



Yankee Hosteler

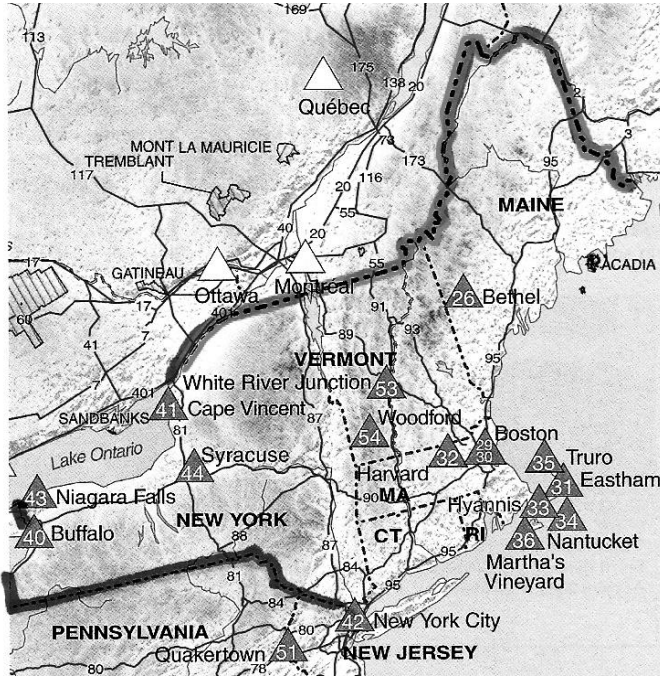
Quarterly Newsletter of Hostelling International USA, Yankee Council
Serving CONNECTICUT, WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, and VERMONT

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September 15, 2011 – December 15, 2011

UNIFICATION OF HI-USA VOTED



EASTERN REGION: View of the new Eastern Region of HI-USA. The special National Council Meeting on June 11-12, 2011 voted to unify the organizational structure of HI-USA into 5 regions, with a Central Office replacing the current National Office. Hostels are identified by blue triangles. (Graphic courtesy of HI-USA)

SUMMARY- Yes, the special National Council Meeting in June approved the proposal to unify HI-USA. The total unification process is expected to take between 2 to 4 years. The June meeting also voted to replace the existing National Board with a new Transition Board, which immediately began the implementation process. Major changes include the replacement of local Councils with 5 regional areas. We will be in the new Eastern Region, which will include the states of New York and all 6 New England states. The present "National Office" will be changed to a "Central Office". Following below is a condensation from answers to questions on unification in a July 27, 2011 memo from HI-USA CEO, Russ Hedge.

COUNCIL UNIFICATION- Councils are being

Fall Potluck & Program on Organizational Changes

Friday, September 30, 6 PM at the Grace Episcopal Church, Lower Parish Hall, 311 Broad St. (Next to Library), Windsor, CT. **(PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION!).**

Gather around superb food and enjoy the following activities (the public is invited).

- Potluck dinner
- Discussion on Organizational Changes of HI-USA and Yankee Council (See "update", Page 2)
- Silent Auction of recreational gear
- Door prizes!

DIRECTIONS to Grace Episcopal Church: I-91 to Exit 37, **EAST** on CT 305 ¾ mi., then right on CT 75, right on CT 159, left at end of town green to church.

Bring a dish to share: A-E Main Dish, F-L Desserts, M-R Salad, and S-Z Veggies. Please call Diane Cecere to help in the kitchen

Polled, which began in July to ascertain their readiness for unification. As a result of readiness for unification by individual councils, a unification schedule or calendar will be developed. A tentative unification calendar by late September. The calendar coordinator for HI-USA is Blaine Franz (blaine.franz@hiusa.org).

ACTIVATING THE TRANSITION PROCESS-

Unification will be implemented with each council through a special agreement called an asset transfer agreement. The agreement is developed with the council board and ratified; filings with state agencies are typically required. The asset transfer agreement describes how assets and liabilities transfer, confirms how any employees move from the council to the unified organization, and establishes obligations of the council and the unified organization prior to the transfer and afterwards. Although success of the unified organization depends on a (Continued on Page 2)

large pool of unrestricted assets that can be used nationwide, the unified organization must and will honor restrictions placed by donors on gifts to councils.

SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERS AND a NEW LOCAL PRESENCE- Volunteers will be encouraged to stay involved in a way that they are inspired to contribute. Some may want to volunteer on their own, as “free agents”; this is more possible today than ever through virtual volunteer opportunities. For those desiring more structure, an “advisory board” or “friends of...” group may be a good choice. Alternately, individuals may choose to continue their involvement with hostelling through affiliated nonprofit groups (such as Girl Scouts), through programmatic and hostel partnerships.

Support will be provided primarily through regional staff team. Within the current national office, there is one field office director plus about three program / support staff. The unified organization is slated for five field directors, plus 15 engagement managers, and other positions including community liaisons.

STAFFING THE UNIFIED ORGANIZATION- In addition to the CEO, three divisional positions of the unified organization have been identified: Senior Vice President, Programs; Vice President, Advancement; and Senior Vice President, Finance and Administration. In recruiting and selecting for these positions, they will be posted for at least 30 days in the Employment Opportunities section of the HI-USA public web site, advertised externally, by Email to all hostels, councils, and current employees who register to receive postings.

STRATEGY PLANNING- HI-USA strategies will collectively describe the direction in which the unified organization is headed. Future resources will be allocated in a way that supports strategy success.

The Transition Board of Directors began discussion about formulation of a high level strategy at its June 2011 meeting and will conclude at its September meeting. In the interim, there will be opportunity for stakeholder input. Once completed, the high level strategy will frame organization wide conversation around development of three coordinated strategies: hostel network; engagement; and educational programming. Again, there will be opportunities for stakeholder input, including at the Annual Conference (formerly the National Council Meeting).

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH- To obtain answers for additional questions about unification, the HI-USA Intranet site is a good starting point. It is a 24/7 source of information

about unification plans. A communications and outreach plan is in the process of being developed with a scheduled launch in early September.

In conclusion, HI-USA unification is projected to take 2-4 years before all councils and the current national office are fully transitioned into the unified structure. After the transition, our guests, our partners and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to experience an even more responsive, nimble, and effective organization.

An Update from Yankee Council – Hostelling International July, 2011

At the National Council Meeting held in June, the vote for Hostelling unification and the proposed OOSTF (Optimal Organizational Structure Task Force) recommendations were passed. This will result in a transition from HI being run by the current local council structure, to one that will be administered through a national council board. Over an approximate three to four year transition period, the local council structure will be replaced by a central governing structure at the national level. The National Board will set policy for HI-USA and operate all HI owned hostels as well as oversee HI affiliated hostels. The United States will be divided into five regions with paid regional managers and staff who will foster hostel development, hostel use, volunteers, and programs to promote hostelling.

Of the National Council's Board, four members will be elected at large by the membership; the remaining board members will be selected by the Board. The National Board may contain between seventeen and thirty two members. The voting method for the four at large members has not yet been determined.

As this process progresses more information will be available in future newsletters and will be discussed at the Yankee Council member meetings. The next meeting will be held on **September 30th at the Grace Episcopal Church Lower Parish Hall. See Potluck Notice, Page 1 and Potluck Article, Page 4, for details.** We will be discussing the forthcoming changes and effects on HI-USA, and its members.

HI-USA Membership Application & Merchandise Order Form

ORDER DIRECTLY FROM NATIONAL AT WWW.HIUSA.ORG OR BY SENDING THIS FORM TO YANKEE COUNCIL

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () _____

Birthdate: _____
Email: _____

CONTACT ME I'd like to help with:

_____ *Skiing* _____ *Social Events*
_____ *Canoeing* _____ *Blind Service Pr*
_____ *Hiking* _____ *Writing/Publicity*
_____ *Cycling* _____ *Weekend Trips*
_____ *Other* _____

MEMBERSHIPS

Adult (18-54) \$28 _____
Sr. Citizen (55&>) \$18 _____
Youth (under 18) Free _____

Life Memberships cost \$250

Non-profit members are free

For either send information to:

