



**Travel Industry
Association of Kansas**

**THE VOICE OF THE TRAVEL
INDUSTRY IN KANSAS**

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TIAK TALK

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From Jan Stevens, TIAK President

“How did it get so late so soon? Its night before its afternoon. December is here before its June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?” —Dr. Seuss

This is my LAST TIAK newsletter. It doesn't seem like a year has gone by, but yet, it has! With all of your help, I feel like I've accomplished something great, somewhat like this picture of my granddaughter, when she showed us all her BEST “Wonder Woman” pose!



TIAK has had an amazing year. I look back at all the things we've done, from Destination Statehouse, to the Annual Conference, it's all been an exceptional learning opportunity for all of us. Our tourism voice is louder than ever, and I've had the opportunity to work with some really incredible people.

I want to thank everyone who made TIAK successful in 2018. Thank you to Natalie and Marlee, thank you for keeping us organized and for representing the TIAK mission and initiatives to our legislators. And thank you to committee chairs, thank you for keeping the committee members focused on the tasks and keeping the membership updated. To all the board members, thank you for attending meetings and being actively engaged in the topics at hand. Above all, I thank you for letting me serve TIAK as your president. It truly has been my pleasure to work with each of you.

I look forward to 2019 and for Stacy Barnes to lead the charge for TIAK. The incoming TIAK executive committee is full of passion and knowledge of the tourism industry and I know they will bring new initiatives and growth to our organization.

Merry Christmas to you all—and have a GREAT New YEAR!

And because I have a young toddler in my life and I've read Dr. Seuss over and over again, here is my final quote for the year: *“You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!” —Dr. Seuss* ■

DESTINATION STATEHOUSE

SAVE THE DATE



Travel Industry
Association of Kansas

February 6, 2019

2019 DESTINATION STATEHOUSE

By Jim Zaleski, Labette County Convention & Visitors Bureau

The change in our state's leadership brings a new view and a new opportunity for the travel industry. No matter which side you might see yourself on, change, to many, is a scary thing but we must see it as an opportunity for our vision and opinions to be heard by new ears.

Right now a positive and cooperative relationship with local and state elected officials is quite possibly the most important strategic marketing a DMO can do beyond its strategic marketing campaign. Join colleagues from across Kansas in representing the travel industry at the 2019 Destination Statehouse event being held February 6th in Topeka.

A change this year will bring us all together for the day event in the Statehouse. An educational opportunity is still being decided upon but the day will begin at the Statehouse and include the traditional buffalo lunch co-sponsored by State Tourism being served on the second floor rotunda.

Afterward, spend the day at the Statehouse visiting with your legislators and discussing the issues of our industry face-to-face. Popcorn distribution will also take place that afternoon, giving everyone a chance to visit legislative offices and introduce yourself to elected officials and staff, alike.

The day wouldn't be complete without exhibiting with your regional partners at the much-anticipated evening event held at the Topeka Ramada Inn. One of the most attended legislative events of the year will have a Kansas Road trip theme this year. **If you would like to showcase at the reception, be sure to let your regional representative know.**

We go back to the smaller ballroom in 2019 so we can have a more intimate surrounding as we meet informally with dozens of elected officials. Be sure to come out and support your Travel Industry at the 2019 TIAK Destination Statehouse.

Sponsorships for both the day and evening events are currently available and registration for the entire event can be found on the TIAK website at <https://tiak.org/events/destination-statehouse/>. Sign up today for the 2019 Destination Statehouse, February 6th in Topeka.

Questions from regions or regarding the evening event can be directed to Jim Zaleski at jzaleski@parsonsk.com or 620.820.3556. See you there... ■

AGENDA

9:30 AM Check-in & Networking

12:00 PM Buffalo Lunch

2:00 PM Popcorn Break

3:00 PM Evening Reception Set-Up

5:00 PM Evening Reception

HOTEL

Ramada Convention Center

Downtown Topeka

(785) 234-5400

\$99 per night

Room block is listed under

TIAK Legislative Reception

(Block expires January 14, 2019)

REGISTER & VIEW FULL AGENDA

www.tiak.org/events/destination-statehouse



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Travel Industry Association of Kansas 2019 Legislative Agenda

Advocate:

