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Legislative Benefits of CMR

In the last decade or so, the CMR has made lasting impressions on legislators. (They've been known to hang onto our hats, sunglasses, bobbers, and other novelties we've given them over the years as reminders of how vital resorts are in Minnesota's tourism industry). We are remembered!

Our lobbyist, Joel Carlson, has very astutely represented us since 1997, and we feel very appreciative of his wisdom and mentorship through lawmaking waters.



"We have appreciated the CMR's continued diligence in legislative advocacy for resorters. We personally benefitted when the shoreland ordinance was rewritten. Instead of continuing to remodel old cabins, we were able to tear down cabins from the 1920s and replace with new modern cabins. Keep up the good work! -----Sherry & Jack Frost, Joe's Lodge



2016 - (and many other years prior!) Lobbied successfully to support more funding for Explore Minnesota Tourism. All resorts have benefitted from this effort by co-op advertising opportunities (TV commercials, web banner ads.)

2016 - CMR members volunteered 120 hours and logged over 5000 miles to participate in the rewriting of the MN Department of Health Rules and Regulations. This effort will bring about positive real change for all resorts, potentially eliminating minimum bedroom sizes and putting us on an even playing field with Vacation Rental Properties by Owners.

2015 - CMR worked with legislators to help repeal the AIS Trailer Sticker requirement. This overly aggressive regulation was felt to have had potential in decreasing tourism, particularly out-of-state vacationers. CMR also successfully lobbied for DNR to only require one LSP permit per resort (and not a permit per each staff person launching boats).

2014 - CMR members volunteered many, many hours and mileage when invited by Minnesota Department of Health to collaborate on regulation language going into effect 2016 regarding a nationwide mandate for seasonal well water systems testing to be done monthly instead of annually. (We succeeded!)

2008 – Successfully lobbied for further reductions in resort property taxes; a program initiated by the CMR in 2003.

2007 - CMR lobbied successfully for a standardized law on Statewide Shoreland Regulations for resorts. This included being able to replace existing cabins within the setback zones. Prior to enacting this law, resorts were unable to upgrade cabins even to reach legal compliance – like bedroom size - or make any improvements to cabins located within the setback zone without securing a variance. Several CMR members dedicated their personal time/energy over months to advise in DNR meetings.

2005 - CMR lobbied and successfully help pass a bill allowing homestead exemption for LLC resorts.

2005 - CMR successfully lobbied the legislature and the Governor to pass and sign into law a Post-Labor Day school start. Several CMR members testified in a hearing at the capitol, and we battle every session to retain this law!





"I became a member of the CMR for the education, really. Legislative issues were NOT on my radar. However, I began to take notice when we started getting a homestead tax credit on our property taxes. (Prior to 2005, any resort designated as an L.L.C. was not eligible.) The CMR had chosen this as one of their key issues and got the bill passed. Yeah!

(I spoke to my assessor. She said it varies every year with so many levels of calculations, but bottom line for this particular year is that our resort is saving about \$7,000 directly due to this credit. Holy cow! Enough to pay for several years of membership to CMR, right?)

*I sincerely appreciate all the efforts the CMR has made on my resort's behalf, and highly recommend ANY resort to join our organization, if only to support legislative efforts."
-- Kim Bowen, Crow Wing Crest Lodge*

As a CMR member, how can you support the legislative effort?

- Just **BE** a member. Your annual dues help fund our lobbyist's salary.
- Attend Fall Conference and participate in the Silent Auction (either by donating and/or bidding on items). All funds go towards 'Day on the Hill' events.
- Attend 'Day on the Hill' typically held in February or March. 25 - 50 of us attend this two-day event, which offers free bus transportation (voted 'the most fun part of the trip!' by members) to the state capitol where we talk with legislators directly.
- Contact resort colleagues who are on the current CMR Legislative Committee and suggest topics, ideas or comments on issues directly affecting your resort.



Silent Auction items at Fall Conference

"Our business is a seasonal one (14 weeks). Because of this - every, single week of our season is important to make sure we can keep our business healthy and thriving!

Families who know they don't have to get back to school and routines until after Labor Day love to end their summer with some family time at the lake. Also, we lose many families each summer to the pull of school/activity schedules cutting into the summer months.

Post Labor Day school start dates are imperative in helping us fill the last weeks of August (almost 1/7th of our entire season). "

-- Jamie Keller, Brookside Resort

