



RESORTER REPORTER

Congress of Minnesota Resorts

www.Minnesota-Resorts.com

Message from the CMR President

Happy Holidays!

It sure doesn't feel like winter. I look outside and the lake may be iced over, but there is a sheen on top that makes it look like open water! But, folks, it is the "off season." Some resorts are closed and some are still open. Either way, I sure hope you enjoy the season. The real winter-like weather will show up eventually.

The CMR Board is a wonderful group of individuals and I have enjoyed serving on the board. I would like to thank the following individuals that have served on the board and are now leaving: Roger Lykins from Lykins Pinehurst Resort, Bob and Lynn Scharenbroich from Black Pine Beach Resort as well as Jim and Deb Eickhorst from Kohl's Resort. We appreciate the efforts that you have put forth for the CMR and remember you can still be involved without serving on the board!

I would also like to welcome the newly elected board members: Shelia Niemeyer from Niemeyer's Rugged River Resort, Jim and Kristin Wherley from Sunset Bay Resort and Mike Schwieters from Boyd's Lodge. Although most resorters have a lot in common, we are not all alike. It is a treat to work with such a smart group of individuals and I am honored to serve as the president for this next year.

We had a very successful and interesting Fall Conference at The Lodge at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik. Thank you to everyone who organized, presented, as well as attended. A lot of time and effort by many people goes into the CMR Fall Conference and it is put on for you, our members! We look at all your feedback to make it the best that it can be.

Congratulations to our new Resorter of the Year (ROY) winners. Recipients of the 2015 Resorter of the Year are Timberly & Jason Christiansen and JoAnn and Dave Fallis of Finn n' Feather Resort in Bemidji. Together their resorting history is long and they are deserving of this award. Congratulations again. Detailed information will be included in the next edition of the Minnesota Resorter.

For me at my resort, every year is similar but never boring. However, a few new things come up every year. I feel the same about the CMR. There is always something new and challenging. It is going to be a great year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Karen Senger, CMR President
Cedar Point Resort

Name Change

Now that our organization has voted to change its name to Community of Minnesota Resorts, the process of changing the name will begin. The board expects this will take some time. The first step will be to file the necessary forms with the state. Once the legal steps are taken and finalized and our name is "official" in the eyes of the state, we will begin to change all the areas that we manage that contain the word "Congress" and convert it to "Community." These areas include but are not limited to our web site, logo, and the Minnesota Resorter magazine and office materials. We will also notify tourism offices such as Explore Minnesota Tourism. We will keep you up to date on the progress of the change through this newsletter. As always, feel free to contact the CMR office or any board member with questions.

Spring Workshop April 12, 2016

The CMR Conference Committee has started preparing for the CMR Spring Workshop. Next year the CMR Spring Workshop is going to be on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at Boyd's Lodge in Cross Lake. They are working on some pre-workshop classes as well. Once more details are determined, we will get the information out to you.

Minnesota Department of Health

Lodging Rules and Codes

We have a very unique opportunity presented to us. The Minnesota Department of Health is beginning the process of reworking the Lodging Rules and Codes and has requested input from us in the industry.

Here are the subgroups that they outlined. This seemed to be pre-determined before we got there.

♣ **Lodging Statute and Rule Development Subgroup** • This subgroup would be responsible for reviewing current existing standards and regulations for independent living apartments, lodging establishments, hotels, motels, rental properties and other similar facilities and developing a standard or set of flexible standards that could be used as a foundation for other more specific lodging situations.

♣ **Revenue and Funding Stream Subgroup** • This subgroup would be responsible for discussing tax requirements, federal and state supplemental payer options and other financial burdens or concerns that exist in lodging facilities.

♣ **Health Regulation Division Operators Subgroup** • This subgroup would be responsible for performing a gap analysis of the existing regulations in Health Regulation Division regulated facilities and identifying what standards if any to apply to these businesses.

♣ **Occupancy Subgroup – Fire Code, Zoning & Building** • This subgroup would be responsible for evaluating existing definitions and laws pertaining to occupancy in lodging facilities to provide guidance and recommendations to the other subgroups and make recommendations for streamlining regulations when possible.

♣ **Department of Human Services Operators Subgroup** • This subgroup would be responsible for performing a gap analysis of the existing regulations in Department of Human Services regulated facilities and identifying what standards if any to apply to these businesses.