- To identify long-term, sustainable funding mechanisms to policy makers for the promotion of tourism at the state level, such as defined in the Kansas Tourism Initiative. Strive to maintain funding levels in an effort to compete on an even field with neighboring and regional states.
- For tax measures that generate revenue through investment in projects or initiatives that produce jobs and/or encourage visitor spending. Specifically support the STAR bonds program and work to promote the role of tourism professionals in the project approval process.
- Timely completion of projects related to transportation including levels of funding necessary to complete those designated in the current comprehensive transportation plan. In addition, work with transportation advocates to secure long-term revenue source for future transportation program needs.
- Policies that promote the growth and development of a strong agritourism business sector.
- Against limitations or prohibitions of public lobbying.
- Oppose any legislation that would potentially have a negative influence on the travel industry and/or adversely affect the positive fiscal impact of tourism.

Support

- Maintaining consistent, sufficient funding for the Division of Travel and Tourism so it may continue to promote the state of Kansas as a tourism destination. Advocate that travel and tourism dollars remain dedicated to direct tourism projects and not be diverted to efforts beyond the realm of marketing and promotion of the state.
- Encouraging the continued development of natural heritage areas of state and national significance as well as continue support of National Heritage Area initiatives.
- Sustaining the current legislation on Open Records/Open Meetings Act and oppose legislation which weakens current open records/open meeting statutes.
- A healthy business environment that encourages small business and entrepreneurial ventures related to tourism in Kansas. Monitor regulatory oversight so that it encourages the delivery of a successful tourist experience in Kansas.

Monitor

- Policies related to the Transient Guest Tax to ensure the dollars collected are used for the primary source of promoting travel and tourism. Maintain awareness of tax issues that may affect Destination Marketing Organizations.
- Efforts to lessen the impact of convention and tourism promotion through the use of the Transient Guest Tax. Work with legislative committees and Kansas Department of Revenue to review Transient Guest Tax statutes for uniformity and enforcement.
- Implementation of new workers compensation statutes and, when necessary, oppose efforts which would have a negative impact on service industry businesses.
- Potential discriminatory legislation that would impact travelers visiting Kansas.
- State and federal legislation with regard to immigration and naturalization that impacts the service industry business.

UPCOMING TRAVEL CALENDAR

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Click on the highlighted calendar dates for more information.

January 1

Happy New Year!

January 10

[Executive Committee Meeting](#)
Hays, Kan.

January 14

[2019 Legislative Session Begins](#)

January 21

Martin Luther King Day

January 29

[Kansas Day](#)

For a complete listing of 2019 TIAK meetings, visit the [TIAK website](#).

HOSPITALITY HUB



TIAK 2019 Membership Dues invoices will be emailed by December 31st.

Be sure to let the [TIAK Office](#) know if your information needs to be updated!

The Hospitality Leadership Award has been presented annually by the Hotel and Lodging Association of Greater Kansas City since 1993. The award is presented to a distinguished member of the community for their contribution to Kansas City's convention and tourism industry. They must be involved in the promotion of Kansas City as a destination and bring new business activity to the city or develop new tourism programs. The 2019 Hospitality Leadership Award recipient is [Brigitte Jobe](#), Executive Director of the Kansas City, Kansas Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Award will be presented at the Hotel and Lodging Association of Greater Kansas City 31st Annual Awards Ceremony & Banquet on February 16, 2019 at Harrah's Hotel and Casino in North Kansas City, MO. TIAK congratulates Bridgette Jobe in earning this award! ■





Educate yourself in 2018 compliments of the Kansas Tourism Division. Kansas Tourism partners, sign up with a username and password [HERE](#). Access recorded programs at anytime or view live webinars each Thursday.

UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES

DECEMBER 2018 SCHEDULE

Personal Branding Hacks for Tourism Professionals
Thursday, December 13

Check out all of our upcoming webinars [HERE](#).



RECORDED COURSES

Kansas Tourism partners, sign up with username and password [HERE](#). Then view the recorded webinars [HERE](#).



April 10-11, 2019
Washington, D.C.

Destination Capitol Hill (DCH) is the U.S. Travel industry's premier legislative fly-in. The event brings travel leaders from across the country to Washington, D.C. to educate policymakers about the power of travel. The program combines a legislative day on Capitol Hill with advocacy training, guest speakers and peer-to-peer networking. DCH provides delegates with an opportunity to learn about upcoming legislation that impacts travel, network with peers and meet with members of Congress to stress the importance of travel as an economic driver.

