



The Final Stretch of the Legislative Session and Tourism Day!

Welcome to Spring Tourism Coalition constituents! We are in the home stretch of the 2025 legislative session and it's more important than ever to make our voices heard. Please reach out to your legislators and tell them the importance of funding Arts, Culture and Tourism! Let's make a difference and let our leadership understand the importance of funding state tourism at an appropriate level to realize the full economic return on investment and compete with the other New England States.

There was a great turnout at the Arts, Culture and Tourism Day at the State Capital building on May 7th, 2025. A special thanks to Senator Heather Somers and Representative John-Michael Parker for their leadership in organizing this great event. This event hosted by the General Assembly's Arts, Culture, and Tourism Caucus celebrated the industry's vital role in Connecticut's economy, and quality of life. There were great displays by Connecticut's restaurants, museums, cultural institutions and attractions.

Our next full Board meeting will be on June 20th at the offices of WFSB, Channel 3 in Rocky Hill and I

hope to see you all there! At this meeting, we have invited the three regional Tourism Districts to give a brief presentation on how each region is rolling out regional tourism marketing and showcasing their priorities and initiatives.

As always, I am forever grateful to our officers, board and membership for their commitment and support as we move through the busy Spring/Summer tourism season. Our exemplary Executive Director

Frank Burns, with support from Christine Dagata, continue to work tirelessly to keep this organization focused and on track for success. We will continue to meet and talk to industry and state leaders from all regions on a weekly basis and our reach, membership and industry engagement will continue to grow! I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to provide statewide leadership in tourism advocacy. Please stay safe, healthy and enjoy Spring in Connecticut!

Paul Mayer
CTC President



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



CITY OF NEW LONDON

New London is a seaport city and a port of entry on the northeast coast of the

United States, located at the outlet of the Thames River in New London County, Connecticut, which empties into Long Island Sound. The city is part of the Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region.

New London is home to the United States Coast Guard Academy, Connecticut College, Mitchell College, and The Williams School. The Coast Guard Station New London and New London Harbor is home port to both the Coast Guard's cutter *Coho* and their tall ship *Eagle*. The city had a population of 27,367 at the 2020 census.^[4] The Norwich–New London metropolitan area includes 21 towns and 274,055 people.

New London offers a unique blend of cultural, historical, recreational, and educational amenities that make it an ideal place to live and work. Within its borders, visitors discover not only a wealth of historic landmarks but also a vibrant, diverse

New London is a diverse, business-friendly community with a rich arts and music scene, ample housing options, fine dining, public parks, and numerous recreational activities. We work diligently to support existing businesses and attract small enterprises and large corporations to our city. Our deep water port offers waterfront access and our intermodal transportation center provides easy transportation by rail, bus, and highway.



CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT:



MAYOR MICHAEL PASSERO

Michael Passero has served as Mayor of the City of New London since December 7, 2015.

He previously served three terms, from 2009-2015, on the New London City Council, including serving as the first City Council President from 2011-2013.

He earned a B.A. and Master's degree in English literature from Connecticut College. He earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Prior to becoming Mayor he served 31 years as a member of the New London Fire Department and practiced law with the Law Firm of John M. Creane in Milford for 25 years.

