



June & July 2005



RESORTER REPORTER

Congress of Minnesota Resorts

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT ED BECKER

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cmr@minnesota-resorts.com

I would like to take a few moments of your busy summer to catch everyone up to speed on the items your Congress of Minnesota Resorts board has been working on. As you are well aware we are living in changing times and the rules are changing daily. The Resort industry has been faced with many challenges this past year. Our Shoreland rules update committee, MOT committee, and Legislative committee have been dedicated to the members of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts to assure the best possible representation for our interests. There is an amazing amount of behind the scene work being done by our various committees on the behalf of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts to help us continue to be a strong industry. Numerous trips to the capital as well as other areas of the state have been made by commit-

tee members to ensure success on several of the new laws. Because of these members continuing to follow through with strong representation many of our bills, Post Labor Day School start, Resort Valuation Relief, and Fire Marshall fee exemption on 1 C resorts are headed in a favorable direction. I would like to thank the board for being so dedicated to our progress this year.

The board met at Hyde Away Bay Resort on June 11th, 2005 to finalize our 2006 budget. New fees have been set for the upcoming year and will be published in August with your renewal letter.

We are looking forward to another great year. Wow, sure do love this new digital newsletter! Hope everyone is having a great summer!

Ed Becker, CMR President



Legislative Report on the 2005 Legislative Session

Submitted by: Dave Thompson, CMR Legislative Chairperson, Fisherman's Village Resort

The 2005 Legislative Session has the potential of ranking the highest success rate for passing our legislative agenda ever. We have had success on almost all of our issues and only failed on a few so far. Here is a current highlight of our issues

Health Department Fees

There is a new "Hospitality fee" for the Department of Health that is going to pass. It is \$35 dollars per year, and it has been impossible to remove!

Post Labor Day School Start

More progress - The House Senate Conference

Committee on Economic Development, Jobs and Environment just approved Sen. Dallas Sams motion to accept the House position on Post Labor Day School Start!!

The conference committee report still has to be approved by the House and Senate at some point in the Special Session, but we are on our way to a long awaited victory.

The new Post Labor Day will take effect on August 1, 2006.

In addition to all the CMR members that worked so hard on the issue, we need to extend a huge thank you to the Minnesota State Fair and their awesome lobbyists Sarah Psick and Joe Bagnoli, and Hospitality Minnesota's help from Tony Kwilis and Tom Day.

Inside this issue:

<i>Legislative Report cont.</i>	2
<i>Explore Minnesota Tourism</i>	2
<i>Resorter Reporter</i>	2
<i>DNR Shoreland Update</i>	3
<i>New Members or Owners</i>	3
<i>Member Recruitment</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>2004-2005 Board of Directors and Committees</i>	4

We will have to be vigilant to never loose this issue again!

Send a note to Sens. Sams and Ruud and Rep. Howes to let them know how much we appreciate their help and support.

Fire Marshal

We worked very hard on this issue, both the House and Senate agreed to fund the department at a slight increased budget. The House version won out and there will still be an inspection fee imposed on motels with over 35 rooms. Cont. page 2

Explore Minnesota Tourism Council

Submitted by Dawn Sullivan, Woodland Trails Resort

As some of you may be aware, I am an appointee on the Explore Minnesota Tourism Council. We just had a council meeting this week so here is an update on what's been going on. We spent a lot of time going over the results from the recent on-line survey and the Growth Session meetings that were held this Spring. Thanks to everyone who participated. The results are a very powerful tool the EMT is using to help direct it's efforts. We also got a preview of the new and improved website for Explore Minnesota. It is more user friendly and the look is very clean. If you get a chance check it out at www.exploreminnesota.com. The Council is also working on long range planning, funding issues and improvements for the Governor's Conference on Tourism. As always, if you have any comments or ideas you would like me to take back to the Council let me know.

"Resorter Reporter"

The "Resorter Reporter" is going electronic. With the June issue of the "Resorter Reporter" newsletter you will receive "hard copy" through the U. S. Postal Service and another, identical, copy electronically through your email address that you have given to the Congress of Minnesota Resorts office. Please contact the Congress of Minnesota Resorts office at cmr@minnesota-resorts.com or on the toll free number 888-761-4245 with your email address if you do not receive the "Resorter Reporter" newsletter through email.

The Congress of Minnesota Resorts board of directors hopes that this new procedure of delivering the "Resorter Reporter" newsletter will get news to you more timely and with less expense.

