

# Hostelling International



## Midwest Report

Spring 1999 Council insert

### Hello Midwest Hostellers!

*The Heartland of Hostelling International-AYH has done it again! Not being content to lead the nation in bringing people together to enjoy the outdoors through its educational and recreational activities, in 1998 the region has embarked upon hostel development in a big way. Though the Councils mentioned here started their hostel development projects individually, the Nationally and Internationally supported HI-Chicago project will help all of the following projects develop and grow. Hostelling in the Midwest, both the buildings and the ongoing programs, will be stronger in the next year or two due to projects started this year.*

### Hostel Development in the Midwest

*By Carolyn Stanek -- from the National Council Meeting in Atlanta.*

The City of Chicago and Chicago's philanthropic communities have embraced the Chicago Hostel Project. They believe we represent the best of what we offer as an organization, "the best educational and recreational programming done around the country by you; the best hostels run by you". This project is possible because of the great work all of us are doing in the field. I am honored to be working on a project of such importance to our organization and to serving our mission. Bringing a year-round, association owned and operated hostel to

Chicago will fill the critical gap we have felt in our network for some time. Not only will the Chicago Hostel connect both coasts of our country, it will be the fourth largest hostel (with 500 beds in the summer) in the world. It will serve as an anchor not only to the Midwest, as well as to the entire country, as evidenced by the generous contributions we have received from councils and regions across the country.

The Midwest is truly America's heartland. We have such exciting things happening in hostel development in our region. The Gateway Council has its eyes on an historic building in the Soulard district of St. Louis and hopes to develop a summer hostel by the year 2000. The Michigan Council is anticipating the opening of its hostel at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the northern Lower Peninsula in the year 2000. The Park is a major recreational vacation destination located 4 hours from Detroit and just 3 hours from Chicago. The Michigan Council anticipates the Chicago Hostel will serve as a major feeder of hostellers for the Sleeping Bear Hostel. Sleeping Bear will offer an opportunity for international visitors to have a non-urban hostel experience in an area of unique beauty.

The Minnesota Council's Historic Fort Snelling International Hostel is planned as a 150-bed urban hostel in the heart of Minneapolis-St. Paul. The Council's partnerships with both the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Historical Society are getting stronger as the project evolves. The Minnesota Council has

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### Hostels around the Midwest

*Check the new '99 edition of Hostelling North America handbook for details!*

#### Illinois

HI-Chicago (summer hostel)

#### Michigan

HI-Country Grandma's Home Hostel

#### Minnesota

HI-Mississippi Headwaters  
HI-Spirit of the Land Island  
HI - Caecilian Hall (summer hostel)

#### Missouri

HI-Huckleberry Finn

#### Nebraska

HI-Cornerstone

#### Ohio

HI-Stanford House  
HI-Columbus  
HI-Malabar Farm

#### South Dakota

HI-Deadwoods  
HI-Pleasant Valley

#### Wisconsin

HI-Folklore Village Farm  
HI-Laona  
HI-Madison (summer hostel)  
HI-Red Barn  
HI-Wellspring

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been successful in securing funds through the Minnesota Legislature. They see the Chicago Hostel as another valuable selling point for their Twin Cities project.

In other states, the Northeast Ohio Council is cooperating with the Harbor Heritage Society of Cleveland to convert part of the Steamship William G. Mather into a 100+ bed hostel. The Toledo Council has formed a partnership with Sister Cities International and, with the private donation of a site, is pursuing a hostel. The Wisconsin Council, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, is developing a chain of small hostels across the state and working to turn the Madison summer hostel into a year-round operation. The Nebraskaland Council is beginning to explore the northwest corner of Nebraska near historic Chadron as a possible site for a hostel.

As Jon Ridge, Executive Director of the Minnesota Council, so eloquently stated, "As a region, we see the momentum in Chicago spinning our way toward an enhanced organization." We are thrilled to see the support our entire organization is providing for the Chicago Hostel and the further development of hostelling in the Midwest. Thank you for the resources you have dedicated to ensure that the Chicago Hostel is a success.

Note: The Chicago philanthropic community challenged the Metro Chicago Council to raise \$600,000 in a three month period, which it successfully accomplished with a couple weeks to spare. The Region believes in the success of this project is so vital to hostelling in the region, that at the October 1998 Fall Midwest Regional meeting, a pledge of \$10,000 was made to the HI-Chicago project.

### Michigan Council

The Michigan Council is working on developing a 42-bed hostel at the Burfiend farm site in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore located near Glen Arbor, Michigan. The farm is situated in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, an area of the National Park that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in May of 1997. The District represents an entire historic settlement comprised of farmsteads, fields and community buildings. The two Burfiend houses are adjacent to each other and sit on top of a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore offers a range of outdoor recreational opportunities including hiking, cross-country skiing, swimming, backpacking and canoeing. Several hiking and Nordic ski trails are a short walk from the proposed hostel site.

