

Michigan Council, HI-USA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Baile Corcaigh Restaurant, Detroit, MI  
October 9, 2007

**Call to order** at 8:15 pm

**Present:** Mike Norwood Catron, Sally Janacek, John Prusak, Joan Smykowski, Martha Spear, Sue Trudeau, Mike Willihnganz. **Absent:** Srini Racha. **Guests:** Carol Galle (dinner only), Harvey Turkel

**President's report** – Sue Trudeau; prior to the business meeting, Sue welcomed our prospective board member, Carol Galle. Carol brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board. Also, a hearty *Erin Go Bragh* thank you to John Prusak for arranging the meeting in historic Corktown.

Sue also shared news of *A Map for Saturday*, a 40 minute DVD, inspiring story of a man who traveled around the world for a year for \$20,000 including many lessons about traveling on the cheap and being open to new cultures; will order 5 copies for HI-MI use.

**Treasurers Report** -- none; Srini ill.

**Volunteer Coordinator's Report** -- Joan Smykowski. She has been very busy!

Volunteer management – Online services *VolunteerMatch* and *Idealist* are bringing us exciting, well-qualified recruits. She noted that all of our new board members came from these sources. She has arranged several orientations (meetings with potential trainers) this fall and there is a World Travel 101 presenters training November 8, 2007 at the Royal Oak Public Library.

Outreach update; we completed eight mission-based programs and made 158 contacts. Activity with the Girl Scouts continues at a high pace. She noted that, unfortunately, the November 4, 2007 Girl Scout program (funded by HI-USA grant) may not fly -- no registrants at this time due to a lack of promotion. The presenters are ready & willing so Joan may try to find another audience for them.

HI-MI is making inroads at Madonna University and Wayne State University (WSU). The WSU hostelling club is up and running. The club is planning to travel to Cedar Point and stay at the Malabar Farms Hostel this Fall. A second possible trip to Chicago is planned in late December.

HI-MI has been asked to host the international student coffee hour, 11:00 a.m-1:30 pm, Wed., Oct. 31, at the Newman Center, WSU. We will need to provide food and beverages for 50 college students (read: 100). Joan is seeking volunteers to help with this activity. It is a great opportunity to introduce the uniquely American holiday of Halloween. Contact Joan, if you can help.

We are also building a partnership with Monita Mungo of WSU Community-based Education.

The Detroit Project, a University of Michigan student program working in SW Detroit area, will do a Community Walls Project in January 2008. They will be training trainers and young people. HI-MI has been approached to lead this training.

Former office employee Lisa Gisecke sent out a "paper" *Beacon* to our older members; meanwhile, the HI-MI web site continues to reach a younger generation.

**Approval of new board members.** Carol Galle, Matt Ripper, and Janel Yamashiro have agreed to join the Hostelling International, Michigan Chapter Board of Directors to replace out-going members Debra Bell, Robert Holley and (in December) Martha Spear. Sally Janacek moved to approve this change; Martha seconded. After a brief discussion of board protocol during which it was confirmed that we did not need to call an annual meeting since this was a replacement of existing board positions, the vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

**National Convention**, Nov 9-11, Washington, DC. HI-USA has given us funds to bring two representatives. Sue Trudeau will attend and Sally Janacek will be there as in national capacity but we can send one more person. This is a great way to see HI-USA at work. Contact Sue, if interested.

**Midwest Regional Meeting** -- HI-MI has agreed to sponsor the Spring Midwest regional meeting of Hostelling International. We can expect about 30 attendees, April 12-13, 2008. We will need to provide two breakfasts, one lunch, munchies and office supplies. We are to arrange meeting rooms and boarding facilities. Also, we should suggest outings and evening activities. We will have a very modest budget from the Midwest Region of HI-USA. After some discussion, we agreed to pursue housing at WSU (dorms?), Corktown (Ferry Inn?) or other central city location. Anyone interested in helping on this opportunity to showcase Detroit, contact Sue or Joan.

### **Old Business**

Sue and Srini Racha continue to work on moving our fiscal year to match the HI-USA budget year.

Sue and Joan are working on the annual appeals letter. Sue has identified an expert to help us craft this letter. Fewer letters will be mailed than in previous years but will be targeted to previous donors. Could we monitor pace of donations on HI-MI Website? (Use of thermometer, etc). Board members were reminded that it is an expectation to contribute and to keep active membership in HI-MI per the Michigan Council Bylaws.

HI-USA stamp movement still moving ahead; Spring 2008 is the deadline for approval; the stamp hopes to raise public awareness of hostelling and to build relationships with national parks as possible future sites for hostels.

Mike Willihnganz reports that he is working on several new ideas for upcoming ethnic dinners.

Update on HI-MI building; Realtor Rick Ax has had lots of interest in the space but no confirmed offers. Our contract ends around Oct. 31. Our Attorney, Bill Evans, believes the City of Berkley might be interested in the building, if donated. Bill also may have people who would want the building as a tax write-off. Sue will ask Srini to run numbers on how much it would cost us to "donate" the building versus keeping it on the market for a few more months. On a related note, Sue will check on whether or not the Nail Salon proprietor has paid the previous three months' rent. After discussion, it was the general consensus of the board that we move to rid ourselves of the building as soon as possible. Sue will continue to work with Bill Evans to resolve the issue.

### **New Business**

Sue Trudeau is meeting October 10, 2007 with new web master, Rebecca Sweeten of *Out of Sight Designs*, and Janel Yamashiro.

Sue, Joan, and John Prusak are meeting October 16th regarding producing a DVD to promote HI-MI.

Upcoming meetings: Annual meeting? Spring retreat? After discussion, it was decided to postpone the annual meeting since our fiscal year has not officially expired and to move the retreat to January 2008 to better welcome our newest board members. Issues that require Board approval will be sent via email. We were reminded that the annual holiday get-together is Friday, December 7, 2007. See the HI-MI web site for details. It will be a fun way to meet and greet fellow hostellers and world travelers.

**Adjournment** at 9:31 pm. Respectfully submitted, Martha Spear, Secretary.