Legislative Report Continued from page 1. However the bad news is that since we were successful preventing the House's attempt to remove the homesteaded resort inspection fee, the Fire Marshal successfully removed the text below and thus resorts were not added back in to the Fire Code description of a "Hotel". What this means is that only non-However the bad news is that since we were successful preventing the House's attempt to remove the homesteaded resort inspection fee, the Fire Marshal successfully removed the text below and thus resorts were not added back in to the Fire Code description of a "Hotel". What this means is that only non-homesteaded resorts with a building with 6 or more bedrooms in it will be inspected. It is very obvious that the Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal, Jerry Rosendahl have no interest in insuring the safety of our industry's guests.

12.10 (c) "Hotel" means any building or
p o r t i o n t h e r e o f
12.11 containing six or more guest rooms
intended or designed to be
12.12 used, or which are a hotel, motel,
resort, boarding house, bed
12.13 and breakfast, furnished apartment
house, or other building that
12.14 is kept, used, rented, hired out to be
occupied, or which are
12.15 occupied for advertised, or held out
to the public as a place
12.16 where sleeping purposes by or
housekeeping accommodations are
12.17 supplied for pay to guests, and which
is required to be licensed

12.18 pursuant to chapter 157 for tran-
sient occupancy

Child Life Jacket Requirement

A new bill passed SF. 1116. It reads a follows. I have reviewed it with my local DNR Enforcement Officer. It is going to be very difficult for Enforcement Officers to determine if multiple warnings were issued unless they happened with in hours or days of the original warning. Second the new law reads that children do not have to wear a lifejacket if the boat is anchored for swimming, however if the boat is anchored for fishing, this would require the use of lifejackets. For our resort I plan to just put a copy of this law in each cabin on our welcome letter and remind my guests with children that they must wear the life jackets.

Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 86B.501, Subd. 3. [GRANT ALLEN LAW; LIFEJACKET REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN.] (a) No person may operate a watercraft under way with a child under ten years of age aboard unless the child is:

(1) wearing an appropriate personal flotation device approved under subdivision 1; or

(2) below the top deck or in an enclosed cabin.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to commercial watercraft where the child is a passenger and the operator is licensed by the state of Minnesota or the United States Coast Guard to carry passengers

for hire. Paragraph (a) also does not apply if the watercraft is anchored for the purpose of swimming or diving.

(c) A first violation of this subdivision prior to May 1, 2006, shall not result in a penalty, but is punishable only by a safety warning.

(d) Any violation other than a violation addressed in paragraph (c) is to be considered a petty misdemeanor.

EFFECTIVE DATE 5/6/2005

Closing Remarks

All resorters should know that with out the constant professional work of our CMR Lobbyist, Joel Carlson, our legislative successes would not have happened. Joel has worked tirelessly in the closing days of the session when one legislative day ran over night into the next, week-ends turned into 7 day work weeks. This effort has become a year round marathon to set our legislative agenda, and then work to meet our goals. All resorters should be aware that Joel and our Legislative Committee work for all Minnesota Resorts. Thank you to all of you who are members, a portion of your annual dues funds this effort. For all Resorters who are not members of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts, this effort has a high cost and we extend an invitation to all Minnesota Resorts to help shoulder the Burdon of protecting our businesses by becoming a member.

DNR Shoreland Rules Update

Submitted by Dana Pitt, Bailey's Resort

The DNR's Shoreland Rules Update Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly since February and will continue until January 2006. What started out as a very slow process with much confusion as to which direction the rules updates were headed is now more focused. However, most of the details are still being worked out behind the scenes between meetings. The final draft will go through a public hearing process and all the legal channels and would go into effect in mid-late 2006.

Many stakeholders with varying interests are involved in this advisory group including resorts. After the initial draft of the rules severely restricted resorts, we have now negotiated for a "resorts only" set of standards that are more resort friendly. This has been more favorable for us, although there are still concepts and details that need to be worked out.

For more details of the rules update process visit the DNR's web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters and look under the North Central Lakes Pilot Project.

You can sign up for email updates or make comments directly on the DNR site

CONGRESS OF MINNESOTA RESORTS

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by: Paul Kostelecky, Conference Vice Chairperson, Hunt's Resort & RV Park

The 2005 Fall Conference will be held at Cragun's Resort and Conference center on Gull Lake near Brainerd. This is the 20th year anniversary of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts, so you will not want to miss this extra special celebration! The conference planning committee has been working on the conference to make it one of the best ever. The dates of this event are October 24-26, so mark your calendars now, so you can take part in this special celebration. Look for more information and registration forms in September.