The Michigan Council Hostel Development Committee completed a feasibility study on this project in August of 1998. After review of the study the Council Board voted to endorse development of the hostel and charged the President and Executive Director to begin lease negotiations with the National Park Service. The Council is currently in the initial phase of these discussions.

The Hostel Development Committee is building relationships with groups planning to use adjoining structures including the Shielding Tree Nature Center and Glen Arbor Artists Association. These groups are planning on using other farm sites to provide environmental and arts programming. The hostel will provide accommodations for their participants and they will provide programming for hostellers. These potential partnerships offer exciting opportunities for each of the organizations involved.

This project has a \$400,000 price tag. A fundraising consultant has identified a number of foundations that may consider funding this project. Plans for a May or June Work Weekend at the hostel site are underway. The Michigan Council invites other Midwest Councils to participate in this event. Just as it was important to demonstrate our internal commitment to funding by contributing to the Chicago project, it is important for the Michigan Council to demonstrate commitment to the National Park Service by having a great turnout at this Work Weekend. If you are interested in helping, call 248-545-0511 for more information.

### Minnesota

#### Minneapolis/St. Paul Hostel Development Builds Momentum

The Minnesota Council continues to move forward in its hostel development efforts to create a 150 bed urban hostel, in the heart of Minneapolis/St. Paul, at Historic Fort Snelling.

Their partnerships with both the Minnesota DNR and Historical Society are getting stronger as the project evolves. Success in securing \$600,000 in grant funds through the Minnesota Legislature this past year has given them broad credibility throughout the community.

They expect to hire an architect by spring 1999 to create the design and construction documents and oversee asbestos abatement of the building. They have already begun lease negotiations with the Historical Society even though the hostel will not open for a few years. Minnesota Council efforts in 1999 will be in preparation of seeking building renovation funds from the Minnesota Legislature in 2000.

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The Twin Cities hostel project rests right on the heels of Chicago's grand project. The Minnesota Council is excited to provide the Midwest with another great hostelling opportunity when the Fort Snelling hostel opens in a short few years.

### **Missouri Gateway Council**

The Gateway Council has entered into negotiations with Deaconess College of Nursing in St. Louis to open a Summer Hostel in the year 2000. Deaconess College of Nursing is centrally located across I-64 from the city's largest park, Forest Park, location of the city's world-famous Zoo, the Art Museum, History Museum and the Municipal Opera--where Broadway musicals are performed in summer.

Utilizing one of the dormitories of the college, the venture offers the Council a wonderful learning opportunity. With the potential of housing up to 50 hostellers at any given night, the Council will be able to learn the "ins and outs" of running a hostel on a small scale. This valuable experience will be beneficial when they open a hostel of their own in the future.

### **Ohio Northeast Ohio Council**

The Northeast Ohio Council is working with the Harbor Heritage Society to determine the feasibility of building a hostel in the historic bulk iron ore ship William G. Mather. The Mather is now anchored at the East 9<sup>th</sup> Street pier in the heart of Cleveland.

The Council is currently working with an architect on drawings. If the project comes to fruition, Cleveland will have a unique hostel within easy distance of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, the new Browns' Stadium, and the exciting entertainment venue of The Flats.

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Stay tuned for more on this exciting project in Cleveland, Renaissance City....

Just a reminder that Stanford House, between Cleveland and Akron, in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation National Recreation Area is open for hostellers year-round. Ski downhill or cross-country!

### **Toledo Area Council**

The Toledo Area Council is in the planning stages of a new hostel in conjunction with Sister Cities International to be located in the Royal Hotel in downtown Toledo. Plans are to have it ready sometime in the year 2000.

### **Wisconsin Hostels**

HI-AYH-Wisconsin Council is presently working on and/or maintaining Folklore Village, Laona, Madison Summer, Red Barn and Wellspring Hostels.

In development are the Eagle Home Hostel, expected to open in 1999, the Lapham Peak Hostel and the Monches Home Hostel, each in different state forests.

Proposed are an "all-seasons" Madison Hostel and possible Milwaukee Hostel are in the research/planning mode. Other private hostels are also under consideration at this time. For more information, contact HI-AYH Wisconsin Council at 414-961-2525.

### ***Get Involved!***

### **HI-AYH Spring Regional Meeting & Hostel Development Conference**

**Hostel Development Conference -**  
Friday, April 16, 1999 all day  
**Spring Regional Meeting -**  
Saturday, April 17 & 18

You are cordially invited to attend the HI-AYH Spring Midwest Regional Meeting. The first ever Midwest Hostel Development Conference will begin at 8am Friday, April 16. The main topic of discussion will be *Regional Hostel Development Funding*, along with other topics of hostel development interest suggested by Councils and staff. Each Council is invited to bring as many representatives as possible for this important meeting.

