

NEWS Briefs

TGA Members

A HEARTY WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING companies that have joined TGA since November:

- AAA Mid-Atlantic, Wilmington, DE (R); www.aaamidatlantic.com
- Accessory Headquarters, New York, NY (M); www.ahq.com
- aunts&uncles, Vancouver, BC, Canada (M); www.auntsanduncles.com
- Bombata Bags, New York, NY (M); www.bombatabags.com
- Buddy Pouch, Charleston, SC (M); www.buddypouch.com
- Carhartt and Happy Chic by Jonathan Alder, St. Louis, MO (M); www.5horizonsgroup.com
- Clean Bag LLC, Morganville, NJ (M); www.cleanbag.net
- DIGIPAS USA LLC, Avon, CT (M); www.egeetouch.com
- Ethan Julian, Sugar Land, TX (M); www.ethanjulian.com
- FABNY, New York, NY (M); www.fabny.com
- GATE8 Cabin Size Luggage, London, UK (M); www.gate8-luggage.co.uk
- Global Design Concepts, New York, NY (M); www.gdcny.com
- HONTUS, Miami, FL (M); www.hontus.com
- JML Innovations, Los Angeles, CA (M)
- Luggoncho, LLC, McDonough, GA (M); www.luggoncho.com
- NEET Products, Fontana, CA (M); www.neetproducts.com
- Netpackbag, South El Monte, CA (M); www.netpackbag.com
- NLDA, Glenview, IL (A); www.nllda.com
- Numinous Anti-Theft Travel Backpacks, Vancouver, BC, Canada (M); www.eartheasy.com
- Portfolio International LLC, Hickory, NC (M)
- Pro-Hawk Corp., New Taipei City, Taiwan (M); www.prohawk.com.tw
- Sleeper Scarf, San Francisco, CA (M); www.sleeperscarf.com
- Smart Luggagebelts Ltd., Kowloon, Hong Kong (M); www.luggage-mate.com
- Squeeze Pod, Madison, CT (M); www.squeezepod.com
- The Passport Protector, Columbus, OH (M); www.passportprotector.com
- TraValise, Philadelphia, PA (M); www.travalise.net
- Travel Head Pillow LLC, Cincinnati, OH (M); www.travelheadpillow.com
- TripGear, Bristol, CT (M); www.tripgear.travel
- Vincenzo Leather, Houston, TX (M); www.vicenzoleather.com
- Wellspring Ideas, LLC, Menomonee Falls, WI (M); www.safetravelpocket.com
- Xtreme Cables, Edison, NJ (M); www.xtremecables.com

M=Manufacturer; R=Retailer; SR=Sales Rep; S=Supplier;

A=Affiliate



Come One, Come All: Two Nights, Two Events

JOIN US AT THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT social event in the industry — everyone who's anyone in travel

goods will be there — making it the ultimate professional mixer, and a critical networking event. Festivities will begin immediately following The Show's first-day closing at 5:30 p.m. with light hors d'oeuvres, an open bar and the chance to rub elbows, clasp hands and renew industry friendships. And on Wednesday, immediately after Show close at 5:30 p.m., be sure to stop by Room 229 just outside our Show entrance for the Awards Ceremony. Cheer on the travel goods industry's most dynamic, accomplished personalities, help congratulate the winners, and recognize the people, companies and products that are changing the way people travel — and likely to be lighting up the sales charts for 2015. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

- **TGA's Opening Night Party**, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. at The Show Entrance
- **TGA's Awards Ceremony**, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Room 229



Be sure to stop by **TGA's Booth 1001** for water, coffee and a mouthwatering cookie!

Get Media Attention at The Show

THE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GOODS SHOW DOESN'T ONLY connect buyers and retailers...it also attracts media from around the country. The Press Room is each editor's first stop before they hit the exhibit floor, and it's where you are invited to display media kits and samples that the press will use to cover products after they return home from The Show. The Press Room will be located directly across from registration. Last year, press coverage following The Show included features on "Fox News," "NBC News," Peter Greenberg Travel, Today.com, USA Today, and many others. If you are an exhibitor and have questions regarding how to prepare media materials for The Show, contact TGA's Kate Ryan via email at kate@kateryanpr.com or phone 774-929-5223. ■

Capitol Beat | By Nate Herman

Is Trade Cool Again?

ALL OF A SUDDEN, TRADE IS “COOL” AGAIN HERE IN WASHINGTON, DC. From President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address to speeches by key Congressional leaders, talking trade is in vogue. According to the conversation, the time to move on trade legislation is now.