HI-USA
8401 Colesville Rd., Suite 600
Silver Spring, MD 20910

HANDBOOKS and SHEET SACKS

U.S. Handbook Free _____
Sheet Sack \$14.00 _____

CONTRIBUTION (TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

Hostel Development _____
Anne Grant Leadership Fund _____

Mail completed application with your check to:

HI-USA, Yankee Council, P.O. Box 87, Windsor, CT 06095

YANKEE COUNCIL OFFICE AND STORE:

37 Maple Ave., Windsor, CT 06095

Open Tuesday 9 am - noon and Thursday 1 - 4 pm
860/ 683-2847

WEB SITES:

Yankee Council <http://www.yankeehostels.org>

HI USA <http://www.hiusa.org>

HOSTELS IN THE YANKEE COUNCIL

DISTRICT:

VT Greenwood Lodge, Woodford 802/442-2547
VT Hostel at Hotel Coolidge, White River Junction
802/295-3118

Recreational Descriptions

Yankee Council programs and activities are open to all. Participants under 18 might need parental consent. Contact the leader with questions.

People wanting to lead an activity should contact the Council Office or the coordinator listed in the Newsletter.

A. WTB: Outings-with-the-Blind For over 40 years, the Yankee Council has enjoyed the company of our blind friends at a variety of functions. Volunteers are always needed to develop new programs, to provide transportation and to help others accommodate unfamiliar activities and locations

B. Hikes: Wear sturdy, cleated walking boots; bring snow or rainwear, layered clothing, as appropriate for season and wide range of temperatures, lunch, and water.

Codes for Difficulty: (1)-easy trail, 5-8 miles, (2)-moderate ups and downs, 6-9 miles, (3)-rugged terrain, 7-12+ miles.

C. Bike Rides: Helmets required. Bring water, lunch, spare tube and cash for phone calls. Have a front map holder to view route directions while riding. Slowest rider determines the pace of these short-to-medium length rides.

D. Canoe/ Kayak Trips: Bring life jacket, spare paddle, poncho, and 50ft of ¼" clothesline, waterproof container for valuables, spare clothes, lunch, water and sunscreen. Unless otherwise specified, all trips are on lakes or low difficulty rivers. Rental canoes available from Yankee Council office 860/ 683-2847.

E. Family and Senior Bike Path Cycling: These easy bike tours, mostly on former scenic rail rights of way, are scheduled for many Thursdays and Saturdays.

Your Council Cherishes Volunteers

Yankee Council is completely volunteer run. It relies on you to provide the programs and services that you cherish from Hostelling International. Consider volunteering to assist leaders of programming, including service programs with-the-Blind. Call the office at 860/683-2847 or email hiayhyankee@snet.net Make volunteering with Yankee Council your 2009 service to the community and to yourself.

Calendar & Special Notices



Fall Potluck Program to feature Information on Organizational Changes and Future Programming

Enjoy our Friday, September 30 Potluck and after participate in discussions about the organizational changes that will be implemented in the next 2 to 4 years. Add your input about future programming for the present group after unification. Although strictly hostelling functions will be managed through a new Central and Regional Office, other programming will be left for local members to manage as they prefer. Add your ideas for consideration.

Also, a Silent Auction will be held for disposition of surplus recreational gear. Digital photos will be displayed of neat stuff that you might need. The highest bid gets the item!

As an added bonus, door prizes will also be awarded.

For location details, see Page 1 and Calendar entry on this page. See [you](#) there!

SEPTEMBER

23-24 Fri-Sun> VT Bike Weekend: Enjoy a scenic early fall tour and culture of Bennington / Arlington, VT & MA Berkshire trails. Gracious managers, Ed and Anne Shea, will host our two night stay at their comfortable, Wi-Fi equipped, HI-Greenwood Lodge in Woodford, VT. In addition to biking or hiking, other options in Bennington are a covered bridge museum, Robert Frost home, art museum and more. Cost of \$85 includes 2 hostel over-nights, 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches and bed linen rental. For reservations send full payment check made out to "Yankee

Council-AYH" to Yankee Council, PO Box 87, Windsor, CT 06095. Share carpooling cost. Call leader Lem Manchester, 860/683-0404.

30 Fri> Fall Potluck & Travel Show: 6 PM sharp to 9:00 PM, at Grace Episcopal Church, Lower Parish Hall, 311 Broad St., Windsor, CT (**Please note New Location!**) . (See other detail at left and on Page 1).

