



Gearing Up For A Busy Legislative Session!

Welcome to late winter, Tourism Coalition Constituents. As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, Connecticut's General Assembly regular session convenes February 7th and adjourns on May 8th, 2024. We look forward to educating new and old legislators by continuing to communicate our advocacy and mission to ensure that Tourism in our State is funded at an appropriate level and can continue to compete with the other New England for visitation to help realize the full economic return on investment for tourism. We have been busy working with legislative leaders on a revised Art's, Culture and Tourism Roadmap. The vision for this initiative is to create a healthy, vibrant, and diverse cultural sector, strengthened by robust tourism marketing that attracts visitor's and businesses, spurs economic growth, and supports a strong and growing workforce. The Roadmap seeks an additional \$41.7 million annual State investment in the Arts, Culture and Tourism (ACT) sector through the Tourism Fund. Another important initiative is the funding and planning for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. As mentioned in previous communications, a committee has been formed and their progress can be tracked on the CT250.org website. Other States are funding the 250th at a high level and it's critical that CT not only competes but has the resources to capitalize on this great marketing opportunity.

Our Executive Director, Frank Burns will be sending out information to all of you so you can reach out to legislators and voice your support for these two very important projects that can positively impact tourism!

In recent weeks, CBIA President Chris DiPentima hosted the CBIA Foundation's Economic Competiveness Forum workshops throughout the State. The workshop at Mohegan Sun focused on Leisure and Tourism and I was happy that the Tourism Coalition had great representation as several Board members made their voices heard with candid conversations on opportunities, frustrations and visions to help grow Connecticut's Tourism industry. I was also very happy that they are looking at Tourism and making it part of their strategic planning.

I am looking forward to attending the State's Connecticut Tourism Conference. The date for this exciting and insightful event will be on Wednesday, March, 27th, 2024 at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center, Hartford. Please mark your calendar and I hope to see many of you there!

As always, I am grateful to our officers, board, membership, and staff for their commitment and support, as we transition from Winter through the busy Spring season. I look forward to working with all of you, and our legislative leaders, as we continue to talk about the importance of tourism and its economic return on investment.

Paul Mayer



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



Connecticut Magazine has noted the Gwyn Careg Inn as one of Connecticut's most desirable, romantic settings for hosting elegant wedding ceremonies, receptions and special gatherings.

The estate is nestled upon 14 acres of manicured landscape, including a majestic enclosed stone wall Spanish Garden, multi-tiered greenery and a soothing, picturesque 3 acre pond.

The Inn itself is registered on the National Historic Registry.

Dennis and Rosemary Bove are owners and inn-keepers of the Gwyn Careg Inn. They have been operating the Inn since 1999. Natives of Connecticut, both Dennis and Rosemary consider themselves fortunate to be owners of the beautiful Gwyn Careg Inn. Each guest is treated as the first. The rewards of serving guests seeking a quiet escape, a romantic getaway, a girlfriends' weekend, or the picture perfect wedding is what keeps both Dennis and Rosemary going.

Both pride themselves on providing quality customer service. Creating the utmost experience for their guests is what makes them so successful and their guests returning. Dennis has over 20 years of sales and marketing while Rosemary has over 25 years of marketing and promotion with the Connecticut Office of Tourism.



TOURISM CHAMPION:

State Representative
MARIA HORN



State Representative Maria Horn is proud to represent Connecticut's 64th Assembly district, including nine towns in the northwest corner of the state.

A native of Ohio, Representative Horn earned her B.A. from Princeton University in 1986 and attended the University of Chicago Law School, obtaining her J.D. in 1993. Before beginning her law career, Representative Horn spent four years working in corporate finance at JP Morgan & Co. Her legal career included work as a law clerk for a federal judge, and the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton, before joining the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Criminal Division.

After relocating to Salisbury with her husband and three young children, Representative Horn chaired the boards of a domestic violence agency and a local school, served on the Salisbury Board of Finance, and raised funds to build the local firehouse and to create a program for local schools to prevent and combat substance abuse.