



RESORTER REPORTER

Congress of Minnesota Resorts

www.Minnesota-Resorts.com

Message from the CMR President

Greetings Resorters!

As we head into the busy holiday hustle and bustle I hope each of you find enough "me" time to relax, recoup and regroup after your busy resort season and enjoy the time spent with family and friends!

Well, it's another new membership year for the CMR and I'd like to thank the following outgoing Board members for their service: Mark Novotny, Kim Osterhoudt, Bob & Sue Dice, and Cathy Duvall. New members, and first time on the Board are Jamie Keller from Brookside Resort and Bob Schimerowski from MN Sunset Shores Resort. Although not their first rodeo, we also welcomed to the Board: Sue Paradeis from Shing Wako Resort, Jennifer Bateman from Two Inlets Resort, and Bob & Lynn Scharenbroich from Black Pine Beach Resort. Thanks to all past and current Board members for their commitment to the CMR.

Our Fall Conference this past October at Breezy Point Resort was another huge success. If you missed it, you missed a lot! There was a lot of great information presented. Congratulations to Mark and Beth Novotny, owners of Hyde-Away-Bay Resort in Hackensack, for being awarded this year's CMR Resorter of the Year. Be sure to read more about the Fall Conference events in this newsletter and in the Minnesota Resorter magazine coming out in January.

Also, please mark your calendar for CMR's Day off/on the Hill on February 4 & 5, 2015. You read it correctly; we're changing our protocol due to the renovations at the Capital and will be inviting legislators to meet us OFF the Hill. But it doesn't change the necessity to have a strong show of support from our members, so please join us and GET ON THE BUS!

I'm looking forward to the new year and working with a dedicated Board of Directors who has already hit the ground running with many new, creative ideas to benefit our members. Watch for details in the months ahead. In the meantime, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Su Ugstad, CMR President

Balsam Bay Resort, Remer

2014 CMR SILENT AUCTION

This year's auction at the CMR Fall Conference raised \$2,926 in funds for the legislative committee. This committee sponsors the trip to the state capitol every year. To date, over \$33,500 has been raised by our silent auctions. It's not too late to donate. You can send a monetary donation to Vicky at the CMR office.

The auction always provides an afternoon and evening of entertainment, bidding on wanted items and visiting with our fellow resorters during the auction. Every year provides some awesome items donated...be sure and plan for the 2015 fall conference...what item(s) will you bring to spark somebody's bidding war?

The 2015 fall conference will provide yet another silent auction...and lots of fun seeing what everyone brings...start thinking of projects and purchases you want to donate!

2014 CMR Resorters of the Year

Mark & Beth Novotny from Hyde-A-Way Bay Resort! Hackensack MN

Every year at our Fall Conference, the Congress of Minnesota Resorts presents the Resorter of the Year Award.

This year's award recipients would have a mission statement that may look something like yours, however this year's winners have gone above and beyond when it comes to others. They are quick to help out fellow resorters in time of need, helping with storm damage, and plumbing in cabins, helping Yahoo chat group users, big building projects, or on a smaller scale, such as a computer software problem. They are always willing to lend a hand! They have built a strong sense of community within our resort association! We can all learn by these examples of selflessness.

When asked what brought them into resorting, the answer was a familiar one! "When I was young, my family vacationed at Minnesota Resorts and I loved it." Since they were faced with a major change in their life when the current Hardware store business they owned was destroyed by a fire, buying a resort seemed like a great option.

This resort has 16 housekeeping cabins and a newly added 14 site seasonal RV park. Let's recap what happened in just the first year! They installed 52 ceiling fans, added fire rings by each cabin, built a new lodge and added on and converted the old lodge into two 3 bedroom cabins which is now the duplex. Wow! Since then, completely they have torn down and rebuilt 6 additional cabins, including a new owner's home! Driving into this resort does not even begin to look the same as it did just 12 years ago! This couple hit the ground running when they purchased their resort and has not slowed down yet.

Mark has been on the CMR Board for 11 years serving as President, vice president, secretary, as well as Legislative Chair. Also, for the past 6 years has been serving on the Explore Minnesota Tourism Council. Currently, he is working on a committee with DOLI to resolve the plumbers' license issue for resorts.

