



STRONGER TOGETHER

Friends,

In these tough economic times, it's more important than ever for our industry to band together. For one thing, we've heard from our legislators and other leaders that our message is more powerful when we all speak as one. It makes sense. A chorus of voices is always going to be louder than a single shout. And we'll have the chance to show just how united we are at the upcoming Tourism Advocacy Day on April 11th at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

But beyond our advocacy and outreach, we are also stronger when we work with one another. That's why all our members have received a directory with the names and contact information of everyone in the Coalition. I strongly encourage you to look through the contacts and think about how we might be able to help one another. After all, if we bring more visitors to our state, it benefits us all.

Consider something as simple as adding the logo or a link to your fellow members' websites. Not only does this help promote other Coalition businesses and attractions, but it also shows visitors that Connecticut is teeming with great things to do, food to eat, and attractions to enjoy. Please also continue to refer new members to our Coalition.

I also hope you'll consider linking to the Coalition on your website so that more people will have the chance to learn about the work we're doing.



You should also have received a reminder about our next Board Meeting on March 16th. It will take place at Foxwoods Resort Casino from 10 AM to 1 PM. We've got some great speakers lined up, so I hope you'll be able to join us.

Thanks for all your hard work.

Kind regards,

Stephen Tagliatela
President

SAVE THE DATE:

March 16 • 10am-1pm

CTC Board Meeting
Foxwoods Resort Casino

April 11 • Starting at 10am

Tourism Advocacy Day
Legislative Office Building • Hartford

CTC Welcomes Its Newest Members

- Connecticut Port Authority
- Demers Events and Expo Services
- HPC Foodservice
- Louis Marine
- Mystic Aquarium
- Mystic Seaport

For more information about the CT Tourism Coalition or to become a member, please visit tourismCT.com



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: GUILFORD ART CENTER

For more than 50 years, the Guilford Art Center has inspired our community and encouraged participation in the visual arts through educational initiatives, exhibitions, and outreach. Founded in 1967 as the Guilford Handcraft Center, the Center quickly became a treasured resource for Connecticut's entire shoreline.

Every year, more than 2,000 students ranging from preschoolers to senior citizens enroll in the Guilford Art Center's school. With over 400 classes spread across four semesters, there is something to interest everyone. Students can receive instruction in ceramics, jewelry making, metalworking, stone carving, drawing, painting, glassworks, weaving, and even blacksmithing. The Center even offers tuition assistance to make sure their courses are available to students of all financial means.

Every year in July, the Center holds its annual Craft Expo on the Guilford Green, featuring works from nearly 200 of our country's top artisans. This celebration of the arts is a mainstay in Guilford and has been recognized as one of the top craft shows in New England. The expo draws more than 7,000 people to our community over its three-day run, making it an important contributor to tourism in our region.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Maureen Belden, the Guilford Art Center has become one of the top arts and culture attractions in Connecticut. Her work ensures visitors and locals alike have the opportunity to experience our rich artistic heritage. Through classes, workshops, exhibits, and more, the Guilford Art Center is sure to inspire and engage.



CHAMPION OF TOURISM: REPRESENTATIVE LONNIE REED

Currently in her fifth term in the Connecticut General Assembly, Rep. Lonnie Reed serves the 102nd Assembly District, which encompasses the town of Branford. In addition to sitting on the Tourism Caucus, she is the House Chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Life Sciences Caucus and Long Island Sound Caucus, and sits on the Manufacturers Caucus and Shoreline Preservation Task Form.

Recognizing the importance of our shoreline to both our environment and the tourism industry, Rep. Reed had been a passionate advocate for cleaning up the Long Island Sound. She has also been a leader for clean energy development, and helped create our nation's first Green Bank: a public/private partnership to fast-track energy efficiency and renewables.

Rep. Reed's district is home to numerous attractions. Visitors and locals alike can enjoy boat cruises to the Thimble Islands or cool off with unique craft beers at Stony Creek Brewery or the Thimble Islands Brewing Company. The Aura Day Spa offers relaxing massages, facials, and more, while sightseers can enjoy a scenic drive up Route 146.

Prior to serving in the CGA, Rep. Reed worked as an award-winning journalist in Seattle, Florida, Connecticut, and New York. She has been a contributing correspondent to CBS News, a White House reporter, and documentarian. Her work has received four Emmy Awards as well as several film festival prizes.