NEW MEMBERS

John & Wendi Kruse, Moose Lake Resort, 36712 CR 248, Deer River, MN 56636 218-246-8675 email: mooselk@paulbunyan.net

Kate Stelten & Jerry Gaslin, Birch Haven Resort, 11801 Paper Birch Drive, Tenstrike, MN 56683 218-586-2865 email: info@birchhavenresort.com

New members/owners since the May newsletter. Please give them a call or email of encouragement and welcome them to the Congress of Minnesota Resorts.

*WELCOME
&
GOOD LUCK!*

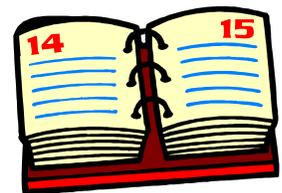
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Submitted by: Pat Addler, Membership Vice Chairperson, Cedar Rapids Lodge

As we all go into our busy summer season, don't forget about the CMR membership drive. In October someone will be awarded a log rocker set with table at the fall conference. In order to have a chance (or multiple chances) to win this, you must recruit a fellow resorter to join the CMR and make sure your name is listed as the person who referred them for membership! The months are ticking down and someone will win the prize. Let it be you—and in return increase our membership!!

CMR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| August 18, 2005 | Board Meeting Call office for location and time. |
| Fall Resort Tour | Dates and Locations to be announced |
| October 24, 25 & 26 | "20th Anniversary" Congress of Minnesota Resorts Fall Conference, Cragun's Resort and Conference Center in Brainerd Lakes Area |



Congress of Minnesota Resorts

Congress of Minnesota Resorts
Post Office Box 124
Spicer, MN 56288

Phone: 888-761-4245

Email: cmr@minnesota-resorts.com

**WWW.MINNESOTA-
RESORTS.COM**

Keep you 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 2004-2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE'S

President: Ed Becker, In-We-Go Resort, 218-652-3536 email: vacation@inwegoresort.com

Vice President: Ed Fussy, Pimushe Resort, 218-586-2094 email: Pimushe@paulbunyan.net

Treasurer: Mark Novotny, Hyde-Away Bay Resort, 218-675-6683 email hydeawaybay@tds.net

Treasurer: Tom Masloski, Weslake Resort, 218-826-6523 email: weslake@prtcl.com

Secretary: Brenda Masloski, Weslake Resort, 218-826-6523 email: weslake@prtcl.com

Past President: Dawn Sullivan, Woodland Trails Resort, 218-493-1855 email: cmr@woodlandtrialsresort.com

EDUCATION:

Chairperson: David Moe, Clamshell Beach Resort, 218-543-4731
email: vacation@clamshellbeach.com

School of Resorting: Sheila & Corby Niemeyer, Niemeyer's Rugged River Resort, 218-829-6705
email: corby@uslink.net

Darvin & Susan Ferguson, Pine Terrace Resort,

218-543-4606 email: Darvin@pineterrace.com

Sara Becker, In-We-Go Resort, 218-652-3536 email: vacation@inwegoresort.com

Conference & Workshop: Paul Kostelecky, Hunts Resort, 320-634-3323 email: info@huntsresort.com

Tam Mahaffey, Lost Acres Resort, 218-751-4144 email: lostacre@blackduck.net

Pat Ossell, Northern Lights Resort & Outfitting, 651-351-966690
email: nlro@uslink.net

Minnesota Resorter: Tom Masloski, Weslake Resort, 218-826-6523 email: Weslake@prtcl.com

MARKETING:

Chairperson: Ed Fussy, Pimushe Resort, 218-586-2094 email: Pimushe@paulbunyan.net

Advertising: Ed Fussy,

Website: Karen Kaehler, Pinedale Resort,

612-483-2328, email: pinedale@att.net

Membership: Pat Addler, Cedar Rapids Lodge, 218-243-2487 email: crlodge@paulbunyan.net

Jim & Kerri Ball, Cass Lake Lodge, 218-335-6658 email: clodge@paulbunyan.net

LEGISLATIVE:

Chairperson: Dave Thompson, Fisherman's Village Resort, 218-495-3326 email: fishvilg@prtcl.com

Ed Becker, Mark Novotny, Preston Turner. 218-732-3607 email: bigtimberlodge@unitelc.com

Sherm & Mary Anderson, Anderson's Starlight Bay, 218-652-3530 email: relax@starlightbayresort.com

Connie Filley, email: cfilley@willmar.com

GUEST APPROVED RESORT PROGRAM

CMR Office of Surveying

PO Box 1184, Alexandria, MN 56308