In their community, Mark is currently the chairman of the Hiram Township board. He has served on their local chamber board, Lake Association board and was involved in rewriting Cass county shoreland rules for resorts. Both are heavily involved their church, the AWANA's program, and currently the chairman of the ministry board. Beth is involved in Bible Study as group leader and is now being trained as a Stephen's Minister. Congratulations to Mark and Beth Novotny at Hyde-A-Way Bay Resort for being the 2014 CMR Resorter of the Year!

2014 Fall Conference

This year we were at Breezy Point Resort. What a Beautiful place to have the conference. We started off Sunday with "the bald headed Irish man" and learned about "Selling Yourself and the Idea of a Resort Vacation". Adeel Ahmed of the U of M was here again teaching us more in depth information on Google Analytics. Bob with the DNR gave us more in depth knowledge into the ever growing AIS in Minnesota.

Explore MN Tourism, John Edman and Dave Bergman; I can't say enough positive things about these 2 guys they go above and beyond for MN Resorts!

Organic Housekeeping; Happy Dancing Turtle of Pine River gave us so much great information on how to make your cleaning more "green".

Then on to Legislative; Joel had Commissioner Kevin Lindsey came and spoke with us about Service Animal Regulations, to sum it up, our guests can bring them as long as they are service animals. There isn't much we can do about it other than be sensitive to their needs.

Understanding Generations...Builders, Boomers, Generation X, and Millennia's how they all think so different; this was one of my favorite speakers. She was entertaining, informative and of course just FUN!

We have been busy planning the 2015 Spring Workshop in April and the 2015 Fall Conference in October; visiting different Venue's and brainstorming many ideas. We are very excited for some of the changes that will be coming soon; so Stay Tuned for more information,

We will also be doing a survey in the next month to get more opinions on what everyone wants from the Workshops/Conference's. Please if you have any ideas, please feel free to contact us, any information is helpful! Karen Senger cedarpoint@bigfork.net and Tina Reuper vacation@sandypinesresort.com

Save the Date for Fall Conference: October 25th – 27th 2015! You WON'T want to miss it!

Save the Date 2015

“Day off the Hill”

The Traditional “Day on the Hill” will be a little earlier this year, February 4 and 5th. Those attending the Explore Minnesota Tourism Conference February 3rd and 4th will be able to attend both events without losing a beat. Due to extensive construction at the state capitol, the legislative committee has switched it up a bit. Instead of going to the Legislators, we will be having the Legislators come to us. We are planning a “Day off the Hill” event where CMR will host the Legislators on the evening of the 4th. The event is still in the planning stages but we are heading in the direction of a resort themed happening at a unique venue that may include a presentation by Joel. The event would be a drinks and hors-d’oeuvre type of affair. We will then have dinner with the traveling posse after the event. The next day will involve a meeting with select key legislators that would have the greatest impact into our active legislative goals. We will probably be working out of our cozy bus on Thursday the 5th as meeting space at the capitol will be nonexistent with all of the work going on.

This will be a fun time and we encourage as many of you as possible to attend and help be the voice of the resort industry at the capitol.

CMR Legislative Committee

Plumbing License Update

Due to the hard work and persistence of CMR legislative participants, especially the “Day on the Hill” attendees, a bill was passed directing the Department of Labor and Industries to convene a study group to come up with recommendation, by January 2015, for solving our plumbing license woes. This study group has been formed and has met twice now in Saint Paul. The CMR legislative committee has been a central participant in this study group from the beginning. Also, the interests of the MDH and Minnesota’s trade unions are being represented. A third and final meeting is scheduled for December 4th where it is anticipated a recommendation will be made. At this time it would be premature to anticipate the outcome. CMR’s position is to exempt resort owners from being required to have a licensed plumber perform maintenance work on our resorts and to provide a means for resort owners, not currently grandfathered, to be able to obtain a restricted plumber license with reduced continuing education requirements to perform more intensive plumbing work.

The CMR legislative committee will be actively pursuing a palatable resolution to this long running problem and will provide an update as soon as concrete information is available.

CMR Legislative Committee

Photo Contest

Thank you to all the participants in our 2014 Photo Contest. We had over 60 entries that we will be able to use in our future Marketing of the CMR. Watch for the next Resorter Magazine to see all the winners.

We would like to make this a yearly (seasonal) event. This Spring, more information will be available.

