

News & Notes – February 16, 2005

MESSAGE FROM MTC PRES-ELECT AND LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN GARY FIGGINS -- Did you know that only a handful of Missouri House and Senate members were in office prior to 2000? It's true. In just the past two elections, more than 140 new legislators have been elected, not counting those who have simply moved from one chamber to the other.

If the goal of legislative term limits was to ensure that individual legislators do not become fixtures in the State Capitol, then it has no doubt succeeded. That sounds good until it affects your legislator or a supporter of your cause. Such is the case with tourism, which has bid farewell to a number of avid supporters in the past few years and will do so again at the end of the 2006 session of the General Assembly.

Such a turnover rate impresses upon everyone the need to remain in communication with legislators, and there's no better time to do that than during the Capitol Days for Tourism next Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. Tourism industry members will meet in Senate Hearing Room 2 in the basement of the Capitol at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday for a short legislative briefing. From there, we will walk the halls of the Capitol, educating legislators about the importance of tourism in Missouri's economy. We will also invite legislators and their staff members to a pancake breakfast in the third floor rotunda the following morning, giving them the chance to meet constituents and also the opportunity to flip pancakes during a photo op.

Pancakes will be served from 7:30-9:30 Thursday morning, with the Division of Tourism's annual report to the Joint Committee on Tourism to be conducted at 9 a.m. in the House Lounge. Later in the morning, the Tourism Commission will meet.

Make plans to attend today by calling the Missouri Travel Council office at 573-636-2814 or register on-line at the MTC website www.missouritravel.com

Gary Figgins
Legislative Chair

MTC DUES RENEWALS -- Dues renewal information was mailed to all members in December due and payable January 1. If you have not processed your renewal, we encourage you to do so today. Remember to include your database update information form so we can make sure that the MTC website has your correct information. Should you need another copy of the dues invoice, please contact the MTC office – 573-636-2814. To be included in the printed Membership Directory, we must have your dues by March 15.

CAPITOL DAYS FOR TOURISM -- February 23 and 24, 2005 -- Sponsored by Missouri Travel Council, Missouri Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus, and Missouri Attractions Association. The two-day event will begin with a Legislative Briefing at 1:30 p.m. on 2/23 in Hearing Room 2 in the basement of the State Capitol, Jefferson City. Members will then be asked to deliver special gifts and reminder invites to the Legislators. On Feb. 24 the Annual Pancake Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. in the third floor Capitol Rotunda. Members of the industry who wish to help with serving should arrive at 7 a.m. Throughout the event we will snap photos of Legislators Flipping Pancakes – so make sure your legislators attends and gather a group of your hospitality partners from your area for a fabulous photo op! This is one of the events that our friends in the Capitol look forward to – you won't want to miss out. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Contact the MTC office if you need registration information or have questions – 573-636-2814. And if you have a pull-up screen banner, give the MTC office a call – we'd like you to bring it for display.

The FY 2004 Annual Report to the Joint Tourism Committees will begin at 9 a.m. in the House Lounge. The Tourism Commission meeting will immediately follow the Annual Report Presentation.

Please plan to be present to show support of tourism in our state!

MAKE SURE YOUR COMPANY INFO IS LISTED CORRECTLY! -- Please take a moment and visit the MTC website – www.missouritravel.com -- if your company is a member of MTC, you will be listed. Please make sure all the info is listed correctly. If not, email the MTC office immediately – pat-amick@socket.net.

Event Calendar ...

CAPITOL DAYS FOR TOURISM – February 23-24, 2005 – State Capitol Building, Jefferson City

JOINT MEETING PLANNERS TRADESHOW – July 12, 005 – Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City

2005 MISSOURI SHOWCASE MARKETPLACE – August 21-22, 2005 – Quality Inn & Suites, Hannibal

This email *News in Brief* is being sent to you to keep you informed. If you have additional individuals in your company who would also like to receive this information, please let us know.

Pat Amick

Executive Director
Missouri Travel Council
204 E. High St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101-3287
573-636-2814
pat-amick@socket.net
www.missouritravel.com