At this time it is not clear what the total process or commitment will be but believe this is a very important group to be involved with. We need others to join us in the reshaping of the Rules and Codes that Govern our businesses. If you are interested in helping to redo these 70 year old Rules and Codes please contact Tim Aarsvold at tja@genevabeachresort.com or Mark Novotny

at hydeawaybay@tds.net .

IRRRB Study of Tourism in Northeastern Minnesota

The Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) recently conducted a study of the impact of tourism in six northeastern Minnesota counties. The study found tourism and hospitality contributed over \$1 billion in economic impact and accounted for over 13,600 jobs. Total spending on dining and bars exceed lodging by a small margin.

The study commented that there was not enough growth in leisure and hospitality activity in the area, and was an area of the economy they could work to improve.

For further information on the study you can view the report on the link below.

<http://mn.gov/irrrb/images/Tourism%2520Study%25202015.pdf>

Poster on Minnesota Resorts and Their Forest Health Concerns

We thought we would share a recent analysis of Minnesota resort and campground owners and their concerns for forest health. This research is still ongoing and being conducted by the University of Minnesota Extension. As you might remember, we queried the Explore MN database to inquire about their concerns about these issues. The poster attached was presented at the Society of American Foresters convention a few weeks ago in Baton Rouge.

Matthew B. Russell, Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist, Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota

<http://health.forestry.umn.edu/>

2016 DAY ON THE HILL

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for March 22nd and 23rd, 2016 and come join us for our annual legislative Day on the Hill event. Come join us for a couple days of bumping shoulders with legislators and of course your fellow fun resorters. The bus trip to and fro is a great place to get any questions you may have answered from experienced resorters. It is a really fun time, so commit to coming along.

So you hate politics and all that government stuff. Well if you have never been to the Day on the Hill it really isn't painful! Or maybe it is but it is still not painful. When we meet with or reps we go in groups for support. None of us are professional lobbyist, we are just plain small to mid-sized business people and that is why the legislators like to meet with us. We are the constituents they all say they want to support. Plus we always have a fun prop to hand out and we wear fishing vests to the meeting. Who else does that?!!

If you are looking for one thing new to do this year to help our industry, this would be it. We love to have newbie's!! You all make a difference and together we can continue to have a strong voice in St Paul.

Issues that we are currently tracking

- Revisions to the Shoreline Protection Zone
- Building Permits being required Statewide
- Revisions to MDH Regulations
- Preserving Post Labor Day School
- Funding Support for Explore Minnesota Tourism
- DNR direct hospitality competition
- Companion Animals
- Licensing of Vacation Home Rentals

CMR Legislative Committee

Save the Date

The 2016 CMR Fall Conference is scheduled to start on Tuesday, November 1st and end on Thursday, November 3rd at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. Note the "day" change. We are changing it up a little bit. Put it on your calendar IN INK!!

New Members and Owners

New Resort Members:

Scott & Lee Bergstrom, Thomsonite Beach Inn & Suites, 2920 West Highway 61, Grand Marais MN 55604 Phone: 218-387-1532 Email: info@thomsonite.com Website: www.thomsonite.com

Mark & Sally Ludlow, Ludlow's Island Resort, 8166 Ludlow Road, Cook MN 55723 Phone: 218-666-5407 Email: info@ludlowsresort.com Website: www.ludlowsresrot.com

Doug & Cynthia Carlson, Steamboat Bay Resort on Leech Lake, 6379 Wedgewood RD NW, Walker MN 56484 Phone: 218-547-1575 Email: steamboatbayresort@arvig.net Website: www.steamboatbayresort.com

New Owners:

Shawn & Megan Wahlstrom, Pine Grove Lodge, 48724 Pine Grove Rd, Max MN 56659 Phone: 218-659-2865 Website: swahlstrom36@yahoo.com Website: www.pinegrovelodgemn.com

NEED \$500 FOR SCHOOL?

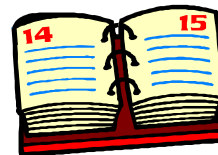
It is not too early for your child or grandchild to get the application started!

Application needs to be at the CMR Office March 15, 2016

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, 2016 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.

CMR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| March 15, 2016 | CMR Scholarship Packets due at office |
| March 22 & 23, 2016 | Day on the Hill, St. Paul, watch for more details |
| April 12, 2016 | CMR Spring Workshop, Boyd's Lodge, Crosslake details to follow |
| November 1-3, 2016 | CMR Fall conference, Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, watch for more details |



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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 2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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