Wine and Spirits Shippers Association

TO: All Contacts
FROM: Alison Leavitt
DATE: January 25, 2017
SUBJECT: WSSA 40th Anniversary Year

WSSA is proud to be celebrating its 40th year as the pre-eminent shippers' associations in the wine and spirits industry!

Founded by the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America (WSWA) and the National Association of Beverage Importers (NABI) as a shipping cooperative, WSSA now operates as a not for profit shippers' association managed by a Board of industry executives. From our beginning four decades ago, it has been our primary goal to serve our members by negotiating rates on your behalf, making sure your cargo is protected from origin to destination, and providing education and advocacy as well as excellent customer service and support throughout the entire transit process. We have dedicated ourselves to providing efficient and economical transport by any mode – land, sea, or air – to our valued group of member importers, exporters, and distributors.

Our global reach has continued to grow year after year. We currently have over 600 members worldwide. Our services have also continued to expand as we grow the organization and adapt to the ever changing environment. Every year we go to the table to negotiate rates with top industry carriers using our aggregate member volume, insuring that our members get competitive industry rates, along with a direct connection to top executives at the ocean carriers. Not only that, but WSSA has one of the most – if not the most – comprehensive insurance program in the industry. Our all-risk insurance policy gives the members signed up for our program peace of mind that their cargo is protected no matter where it is going or how it is getting there. With low deductibles, a wide range of options, and spectacularly low rates, our coverage is difficult to beat.

While our services have expanded over the past forty years, our dedication to excellence has not altered. Every day we strive to serve our members and provide them with the resources, contacts, and advice for their success. We are proud to say we have done this successfully for forty years, and we are looking forward to many more.

To celebrate our 40th year, we will host a number of educational and networking events for our members. These events will center around pertinent topics for 2017 and beyond including:

- The changing face of the ocean carrier environment—bankruptcy, mergers, and acquisitions have dramatically changed the number of steamship lines serving the world
- Risk Management in an uncertain world: Understanding cargo insurance, how insurance relates to incoterms, and how to close the "gaps."
• Introduction to the CBP CEE: Gain insight into the latest changes at the Customs and Border Protection service and the Center for Excellence and Expertise that will be looking at YOUR import paperwork.

We would love for you to join us as we celebrate! Stay tuned for event details and invites.

On behalf of all of us at WSSA, we are proud and excited to celebrate this 40th year with you! Without your loyalty and support throughout the years, we would not be the association that we are today. We are excited for this milestone and for many more years of future service.