The trade discussion has centered on Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). TPA would give authority to the President to negotiate free trade agreements and submit those agreements to Congress for a straight “Yes” or “No” vote. While TPA has no direct impact on the U.S. travel goods industry, TPA will pave the way for completion of the current negotiations towards a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement. If negotiations are successful, the TPP would bring together the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim countries (including Vietnam) in a free trade area.

Why should you care? A TPP Free Trade Agreement, depending on the actual rules, could give travel goods from Vietnam duty-free access to the United States. But, even if Congress were to quickly approve TPA legislation and then the actual TPP agreement itself, it’s unlikely that an agreement with the 12 TPP countries would be reached by year’s end. And finally, the TPP agreement would need to be implemented, which means all 12 countries would need to change their laws and implement all of the agreement’s provisions before the agreement can go into effect. We likely won’t see any benefits under a TPP agreement until at least 2018, if not later.

However, all of this discussion on trade has opened up the door for other legislation, legislation that would benefit you now.

For the last two years, TGA has lobbied Congress to approve the GSP Update Act. The GSP Update Act would remove the outdated statutory bar preventing U.S. imports of travel goods from being eligible for duty-benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) trade preference program. GSP allows duty-free access to the U.S. market for products from developing countries like Brazil, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

Today, only 5% of the travel goods we sell come from GSP-eligible countries. But duty-free access to the U.S. market would change that equation, offering our industry, for really the first time, a real and viable sourcing alternative to China. And, with trade trending in Washington, this legislation has a fighting chance, because — 1) it has virtually no cost, 2) it is non-controversial, and 3) it could be included as an amendment to “must-pass” legislation to renew the overall GSP program, which expired last year.

We need you to contact your members of Congress! In order to get the GSP Update Act over the finish line, Congress needs to hear from YOU, their constituents, on how the legislation would benefit your company and your workers.

Contact your members of Congress TODAY. TGA can help you at every step of the process. Just ask.

Together, we can make both travel goods, and trade, cool again! ■

For more information, please contact TGA’s Nate Herman at 877-842-1938, x-708; nate@travel-goods.org.

California Prop 65

CALIFORNIA PROPOSES TGA-OPPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PROP 65 WARNING LABELS | On January 12, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) issued a proposed rule amending Proposition 65 that would substantially change existing regulations. The proposal would provide more specific guidance on both the content and communication methods of safe harbor warnings, including a requirement to list the actual names of 12 specific chemicals in the text of the Prop 65 warning. In addition, the proposed rule would require website reporting, and all warnings would be product-based as opposed to store-based. TGA has voiced strong opposition to previous drafts of the proposed rule. OEHHA will host a public hearing on the proposed rule on March 25 in Sacramento, CA. Comments on the rule are due April 8. ■

MEMBER PROFILES In an effort to publicize and promote the travel goods industry, TGA profiles both new and long-standing members in every issue of *Travel Goods Showcase* and on TGA’s website, www.travel-goods.org. TGA members can submit profile information by visiting www.travel-goods.org.

MEMBER PROFILES

American Duffle



AMERICAN DUFFLE’S CREATORS searched in vain for a premium-quality, stylish bag that could survive being stuffed into overhead bins, crammed into trunks or under-seat spaces; a bag that’s as easy to pack as it is to carry. When they couldn’t find one, they made one. Today every American Duffle is designed and assembled in the United States and every component — except the zipper — is sourced domestically.

“We have some of the highest-quality bags on the market. The ‘stay-open’ design of our duffles gives them the structure to stand up on their own for easy packing and unpacking,” states Rebecca Karp, who points out the hingeless gatemouth opening is a one-of-a-kind feature you won’t find on any other duffle.

American Duffle bags are made from Cordura®, with ballistic nylon fabric and foam linings that make them waterproof. The bags include such features as oversize zippers, padded shoulder strap with oversize hardware, side-gusseted pocket for easy access and a Penta Cleat-Feet bottom to protect your bag.

For more information, log on to www.americanduffle.com, or contact Rebecca Karp at 847-284-8988; rkarp@americanduffle.com. ■

MEMBER PROFILES

ORB Travel

VIBRANT, A 20-YEAR-OLD DESIGN firm, recently entered the travel accessory market with the launch of ORB Travel, introducing unique, designer-coordinated sets of luggage straps, trav-

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el organizers and bag tags to the North American marketplace.

“For more than 20 years our parent company, Vibrant, has served the retail community with innovative and high appeal products, and has distinguished itself with quick turnaround times and high fill rates,” states Murad Ismail. “We are utilizing our design expertise and innovative approaches, creating a fresh view on the travel accessory market with products that are stylish, functional and differentiate your luggage.”



The ORB Travel Collection includes coordinated luggage straps and bag tags, passport holders with RFID protection, TSA-friendly luggage locks, adapters, chargers, scales and travel essentials gift sets. They maintain distribution facilities in Buffalo, NY and Toronto, ON.

