



CALL YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR TODAY

It's imperative that you contact your State Legislator today and stress the importance of funding Connecticut tourism.

According to various reports and sources, some versions of the state budget are calling for reductions in future tourism funding. This includes the marketing and promotion of Connecticut as a tourism destination.

The Connecticut Tourism Coalition strongly urges our State Legislature to reconsider any reductions to Connecticut tourism. This would be disastrous for our state, resulting in job losses, decreased revenue and stagnant economic prosperity.

At the very minimum, the General Assembly should approve a sustainable funding source for tourism in Connecticut. In 2010, when the Occupancy Tax went from 12% to 15% that 3% increase resulted in \$15 million going directly to a dedicated source of funding for tourism marketing and promotion. Our State Legislature should fulfill this commitment that was made in 2010 and give the tourism industry back what it promised. Don't leave us empty-handed; especially now when our neighbors have increased their spending levels dramatically.

Now is the time to act. Our under-funded tourism sector needs immediate attention, especially as neighboring states, i.e. New York



and Massachusetts, are spending considerably more to lure away tax revenue from our state. As a result, we are being left behind in achieving greater economic growth and vitality for our residents.

Connecticut needs to be more committed to tourism as a vehicle for achieving greater economic development, job growth, environmental conservation, historic preservation, quality of life and tax revenues, as well as bolstering our arts and culture education and programming.

Members of the Connecticut Tourism Coalition are being asked to write and email their state legislators and ask them to act immediately in developing a more reliable source of funding for tourism in Connecticut. This will only enable our industry to better assist you in boosting Connecticut's economy, increasing jobs, and expanding revenues.

Harnessing the power of tourism should not be delayed any longer.

Connecticut's citizens need immediate action. Tourism works and should be embraced.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, June 19 • 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
The Pavilion on Crystal Lake in Middletown

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



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: OLD LYME COUNTRY CLUB

Established in 1916, the Old Lyme Country Club is one of the oldest private membership clubs in Connecticut. This pristine gem on the southern shores of Connecticut is a family-friendly golf club that offers a challenging nine-hole course and six beautiful tennis courts with a new warming hut. The club also offers extensive Junior Programs for kids of different ages during the summer, and the pool, wading pool, and Snack Bar are open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

The Old Lyme Country Club is open for lunch and dinner Wednesdays through Saturdays with service in the Grill Room all day. Brunch is served every Sunday. Regular musical events and lectures are offered throughout the year at the Club, and Mah Jongg, Duplicate Bridge, and Chicago Bridge are popular options for the membership as well. The Club has a Book Club and boasts its own Club Chorus which performs several times a year.

The club's lounge and dining room facilities with beautiful views of the golf course are also available for private parties. Whether it's a wedding, anniversary party, birthday party or business luncheon, the Old Lyme Country Club is guaranteed to provide an unforgettable experience.



CHAMPION OF TOURISM: STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEVIN CARNEY

Representing the picturesque communities of Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook, State Representative Devin Carney serves as the House Ranking Member of the Transportation Committee and serves on the legislature's committees on Environment and Finance, Revenue and Bonding.



As a life-long resident of the Old Saybrook, Representative Carney knows first-hand what is important to the residents of his district. Having gone through the Old Saybrook public school system from kindergarten through high school, he understands just how vital the success of children is as well as the quality of education they receive.

Carney graduated from Brandeis University in 2006 where he received a BA in Political Science and a BA in American Studies with a minor in Film. After graduating college, he returned to his hometown of Old Saybrook. Like most college graduates bogged down by student loans, Carney worked part-time jobs at local small businesses, to help alleviate the college debt he incurred. Working on the front lines of a small business provided Carney with a strong foundation to later start his own small business in voiceover production and as a Realtor® with Coldwell Banker.

Carney is an active member of the community where he has served as: Lector at Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook, board member and Emcee for the annual Academy Awards Night at The Kate, member of the Old Saybrook Players, member of ASPCA, and is very active with both the Old Saybrook and Lyme/Old Lyme Chambers of Commerce.

The various aspects of life, business and community that Carney experienced in Connecticut have given him the means to fully relate to his constituents, as well as to truly understand the importance of tourism funding in Connecticut. His district is deeply rooted in both his past and present; he is fully vested in this community and will seek to represent these communities with distinction as their voice in Hartford.

