



## Legislative Benefits of the CMR

In the last decade, the CMR has made lasting impressions on legislators. They've been known to hang onto our hats, sunglasses, bobbers, and other token gimmicks we've given them over the years as reminders of how important resorts are in Minnesota. We are remembered!

Our lobbyist, Joel Carlson, has very astutely represented us since 1997, and we appreciate his expertise, wisdom and mentorship through the lawmaking waters.



*"I was amazed by the quick response of Joel and the CMR in getting the House and Senate to rethink their position on the law regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) regulations in early 2015. (Sticker requirement on all trailers via on-line DNR class and fee.)*

*"Education, not enforcement!"*

*While none of us want to see the spread of AIS, we need to approach the problem in a way that won't result in a negative impact on tourism. We are confident this law will be getting "tweaked" and improved this session after numerous meetings with legislators during our CMR Day on the Hill, Feb 4-5, 2015. Without a group like the CMR and a lobbyist like Joel Carlson, it would be difficult to stand together as a group and have our voices heard loud and clear."*

*– Bob Schimerowski, Diamond Lake Resort*



2014 - CMR was 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.

2013 - Lobbied successfully to support more funding for Explore Minnesota Tourism - directly resulting in advertising collaborations. CMR members have benefitted from this effort by co-op advertising via TV commercials and web banner ads.

2008 – Successfully lobbied for further reductions in resort property taxes – a program CMR worked to create in 2003.

2007 - CMR lobbied successfully for a 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.

2005 - CMR lobbied and successfully passed 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 – 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 {2015}: 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 and legislative programs.
- Attend the Fall Conference and participate in the Silent Auction by donating and 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! CMR members to the State Capitol to talk with legislators directly about our concerns.
- 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*