OCTOBER

4 Tue> Board Meeting: Council Office, 37 Maple Ave. (rear), Windsor, CT, 7:00 PM.

10 Mon> Newsletter Deadline, send items to Council office or as M.S. Word file attachments to Lem's Email: lemm63@sbcglobal.net.

16 Sun> (WTB) Walk in historic Old Wethersfield: Meet 1:30 PM at Keeney Center, 200 Main St., Wethersfield (off I-91, exit 26). Route will include Buttolph-Williams House (scene of the book, "Witch of Blackberry Pond"), the ancient Burying Ground (dating back to 1648) and the grounds of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum (where George Washington once slept – for real!). Tour accompanied by an historian from the Webb Deane Stevens Museum, Katie Sullivan. Route is 1 mile and flat. Refreshments served. For details call Leader: Kevin Sullivan, 860-690-4576 (cell) or e-mail ksullivan12@snet.net .

NOVEMBER

1 Tue> Board Meeting: Council Office, 37 Maple Ave. (rear), Windsor, CT, 7:00 PM.

20 Sun> (WTB) Walk West Farms Mall, Farmington, CT: Meet 1:30 PM at South Entrance of Mall at J.C. Penny's. For details call Leader: Cathy Sardinha 860-563-2252.

25 Fri> Bulletin Bee 7 pm at the Yankee Council office. Help get the newsletter ready for mailing. Great way to catch up or meet people and serve the Council...

6 Tue> Board Meeting: Council Office, 37 Maple Ave. (rear), Windsor, CT, 7:00 PM.

11 Sun> Hike (WTB) Cedar Hill Cemetary, Hartford, CT: Meet 1:30 PM at entrance of Cemetery, 453 Fairfield Ave., Hartford. Leader: Bob Hirbour , Call Co-Leader: Katie Mayer, For directions 203-237-801

DECEMBER



CONGAMOND LAKE, Southwick, MA: Kayakers Marge Nichols and Dave Wells enjoy Fall scenery and wildlife.



ASHUWILLTICOOK RAIL TRAIL, Cheshire, MA: Bob Chang pauses to enjoy Fall scenery on return from HI-Greenwood Hostel in Woodford, VT.



AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, Cornish, NH: Trippers, Susan Kaehrle, Cathy Sardinha, and Nancy Ferguson, from HI-White River Junction (VT), rest on veranda of the sculptor's home, with his studio in background.



SAINT-GAUDENS CIVIL WAR MONUMENT, Cornish, NH: Duplicate of original commissioned to sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, by Boston, MA, to commemorate Black Civil War unit which fought valiantly in conflict.

(Photos by Lem Manchester)



HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA
HIUSA.ORG

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Email: hiayhyankee@snet.net
http://www.yankeehostels.org

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: If you change your address, please send us your membership card number with your address change so that it can be recorded at our National Office

YANKEE COUNCIL DIRECTORY

OFFICERS: President: David Daniels Secretary: Margaret Korhonen
Vice Pres.: Bob Hirbour Treasurer: Lem Manchester

DIRECTORS: Paul Hammer, Wayne Korhonen, Katie Mayer, and above Officers

HISTORIAN & LIFE DIRECTOR EMERITUS: Lois Macomber

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON: Katie Mayer, 182 Old Farm Rd., Meriden, CT 06450 PH: 203/237-8015

PROGRAM & ACTIVITY COORDINATORS:

Bicycling	Margaret Korhonen	860/651-8487
Blind Service Programs-Chair	Bob Hirbour	860/953-0508
Hiking, X-C Ski, Snowshoe	(Call Office)	860/683-2847
Canoeing & Kayaking	Cathy Sardinha	860/563-2252
Northern VT Activities	(Call Office)	860/683-2847
Pot Luck Suppers	Diane Cecere	860/688-9249
Publicity	Bob Hirbour	860/953-0508
Slide/Travel Shows	Katie Mayer	203/237-8015
Weekend Trips	Lem Manchester	860/683-0404
World Travel 101	David Daniels	860/886-7005

MISSION OF AYH

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