DCH 2019 registration opens in December. If you plan on attending, please contact [Natalie Bright](#) or [Marlee Carpenter](#). ■

HAPPY NATIONAL
#PlanForVacation
DAY!



Last year, more than 705 million vacation days went unused. How can we help America put those vacation days to use? By encouraging them to *plan*. Research shows that individuals who plan are more likely to use all of their time off, take more vacation days at once and report greater levels of happiness at work and at home. Use [U.S. Travel's toolkit](#) to engage with your audience and spread the word. ■

JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

From [Ed DeSoigne, Interim Director for Economic Lifelines](#)

The Joint Legislative Transportation Task Force has just wrapped up its final session. After holding nine regional stakeholder meetings throughout the state, the 35 task force members saw first hand that our state's transportation needs continue to grow and further investments are of critical importance.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the members who served on the task force and especially to the two co-chairs Senator Carolyn McGinn and Representative Rich Proehl. These two leaders worked tirelessly to seek broad input, raising important questions about the many, varied transportation challenges facing every region in our state. [Click here for a full list of the task force members.](#)

[Click here to read the overview provided to task force members](#), further summarizing the group's work and findings. A final report of the recommendations will be available early next month.

Clearly, we are in the beginning states of a policy discussion that will continue through the 2019 legislative session and possibly beyond. It is an exciting and critically important time for our state. ■



SPORTS BETTING

From [Cleveland.com](#)

An Ohio lawmaker is going to bat for pro sports leagues by suggesting that an interstate agreement be struck giving the major leagues a cut of the sports gambling action. Ohio State Senator Bill Coley, a Cincinnati-area Republican, told lawmakers in Kansas that a multi-state deal should be struck forking over a quarter-percent "integrity fee" on every bet for a data-sharing arrangement monitoring the integrity of the games that bettors are gambling on.

Without a central hub for sport betting data, the games will be degraded, according to Coley. Coley was testifying during hearings in Kansas over a proposal to legalize sports gambling in the Sunflower State.

Despite heavy lobbying from the major professional sports leagues for a cut of the action, none of the eight states with legal sports betting have dealt with the leagues. With only a placeholder introduced in Ohio, Statehouse lawmakers such as Coley are privately discussing whether to legalize sports betting and among the considerations would be granting the "integrity fee" tax.

(Continued on page 7)

SPORTS BETTING (CONT.)

(Continued from page 6)



Coley—who heads the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS) - raised some eyebrows when he invited Kansas lawmakers to come to a gambling industry-sponsored January conference in New Orleans. During his testimony, he suggested that lawmakers who can't afford to make the trip to the Big Easy could get scholarships to

cover the cost of attendance.

The Kansas City Star reported that Wichita Democrat Rep. John Carmichael called Coley's invitation akin to a quid pro quo and an embarrassment to the Kansas Legislature.

"Let's all go down to New Orleans on these folks' tab, and then after we've enjoyed their hospitality, we will write the legislation," said Carmichael. "That is far beyond the bounds of propriety."

While Coley pitched the conference as having a "relaxed environment" for lawmakers to convene, he said the goal isn't industry-friendly legislation.

"NCLGS is not for gambling or against gambling, we're just for good law and good policy and making sure legislators have all the information they need," Coley told the lawmakers, according to the Star report. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(CLICK ON EACH LINK FOR
MORE INFORMATION):

January 10, 2019

[Executive Cmte Meeting](#)
Hays, Kan.

January 14, 2019

[Legislative Session begins](#)
State Capitol, Topeka, Kan.

February 6, 2019

[Destination Statehouse](#)
State Capitol, Topeka, Kan.

February 7, 2019

[TIAK Board Meeting](#)
Topeka, Kan.

February 28, 2019

Legislative Turn Around Day
State Capitol, Topeka, Kan.

March 14, 2019

Executive Cmte Meeting
Teleconference Call

April 10-11, 2019

[Destination Capitol Hill](#)
Washington, D.C.

April 18, 2019

[TIAK Board Meeting](#)
Salina, Kan.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS