



the BEACON

The Newsletter of the Michigan Council of Hostelling International



SUMMER, 2011

A HOSTEL FOR DETROIT

Hostel Detroit opens to great fanfare in Corktown

HOSTEL DETROIT opened its doors on April 17, 2011. This independent hostel is located in the Corktown neighborhood near downtown Detroit at the corner of Spruce and Vermont.

Hostelling International was one of countless donors to the project and is supporting Hostel Detroit's efforts to apply to become a Hostelling International affiliate hostel.

You can support the hostel by giving donations, volunteering, or staying overnight—especially during the week. (You can register online at www.hosteldetroit.com.)

If you are interested in



Hostel Detroit at the corner of Spruce and Vermont in Detroit's Corktown. Photo by Michael Dwyer

opening a hostel elsewhere in Michigan, we would love to hear from you and see how we can support your efforts.

THE MISSION of HI—USA

To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling

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GIRL SCOUTS TO TAKE A HIKE

Girl Scouts discover nature and trail culture on the Paint Creek Trail

IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, the Michigan Council of HI presented Paint Creek Trailways manager, Kristen Myers, with a grant to help develop and run a program aimed at educating Girl Scouts about the history, natural features, wildlife, benefits, and etiquette of the Paint Creek Trail.



HI—Michigan treasurer, Sonya Julie, presents check to Kristen Myers.

The program includes a guided three-mile hike that highlights information about the trail. Each scout who completes the program will receive a patch that features

the Paint Creek Trail and HI logos.

Converted from the former Penn Central Railroad in 1983, this trail was the first rail-to-trail pathway in Michigan. It is a linear park of limestone surface just under nine miles connecting the five communities, from Rochester to Lake Orion. It is enjoyed year round by hikers, bikers, runners, horseback riders, and cross country skiers of all ages. For more information, visit the trail website at www.paintcreektrail.org.

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Michigan Council Mission Statement

To help people of all ages gain a greater understanding of the world, locally and internationally, through educational programs, cultural connections, recreational activities and positive hostelling experiences

DONATIONS

Yes, we still want your donations. Please include a short letter of intent with any monetary donation. For example: "Please use this donation toward hostel development in Michigan." Or, "Please use this donation for HI activities and events in Michigan."

A Letter from Michigan Council President, Michael Dwyer

Good things in Michigan; changes likely for national organization

The Michigan Council of Hostelling International is strong. We have approximately 1,500 members in our jurisdiction, and this newsletter is going out to all them. Many of our members join to travel overseas, to use the inexpensive and safe network of hostels worldwide. Others join to socialize with like-minded friends who enjoy hiking, biking, and paddle sports. And many faithful members renew each year as a way of showing support for our programs here in Michigan. Thank you all for being a part of our organization.

One of our favorite events is happening soon. The Paddle to the Symphony will be Friday, June 24, at Kensington Metropark. Please join us that day for enjoyable music, good food, and a peaceful paddle across Kent Lake. All the information and registration options are included on page 3 of this newsletter.

"World Travel 101" is one of our signature workshops. We had good turnouts at all three REI Stores in southeast Michigan this spring. We look forward to presenting again throughout the year at various locations. HI Michigan has a long history of speaking to excited travelers wanting to make the most of their time and money while experiencing new cultures.

Did you know we have a weekly walking group of active travelers? Every Tuesday the Midweek Meanders meet to learn and explore. They may visit a museum for a walking tour, hike or bike a local trail, or canoe a friendly waterway. A picnic lunch or a restaurant stop is always a part of the day. We also have

weekend hikes going on throughout the summer and fall. Find out about all our program workshops, special events, and weekly activities by visiting our calendar on our web site: www.hi-michigan.org

"Many of our members join to travel overseas, to use the inexpensive and safe network of hostels worldwide. Others join to socialize with like-minded friends who enjoy hiking, biking, and paddle sports."

With all that good news I hate to have to share the bad news now. The National Council of Hostelling International USA is voting on a resolution that would dissolve the local councils, including your Michigan Council, and create a new "unified organization with consolidated assets and single nationwide staff." This resolution is extremely vague. The business plan also strips the local council of their governance in the organization and creates a self-renewing national board.

The idea of the plan is to consolidate the assets of the councils and give the national organization more borrowing power to build new hostels on a faster timeline. The self-renewing board would allow change to happen faster. Former councils could form new partnerships with the unified organization and become "friends of" groups or "free agents."

