



December 2018

# Journeys

A Newsletter of Travelers Aid International

---

## OUR NEWS

### Kathleen Baldwin Selected as Next TAI President

The Travelers Aid International Board of Directors has selected Kathleen S. Baldwin, the president of [Travelers Aid Society of San Diego](#), to be the organization's next president.

Kathleen, who has led the San Diego agency since 2001, will assume the job in Washington in mid-February. She has been a TAI board member for the last 13 years.

Valerie Graff will continue to serve as the interim president until Kathleen's arrival.

"We are delighted to have someone from our member organizations who has had extensive experiences as a leader of a human service organization to take the helm at this time," said Floyd Davis, board chair and president of Community Link of North Carolina. "We are impressed with the way Kathleen has handled challenges in San Diego and continues to move her agency forward. Her dedication to Travelers Aid and their clients is inspiring. As the Board of Travelers Aid International re-dedicates its efforts to strengthen the bonds among our members and add new members, we believe Kathleen is the one to guide us."

When asked about assuming this role, Kathleen said, "I am honored and pleased to take on the challenging role with Travelers Aid International that has been offered to me. I am excited to lead this organization and the TAI network, which has tremendous impact around the U.S., in Canada, and Australia. Together, we can continue to do amazing things."

Travelers Aid Society of San Diego is a full-service member with seven employees with more than five social service programs assisting more than 9,600 clients per year. Among other projects, the agency created and has secured continued funding for *SenioRide*, a transportation program for low-income seniors; *Moving Up*, a job readiness and transportation program for the unemployed and the under employed; and a *Family Reunification* program.

Travelers Aid continues to staff information booths at the Santa Fe Rail Station and the Downtown Embarcadero. After losing its decades-long contract to manage more than 300 volunteers at the San Diego International Airport when it was taken in-house last year, Travelers Aid now operates an additional information booth at the Cross Border Xpress Terminal which serves the Tijuana International Airport.

Earlier in her career, Kathleen led Camp Fire Boys and Girls and Rainbow Island, both in San Diego, as well as Rainbow Center for Exceptional Children in Yuma, Ariz.

She earned degrees from University of California and Pepperdine University as well as participated in several leadership fellowships in the San Diego area.

We are delighted that Kathleen will take the helm at TAI to build a stronger organization.

## Dates, Locations Set for 2019 Annual Conference!

The 2019 Travelers Aid International Conference will be June 12-14 in Charlotte, N.C. Community Link of North Carolina will host the event.

The Charlotte facilities of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond will be the site of the conference. [Springhill Suites Charlotte Uptown](#), the all-suite hotel that seamlessly blends design and functionality, will be the official hotel for the event. The hotel, which is in the center of everything, is just two short blocks from the meeting site.

The theme of the 2019 will be *Embracing Change, Shaping the Future, Innovation Matters*. The TAI Professional Committee is excitedly planning the programming and recruiting speakers. Keep an eye out for the preliminary agenda in January. For those interested in presenting or nominating a speaker, we want to hear your ideas and suggestions! Please fill out this [very brief survey](#).

The educational sessions will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12. The conference will wrap-up after Friday's luncheon and annual membership meeting at about 2 p.m.

Community Link has negotiated discounted room rates at the Springhill Suites. Wednesday night's rate will be \$149 plus taxes. The rate for Thursday and Friday will be \$139 plus taxes. A complimentary breakfast will be available at the hotel as well as free wi-fi for that price!

## New Board Member

Periann Pulliam, the chief operating officer at Upward Transitions, Oklahoma City, joined the Board at its December meeting. She was appointed at the October meeting. Periann has been with Upward Transitions since 2009.

---

## MEMBER NEWS

As part of its mobility service, [Travellers Aid of Australia](#) in Melbourne celebrated International Day of People with Disability on Dec. 3. TAA recently received a RACV Community Foundation grant that funded the purchase of a two-seater scooter. The scooter is now being used in TAA's buggy service as well it is available for outings outside the rail network.

The 2018 Heroes for Hope raised more than \$300,000 on Nov. 1 for [HOPE Atlanta](#). The annual event is the organization's primary fundraiser.

---

[Travelers Aid/Dulles Airport](#) recently received a \$2,500 grant from the Committee for Dulles. The funds will be used to cover the incidental expenses for those stranded or encountering problems while at the airport.

---

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

**Travelers Aid/O'Hare Airport** - In September, 10 Travelers Aid volunteers participated in a field trip to the 103rd floor of the Willis Tower, the former Sears Tower

in downtown Chicago. On Oct. 24, Travelers Aid Chicago and Heartland Alliance hosted the annual volunteer appreciation luncheon.

**Travelers Aid/Will Rogers Airport** - On Nov. 15, Upward Transitions celebrated 45 years of service at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City with an appreciation luncheon at the Oklahoma History Center.

**Travelers Aid/Washington** - The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority hosted a luncheon on Dec. 7 for the volunteers at Reagan Airport and on Dec. 12 for the Dulles Airport volunteers. On Dec. 13, Travelers Aid International hosted a luncheon for the volunteers at Union Station.

---

## MILESTONES

### New Hires and Promotions

**HOPE Atlanta** - On Dec. 3, Jeff Smythe took the helm as CEO. Long-time CEO Ed Powers steps down on Dec. 31. Ed has been an integral part of Travelers Aid and we're sorry to see him go, yet we wish him well! Jeff most recently was the vice president of development for Lutheran Services of Georgia. Earlier, he had served 11 years as the executive director of Meals on Wheels Atlanta.

**Upward Transitions** - On Feb. 1, Jeremy Sanders the CEO of Oklahoma City organization will retire. He joined Upward Transitions in July 2017.

**Travelers Aid/O'Hare Airport** - After 42 years, Carol King will retire as the senior program manager. Carol originally started work at a Chicago bus station. Carol has been a stalwart staff member and we wish her the best!

**Travelers Aid/Bradley Airport** - Mary Kate Doherty was hired in September to be the first program manager for the new operation at Bradley International Airport.

**Travelers Aid/Reagan Airport** - Manon Carle on Oct. 21 started as the coordinator of volunteers.

[The digital Travelers Aid International Membership Directory has been updated on our website.](#)

---

## FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Feb 9. - Halifax Urban Ministries, Daytona Beach, will benefit from the 12th Annual Empty Bowls event. [Learn more.](#)

---

## BEST WISHES!

*As 2019 approaches, the Board and Staff of Travelers Aid International wish our members all the best!*

---

## TAI HEADQUARTERS STAFF

**Valerie Graff**, Interim President/CEO

[valerie@travelersaid.org](mailto:valerie@travelersaid.org)

202-546-1127 ext. 101

**Thomas J. Smith**, Director, Communications & Development  
[tom@travelersaid.org](mailto:tom@travelersaid.org)  
202-546-1127 ext. 102

**Lynn Adams**, Administrative Coordinator  
[lynn@travelersaid.org](mailto:lynn@travelersaid.org)  
202-546-1127 ext. 104

[www.travelersaid.org](http://www.travelersaid.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

