



## February 2008

### **Do you ever wonder - What is the buzz about "Green" and what does it mean anyway?**

Our own Stephanie Dillon, Chair of the NBTA Corporate Social Responsibility Committee, will explain. The NBTA CSR Committee was established to provide leadership and resources to help NBTA member organizations take greater social and environmental responsibility within their communities, while minimizing the global impact of their business travel programs. The CSR Committee develops resources and tools, for example, a white paper, to help us address CSR issues, and works with other NBTA committees exploring ways to work CSR into RFP templates

#### **Guest Speaker**

Stephanie Dillon, Assistant Vice President, Global Travel, Meetings and Events, at The Capital Group Companies

Stephanie Dillon is Assistant Vice President, Global Travel, Meetings and Events, at The Capital Group Companies, headquartered in Los Angeles. The Capital Group is one of the world's leading investment management companies; the most well known part of the company is the American Funds. In addition to managing the global travel, meetings and events area for Capital, Stephanie oversees the anniversary and retirement programs and serves on the corporate art committee. Among other accomplishments, her groups have focused on developing a safety and security program and consolidating the travel program with one global travel management firm.

Stephanie has been a dedicated and active member of the Los Angeles Business Travel Association. After many years of committee participation, she served the Board in the Education and Corporate Relations Director positions, as Secretary, and, most recently, Vice President. She has been a member of the National Business Travel Association and Association of Corporate Travel Executives for the past thirteen years. She served as a member of the NBTA Travel Agency RFP Committee and currently chairs NBTA's Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.

Stephanie earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her CCTE in 2000 and the Wharton Certificate of Professional Development in 2003. She is a member of the Board of the California Heritage Museum in Santa Monica - a museum dedicated to the arts and crafts movement.

#### **Venue**

**February 13 , 2008  
Ritz Carlton, Marina del Rey  
4375 Admiralty Way  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292  
Registration: 5:30 p.m.  
Program: 6:45 p.m.**



Enjoy the warmth of the waterfront, as a getaway at the Marina awaits you in sun-drenched Southern California. The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Marina del Rey, CA, lies close to Venice Beach, Malibu and Santa Monica, allowing visitors easy access to the area's numerous desirable attractions and opportunities.



## Photo Gallery





## **Thank You**

**January Meeting Host**  
**Marriott Downtown Los Angeles**  
**Reginald McDowell**  
**General Manager**

**Tom Shaw**  
Associate Director of Sales  
Westin Bonaventure Hotel

**John Mariani**  
Account Manager  
South West Region

**All Nippon Airways Co, Ltd.** for their support, leadership  
and coordination of volunteers for NBTA 2008.

## **New Members**

**Meeta Deva**  
Virgin Atlantic Airways  
Key Account Mgr.

**Jeanne Norton**  
Director, Client Management  
American Express

**Julie Shkolnik**  
Global Sales Director  
Morgans Hotel Group

**Jana Kuzia**  
Corporate Sales Manager  
Royal Caribbean

**Leslie Block**  
Director of Agent Services, West  
Altour



## Releases

### On Staph

by Mary B. Gallagher, RN, MSN, CCRN

MRSA infections, more commonly known as staph infections, are big news.

As long as people continue to develop medications to combat diseases, the bacteria, viruses and germs that cause such diseases will continue to evolve strains that are resistant to those medications. That's the case with methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, an infection caused by the staphylococcus aureus bacteria.

Staph bacteria are nothing new. In fact, an estimated one-third of the population carries staph bacteria on their skin or in their noses, and most of those people remain completely healthy. Typically, staph bacteria would be passed from person to person by skin-to-skin contact with no significant negative effects. Trouble arose mainly when staph bacteria entered the body, usually through an open wound or cut, causing skin inflammation, irritation and other symptoms that were treated with commonly used antibiotics.

And that brings us to MRSA.

Sometime during the 1960s, a new strain of staph bacteria was detected in hospitals, nursing homes and medical treatment facilities. These "new and improved" staph bacteria could not be treated with the usual antibiotics, such as penicillin or the related drug methicillin. It had a resistance to those medications. While the new tougher strain of staph was a frustration to healthcare professionals, the idea of disease-causing bacteria that developed a resistance to medication was not unusual or surprising.

Then in the 1990s, that tougher strain of staph bacteria, MRSA, began showing up in the general population with devastating results. MRSA infections often begin with the same symptoms of an ordinary staph infection: skin inflammation and irritation that can resemble small pimples or insect bites. Yet those minor symptoms can quickly intensify and spread to other parts of the body, including the internal organs, resulting in severe and lifethreatening illness.

In a recent case of MRSA infection involving an Ohio high school student, initial symptoms indicated stomach flu or pneumonia, until his fever reached as high as 105 degrees and he was rushed to the hospital where MRSA was diagnosed. But it didn't end there. The infection led to a variety of medical problems including autoimmune disease that required chemotherapy treatment. Most frightening of all, perhaps: According to newspaper reports, the student did not know how he had become infected.

MRSA bacteria are passed easily from person to person through normal daily contact. They can even be transmitted through contact with objects that have been touched by someone carrying the bacteria — faucets, towels, doorknobs or clothing, for example. Ordinary contact and transmission do not necessarily lead to infection however; the bacteria usually enter the body through open cuts or abrasions on the skin. When symptoms such as high fever, low blood pressure, joint pain, severe headache, shortness of breath and a pervasive rash are associated with a small infected cut or abrasion, seek medical help immediately: They could be signs of MRSA infection.

Places to be especially cautious about the transmission of MRSA bacteria include public restrooms and locker rooms. It's common sense (but bears repeating) that you should never share towels, razors or athletic equipment with others and you should always wash your hands thoroughly after using the restroom or locker room facilities. Such simple practices really do limit the spread of disease.

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Antibiotics were always the medical community's "wonder drugs." Ironically, it is believed that MRSA is able to proliferate today because of a tendency to overuse antibiotics in the treatment of colds, flu, viral infections and simple bacterial infections that will clear up on their own. Some antibiotics, such as vancomycin, remain effective against MRSA, however because of the bacteria's ability to develop resistance to antibiotics many physicians now prefer to treat minor MRSA infections without antibiotics. No wonder.

#### Reduce Your Risks of MRSA Infection

Keep personal items personal. Don't share razors, towels or similar items with anyone.

Keep wounds covered. Cuts, scrapes, and abrasions should be kept clean and bandaged until healed. Clean the affected area and change the bandage daily.

Wash your hands. Frequent hand washing with soap and water or alcoholbased sanitizers helps prevent the transmission of MRSA.

Get tested. If you have a skin infection, go to your doctor for appropriate treatment and asked to be tested for MRSA.

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## Corporate Partner

### LAWA

#### Low Air Fares Push PMD Air Service Into New Phase

United Airlines began daily regional jet service between LA/Palmdale Regional Airport and San Francisco International on June 7, 2007. At SFO, travelers can make connections to scores of destinations throughout the U.S. and the world. Now there is no reason for Antelope Valley residents and business people to drive to LAX because United has adjusted PMD fares so they are competitive with LAX. Moreover, PMD offers free parking, no Passenger Facility Charge and the lowest security wait times of any airport in Southern California. Los Angeles World Airports is promoting the new fares with an advertising program currently running in newspapers, and on radio, television and the Internet. Using the theme "Great Low Airfares to the Bay & Beyond," LAWA is getting the word out to the Greater Antelope Valley community that there has never been a better time to book a flight from PMD.