For more information, log on to www.vibrantphoto.com/ORB, or contact Murad Ismail at 800-561-6510; mis@mail@vibrantphoto.com.

MEMBER PROFILES

Stelli LLC



IN 2006, TWO TRAVELING PROFESSIONALS tired of constantly looking for that “better” suitcase put their heads together to found Stelli, with the goal

of creating a stylish alternative that also delivers customer value.

“Stelli’s suitcases and travel accessories strive to give travelers the tools to have a fun, hassle-free travel experience,” states Elias Gutt. “Our luggage lines are beautifully designed with both practicality and the traveler’s budget in mind.”

Stelli luggage uses easy-to-identify luggage colors and name tags in beautiful combinations; Stelli’s travel accessories aim to cover most travelers’ in-flight comfort needs and “away from home” amenities.

For more information, log on to www.stelli.com, or contact Elias Gutt at 305-459-0555; elias.g@stelli.com.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Highlighting the corporate citizenship of the travel goods industry

Oregon’s Homeless Get a Helping Hand from Clark & Mayfield Founder Lauri DeLacazy

EVERY TUESDAY, LAURI DELACAZY VOLUNTEERS AT FATHER’S HEART STREET



Ministry in Oregon City, OR, to help distribute clothes to the homeless who come to the facility in need of garments, meals and showers. “The people I meet while I’m volunteering are truly grateful to have a welcoming resource they can depend on to provide them with the basic things they need to stay warm and nourished,” said DeLacazy. In addition Lauri contributes to a holiday dinner that serves 350 Father’s Heart Street Ministry clients (which involves coordinating the participation of eight

volunteers she calls her secret elves).

Granite Gear Supports Organizations That Protect and Teach about the Great Outdoors

FOUNDED NEAR THE BREATHTAKING AND IMPORTANT WILDERNESS AREA OF



the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota, Granite Gear owners and employees have a big heart for protecting the great outdoors and ensuring others enjoy it as much as possible. The 28-year-old, independently owned company has partnered with many organizations that hold the same values and respect for nature. Among their partners are Save The Boundary Waters

Organization, supporting the fight to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from the imminent threat of sulfide-ore copper mining, and the Big City Mountaineers and Chicago Voyageurs. Granite Gear also supports Warrior Hike with cash and product donations, as well as public relations support. Warrior Hike is a program founded by Sean Gobin, designed to get fellow veterans on the trail to “walk off the war.” In addition, Granite Gear works with many other small organizations, clubs and schools around the country, in particular through donations of backpacks to support younger generations in their desire to experience outdoor adventures.

Democracy in Action

Jack and Jason Rimokh Honored with the 2014 Spirit of Life Award

IN NOVEMBER CITY OF HOPE'S Fashion & Retail Industry Group honored Jack and Jason Rimokh of Signal Brands with its 2014 Spirit of Life Award. The Spirit of Life Award is City of Hope's most prestigious philanthropic honor, presented annually to industry leaders who have demonstrated outstanding personal, professional and philanthropic achievements. Since the Fashion & Retail Industry Group's founding in 1995, more than \$40 million has been raised to support City of Hope's mission to cure — and ultimately prevent — cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and other life-threatening diseases.

Tilley Hats Raise \$160K

TILLEY ENDURABLES RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF JANUARY 2, 2015 THE company has been fortunate enough to donate over \$160,000 to Street Kids International, a global non-profit organization that helps street kids learn to support themselves and make healthy, educated decisions that positively impact their lives. This achievement represents contributions starting in 2004 that came from a portion of the sales from each Tilley Hemp Hat. Through this donation, Tilley has been able to help kids living on the street create a better future for themselves and their communities.

YaY Novelty Builds a School

UNDERSTANDING THE PLIGHT OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE FIRSTHAND, YAY NOVELTY



founder Sunchea Phou strives to bring attention to the suffering of children in a little recognized area of the world. Her benevolence comes wrapped in a foundation called Year Zero, the recipient of monies generated by YaY Novelty. With her Year Zero Foundation Phou endeavors to give Cambodia's dying generation access to education, homes, clean water and medicine. Every luggage ID tag, ultra slim

wallet/credit card holder and reusable bag the company creates is fuel for books, water and housing for needy children. In 2013, completely funded by Phou, the Year Zero Foundation built a school in a remote area of Cambodia that today teaches all of the children in the village. Next on its roster is safe housing for Cambodian families whose children now sleep under severely damaged and dripping roofs.

Sleep Comfortably While Sitting Up!

The TRAVEL Halo



All New Package & Features!



travelhalo.com

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