Parts of the plan make

sense and certain parts could be adopted now without changing the structure of the councils. The Michigan Council, as well as other councils, fears the loss of local presence. And the self-renewing board scares many in the organization—should their plan fail, local voices no longer have a vote.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this letter, the Michigan Council is strong, and a unified organization does not make sense for us. With that said, other councils are struggling and willing to make the "leap of faith" and trust the plan. The resolution appears to have the votes to pass at a special meeting of the national council coming up in mid-June.

The Michigan Council will move forward whatever the outcome. We will explore the options above and keep an open mind. Look for more newsletters in the future to keep you up-to-date on any changes. The Michigan Council will continue to provide activities, programs, and events in line with our mission statement for as long as we can.

FOR MORE INFO...

The unification plan that goes to a vote in mid-June is the work of HI USA's Optimum Organizational Structural Task Force (aka OOSTF or "oo-stef"). If you would like more information on the task force, the unification plan, or the business plan (or have any other questions), please send us e-mail at HIUSAMichigan@gmail.com.

PADDLE TO THE SYMPHONY

Friday, June 24 — Kensington Metro Park

This year's Paddle to the Symphony will be Friday, June 24. Once again The Michigan Council of Hostelling International is partnering with Heavner Canoe to provide a fun evening on the water while enjoying the sounds of the Michigan Philharmonic. Meet at Kensington Metro Park in Milford, Michigan at the North Martindale Picnic Shelter.

Water and soft drinks will be available for everyone with any option you select. All canoes and kayaks **MUST** have at least one adult per watercraft.

Anyone going on the water should arrive by 6:30 PM.

Please Note:

With any option you choose, you will still be responsible for the park entrance fee of \$5, so car-pool if you can.

Schedule

- 4:00 PM Meet & Greet
- 6:00 PM Official Reception
- 7:00 PM Canoe Safety Meeting
- 7:30 PM Canoe Launch
- 8:00 PM Concert Starts
- 9:00 PM Canoes Paddle Back
- 9:30 PM Canoes Return
- 10:00 PM Thank you & Goodnight

What to Bring

- ~Sun screen and/or hat
- ~Change of clothes*
- ~Jacket
- ~Lawn chairs



Paddlers enjoying the water at last year's Paddle to the Symphony.

** You never know: paddlers sometimes get wet.*

PADDLE TO THE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Event options	How many?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Paddling with Dinner	_____	x	\$35.00	=	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Paddling Only (no food)	_____	x	\$25.00	=	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Only (not paddling our canoes)	_____	x	\$15.00	=	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Event Only (no paddling or food)	_____	x	\$5.00	=	_____
			Total		_____

Register Now!

To purchase by check or money order, please mail payment to:

HI-Michigan Council
PO Box 80816
Rochester, MI
48308-0816

Or register online at
www.hi-michigan.org

Event hotline number is
248-302-8026

MICHIGAN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Michigan Council Annual Meeting July 30, 2011

Spend a Saturday in Beautiful Downtown Rochester with Hostelling International. We will be hosting our annual meeting at the Rochester Mills Brewery. Walking and biking tours are planned for the afternoon with dinner and meeting in the evening. All activities, food, and meeting are free for current HI members. Please RSVP for dinner by emailing at HIUSAMichigan@gmail.com or calling 248-302-8026. (If you plan on coming, we'd like to hear from you by July 24, if possible.) There are

more details online at www.hi-michigan.org.

Nominations are being accepted to serve on the HI-USA Michigan Council Board. Name, biographical information, and signature of nominee should be submitted via mail or e-mail. Terms are two years.

HI Toledo Council has many wonderful events planned

Our neighbors to the south of us work really hard to put together activities, including bike tours, which attract Michigan enthusiasts

year-after-year. See a complete list at their web site: www.hitoledo.org.

Midweek Meanderers discover Southeast Michigan

Every Tuesday we meet to walk, hike, or canoe somewhere in the Southeast Michigan area starting around 10:00 AM. Cost is \$1 for current HI-USA members or only \$2 for non-members and are collected during the gathering. Check out upcoming meanders online at <http://bit.ly/meetuphimich>.

CONNECT WITH US

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www.hi-michigan.org

TWITTER
twitter.com/HIUSAMichigan

FACEBOOK
<http://on.fb.me/hi-mich>

MEETUP
<http://bit.ly/meetuphimich>

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