The cost per person for lodging will be less than \$25 per night. An exciting weekend is planned in a natural setting on a lake, including a visit to the new Wisconsin Kettle Moraine State Forest hostel at Eagle, a walk on the Ice Age Trail near it, and plenty of other local color to challenge the senses! Hostel Development planning has never been so much fun! Please plan to join us!

Registration forms will be sent to your Council and to recent Regional Meeting attendees by March 1. For more information, contact Carol Ann Rittenhouse at HI-AYH Wisconsin.

### **Have you hostelled in the U.S or Abroad?**

**Help others have the experiences you have enjoyed!**

**Volunteers are needed in every Council for:**

- **Hostel development help - from "nuts & bolts" to telling your hostelling stories**
- **World Travel 101 workshops**
- **International Travel Day**
- **Travel Center/Office Volunteers willing to talk about their travels. Spread the word!**

## Midwest Councils

### Central & Southern Ohio Council

c/o HI-Columbus  
95 East 12th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43236-0893  
614-470-4276

### Gateway Council

7187 Manchester Road  
St. Louis, MO 63143-2450  
314-644-4660  
314-644-6192 FAX  
info@gatewayhiayh.org  
web: www.gatewayhiayh.org

### Indiana Council

P.O. Box 30048  
Indianapolis, IN 46230  
317-844-5320  
hi-indiana@iquest.net

### Lima Council

P.O. Box 173  
Lima, OH 45802  
419-222-7301  
limaayh@aol.com  
<http://members.aol.com/limaayh>

### Metro Chicago Council

2232 W. Roscoe Street  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-327-8114  
773-327-4287 FAX  
hiayhchigo@aol.com

### Michigan Council

3024 Coolidge  
Berkley, MI 48072  
248-545-0511  
248-545-1535 FAX  
248-545-0513 Activities Hotline  
goldmiayh@aol.com

### Minnesota Council

125 S.E. Main St., Ste 235  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
612-378-3773  
612-378-3095 FAX  
612-924-2443 Activities Hotline  
hostel@mtn.org

### Nebraskaland Council

P.O. Box 81827  
Lincoln, NE 68501-1827  
402-472-5358  
402-472-5383 FAX  
ayhnebr@aol.com

### Northeast Iowa Council

P.O. Box 10  
Postville, IA 52162-0010  
319-864-3923  
319-864-3777 FAX  
hroberts@netins.net

### Northeast Ohio Council

6093 Stanford Road  
Peninsula, OH 44264  
330-467-8711  
330-467-8711 FAX  
hi-stanfordhostel@juno.com

### Toledo Council

P.O. Box 352736  
Toledo, OH 43635-2736  
419-841-4510

### Wisconsin Council

5900 North Port Washington Road #146  
Milwaukee, WI 53217-4512  
414-961-2525  
414-961-2110 FAX  
hicar@execpc.com

## Biking, Hiking, Canoeing Oh My!

Midwesterners love the outdoors, biking, camping, canoeing, hiking and skiing when there is snow! Since the focus of this issue is hostel development, there wasn't room to put in all the activities Midwest Councils wanted to show case. Contact your local Council for a more complete list of programs and travel opportunities.

## 3rd Annual Midwest Regional Week Long Canoe Float Trip July 25-29

Float the first 90 miles of the Mississippi River in Minnesota! The cost includes 3 meals a day, soft drinks on the river and camping fees. Canoe rental is not included. Cost: \$90.00 HI Members, \$100.00 non-members Send or call in your reservation to: John Weingaertner, Home: 314-962-8775. John's e-mail is [Jwein7538@aol.com](mailto:Jwein7538@aol.com) if you have other questions. Deadline: July 17, 1999.

## Travel Centers help Hostellers

Planning on travelling abroad? Make your first stop to your local HI Travel Center, located in Chicago IL, Berkley MI, Minneapolis, MN, St. Louis, MO, or Milwaukee, WI. These travel centers sell HI-AYH memberships, hostel merchandise, student & teacher ID cards (not MN) and Rail Europe passes and tickets.

This year in the Midwest, the Gateway & Metro Chicago Councils have **IBN** or **International Booking Network**. Hostellers can reserve and pre-pay for hostel stays at popular hostels in the U.S. and abroad. Great idea for your first and last night of traveling or traveling in the high season!

You might learn the nuts and bolts of travelling at **World Travel 101** or **International Travel Day**. The **Traveler's Resource Guide** provides many helpful tips for the new traveller. Say **HI** to the world!

Please send me a free 1999 *Travelers' Resource Guide*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Copies of the *Travelers' Resource Guide* are available at Central & Southern Ohio, Gateway, Metro Chicago, Michigan, Minnesota, Northeast Ohio, Toledo Area & Wisconsin Councils. Addresses above. SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) with a #10 or business-size envelope appreciated!