Also, at any time you are reflecting back on *your* pictures and find one (or more) that you just love, please forward it on to me. We are always looking for more pictures that capture that Minnesota Resort Vacation experience!

Thanks,

Kathy, Photo Contest Manager

Kathy@timbertrailsresort.com

**CMR Spring Workshop, April 9, 2015 at Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Bemidji
with**

CMR School of Resorting Pre-Workshop Classes to be held on April 8, 2015

Mark you Calendars and watch for more information on the workshop & classes.

NEED \$500 FOR SCHOOL?

It is not too early for your child or grandchild to get the application started!

Application needs to be at the CMR Office March 15, 2015

Each year the Congress of Minnesota Resorts offers four \$500 scholarships to a junior or senior in high school or a current undergraduate or technical school student. March 15, 2015 is the deadline for the scholarship application to be received at the Congress of Minnesota Resorts office. A scholarship application can be printed by going to the CMR website www.Minnesota-Resorts.com. Scroll to the bottom of the Home Page and click on Membership, then by using your Login and Password you will be able to go to Applications and click on Scholarship Application and print a copy. If you need further assistance please contact Vicky by emailing: CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com or call 320-212-5107.

NOMINATING RESORTERS FOR THE 2015 RESORTERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 DEADLINE

The Congress of Minnesota Resorts selects, through nomination by its members, one resort and resort owner that has shown a dedication to the improvement of the Minnesota Resort Industry by adopting and carrying out business policies and practices that reflect a personal pride in the industry as a whole. They also live up to the organization's motto of "Resorters Helping Resorters" by involvement in community activities and by displaying a willingness to help other resort owners to successfully operate Minnesota resorts.

You can go to the CMR website www.Minnesota-Resorts.com, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on Membership. Then, by using your User Name & Password you will get into the Members Only sections and click on Applications then print a copy of Resorter of the Year Nomination form. Mail the completed form to: Congress of Minnesota Resorts, PO Box 358, New London, MN 56273-0358. If you need further assistance please contact Vicky by emailing: CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com or call 320-212-5107.

New Members & New Owners

New Resort Members:

Paul Stennes & Jack Buhn, Stennes' & Buhn's Moose Lake Resort, 7418 S Moose Lake Road NE, Blackduck MN 56630 Phone: 218-835-6542 Email: info@mooselakeresort.com Website: www.mooselakeresort.com

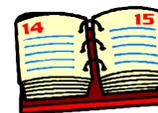
New Associate Members:

Widseth Smith Nolting, contact person: Chad Conner, Box 2720, Baxter MN 56425 Phone 218-820-7489 Email: Brainerd@wsn.us.com Website: www.WidsethSmithNolting.com

Orion Resort & Campground Sales, contact person: Tom Ossell, 945 Osprey Blvd, Bayport MN 55003 Phone: 612-805-9646 Email: info@orionresortsales.com Website: www.orionresortsales.com

CMR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|--------------------|---|
| Dec. 18, 2014 | CMR Board Meeting, Black Pine Beach, Pequot Lakes |
| Feb. 3 & 4, 2015 | EMT Tourism Conference, RiverCentre, St. Paul,
http://www.exploreminnesota.com/industry-minnesota/tools-training/2015-tourism-conference/ |
| Feb. 4 & 5, 2015 | Day off the Hill, St. Paul |
| Mar. 15, 2015 | CMR Scholarship Applications due in CMR Office |
| Apr. 8, 2015 | CMR School of Resorting Pre -Spring Workshop Classes, Holiday Inn Conf. Center, Bemidji |
| Apr. 9, 2015 | CMR Spring Workshop, Holiday Inn Conf. Center, Bemidji 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| Oct. 25 - 27, 2015 | CMR Fall Conference, location to be announced |



Congress of Minnesota Resorts

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WWW.MINNESOTA-RESORTS.COM

Keep your listing current
on the CMR website.

CMR MISSION STATEMENT

The Congress of Minnesota Resorts exists to help family owned and operated resorts in Minnesota to continue as a viable segment of the Minnesota tourism industry.

CMR MOTTO

The Congress of Minnesota Resort's motto is "Resorters Helping Resorters" We believe that none of us is as smart as all of us.

CMR'S 2014-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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