's Day cards on shelves long before my first present is opened come 25 December.

But before 2011 quickly becomes a distant memory, let's ponder on the year that has been.

GDS and access to content hit the front pages, only to be left in the hands of the lawyers and an industry that will see this fight reappear next year. We are all traveling more, paying more and expecting more from every dime and nickel either spent or received. We have been spared significant TMC changes, seen hotel rates rise and watched another merging of two major US airlines.

Our chapter has seen membership rise by 25%, completed a hugely successful education day, shown great attendance at our scheduled meetings, educated a small group of us on the merits of fine wine, met socially at our mixers and are now eagerly looking forward to our holiday party at the Le Meridien on the 6th of December – it's been quite a year

So, from me to my board, each committee member, our new 2011 members and those who have supported The Philly BTA over the years, a huge thank you for being part of our very active chapter.

David McDonald

AIRPORT, SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE!



[U.S. Levies First Tarmac Delay Fine](#) – By Doug Cameron, The Wall Street Journal, 11/15/11

[Airline checked bag fees raise security concern](#) – by Mark Strassmann, CBS News, 11/15/11

[Passenger Groups Want More Sway with TSA](#) – SmartMoney, 11/9/11

UPCOMING EVENTS



Oh What a Night! Don't miss the Philadelphia BTA Annual Holiday Dinner and Charity Auction, Tuesday, December 6, 2011!

It's time again for THE event of the year! That's right, the Philadelphia BTA's annual **Holiday Dinner and Charity Auction!** This year the amazing [Le Meridien Philadelphia](#) will be our hosts for this fabulous evening to raise funds for charity. For the seventh year in a row, we'll be partnering with [City of Hope](#) to put on what's sure to be the best event ever. Over 100 items for the silent and live auctions will be available including airline tickets, hotel stays, rental car and restaurant certificates, tickets to area attractions and theatrical events, jewelry, spa visits and more.

And you simply must be on hand for the **Grand Prize** auction, which includes round trip first class airline tickets, three nights each at five star hotels in Rome and Florence, plus airport transportation, all courtesy of **United Airlines, Ovation Travel and Carey International.**

Additionally, we'll have one of Philly's most popular musical groups, [Bigg Romeo](#) as the featured entertainment and our celebrity auctioneer for this year will be none other than nationally known author, speaker and television host, [Gail Kasper](#).

And this just in! All attendees will be eligible for the most amazing door prize ever, two round-trip Business Class tickets, valid system wide on **British Airways!**

Get big discounts for members and non-members alike when purchasing tables of 10, with prices so reasonable, you can bring your friends neighbors and relatives, too!

So what are you waiting for? Time and space are fast running out so whatever you do, don't delay any longer. Sign up today at www.phillybta.org/events and join us for the grandest night of the season.

AIRLINE AND TRAVEL INDUSTRY NEWS



[Senate Bill Aims to Block Baggage Fees](#) – by Judson Berger, Foxnews.com, 11/22/11

[Vijay Mallya: The king who fell to earth](#) – The Independent, 11/22/11

[Australian Airline Industry: High fuel prices and strong competition keep profit grounded](#) – The San Francisco Chronicle, 11/21/11

[US carriers shrinking in United States-Southeast Asia market](#) – CAPA, 11/18/11

[Global airline profits expected to drop below 1% next year, industry official says](#) – by Ashley Halsey III, The Washington Post, 11/10/11

[Regional aircraft market worth US \\$130 billion over next decade](#) – DefenceWeb, 11/9/11

[Republic Looking to Split or Sell Frontier Airlines](#) – by Katy Dutile, IBTraveler, 11/9/11

[Private jet business prepares to take off](#) – by Jessica Dickler, CNNMoney, 11/8/11

[Airline Prices Stay Up Despite Fewer Travelers](#) – by David Schaper, NPR, 11/4/11

[Flight attendant style: reviving '60s glamour](#) – by Cara Kelley, The Washington Post, 11/4/11

[Flying With Little Children? Go to the Back of the Plane](#) – The Wall Street Journal, 11/17/11

GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS



[Congress kills Obama's high speed rail plan](#) – by Andrew Coutts, DigitalTrends, 11/18/11

[Amtrak Gets Tech Savvy](#) – by Jennifer Booton, FOXBusiness, 11/4/11

HOTEL NEWS



[Travel Q&A: Hotel fees not always easy to avoid](#)
– by Ann Tatko-Peterson, San Jose Mercury News, 11/5/11

[US Hotel Occupancy Up 2.9% to 63.1% October – 2011](#) – Hotel News Resource, 11/23/11

[Say Goodbye to Hotel's Business Centres](#) – by Julie Reed, ehotelier.com, 11/23/11

OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS



[New Medical Safety Practices Based on Airline Industry Could Help Reduce Hospital Errors](#) – Digital Journal, 11/17/11

[Advanced Bio-Fuels Taking Off? Use of Non-food, Bio-based Jet Fuel Climbing](#) – by Stephen Lacey, Climate Progress, 11/11/11

[El Al Airlines to Launch Hybrid-Electric Boeing 737 Airplanes](#) – by Brit Liggett, InHabitat, 11/8/11

[United marks nation's first biofuel powered flight](#) – Chicago Tribune, 11/8/11

[Emirates Airline Places Big Order for Boeing Jets](#) – The New York Times, 11/13/11

[Party at 40,000 feet: 787's first passenger flight](#) – The Seattle Times, 10/27/11

A Fun Quote For The Quarter



When somebody tells you nothing is impossible,
ask him to dribble a football.

– Author Unknown

Tip Of The Quarter



Find a wide array of travel tips and recommendations at
Fodor's Travel Intelligence website. [Click here](#) to check
it out!

RECENT EVENTS – THANK YOU!



We extend many thank yous and kudos to Elizabeth Knox and the **Four Seasons Philadelphia** for hosting our fall chapter meeting on September 21st. Everything was superb and all in attendance enjoyed a fabulous meal in as always, the most elegant of surroundings. Your support is greatly appreciated!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



The Philadelphia BTA welcomes the following new members to our chapter, with a list of those whose memberships were confirmed between July 25, 2011 and November 28, 2011. Great to have you with us!!

Name	Organization
Steve McCorry	Omega World Travel
Diana Loaces	United Airlines
Ava M. Hill	Diners Club BMO Financial Group
Jennifer Byiers	Duff & Phelps
James Toffel	FCm Travel Solutions
Peter Kennedy	United Airlines
Elaine Verna	Concur Technologies
Jim Pio	The Parking Spot
Carri Tovsky	Global Tour Connection LLC



***Happy Holidays to All from
the PBTA Board of Directors!***