



Annual Report of the Hostelling International USA, Oregon Council

For the period ending 31 March 2009

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

-- HI-USA Mission Statement

1. INTRODUCTION

The Oregon Council is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with 1,460 members in its two-state jurisdiction (1,260 in Oregon and 200 in Idaho). Currently, there are two hostels in Portland: HI-Portland Hawthorne is a council-operated hostel, and HI-Portland Northwest is an affiliate hostel.

2. SUMMARY OF PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

a. Delivering Our Programs

Hostelling International Oregon Council fulfilled an invigorating year of ambitious program delivery, enhanced participant outreach, and innovative program development that successfully transformed our mission of promising ideals into a narrative of exciting accomplishments. We benefited greatly from the continued commitment and dedication of our tireless volunteers, our inventive staff, and our devoted affiliate hostel, HI NW Portland Hostel. Our success is their success and the presence and future of the Oregon Council could hardly be more exhilarating as a result of their unflagging support and energy.

The Oregon Council provided numerous programs throughout the state of Oregon in FY 2009, including at such places as Portland, Hood River, Hillsboro, and the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Central Oregon. Our mixture of programs included World Travel 101 programs to packed rooms of eager travelers, educational Cultural Kitchen workshops with exuberant Girl Scouts, and cutting-edge Traveling with Disabilities presentations that were developed this year and have generated enormous excitement and tremendous demand for more appearances. In addition, the Council provided programs for Woman Traveling Solo and produced two wonderful cultural murals through our Community Walls programs. In addition, we have continued to enhance our relationship with Girl Scouts, one of the strongest program partners in our region. Since 2004, over 800 girls and leaders have participated in the Cultural Kitchen, Community Walls, and Travel Adventure in Portland programs.

Both Portland based HI hostels also provide a multitude of fun, educational programs and outings for travelers and community members alike. These include such events as bi-monthly travel workshops, community educational bike rides, city tours, and thrilling open mike nights that invite people of all backgrounds and talents to share themselves (and often their cultural uniqueness on stage).

In total, 1,021 participants joined us in our stimulating catalog of programs, activities and events in FYE 2009. We excitedly look forward to greatly enhancing these participation numbers in the coming year and hope that our efforts and dedication will continue to inspire people to seek out cultural understanding and life transforming discovery through travel.

b. Developing Our Hostel Network

The Oregon Council has not focused on new hostel development in the past year. Our resources have been primarily put forward into improved program delivery and existing hostel improvement. The recent small start-up hostel in Idaho (HI-Cascade) that operated this year will not continue to do so in the future citing economic impacts. While that leaves the organization without a representative HI hostel in Idaho for the time being, we are satisfied that the state will produce future opportunities in time. Oregon has the potential for additional hostel development but opportunities that we've looked at in FYE 2009 do not compel us to act in the short-term. We will continue to monitor possibilities in targeted communities going forward and will be open and prepared with resources to leverage an attractive opportunity if it were to arise.

Hawthorne Hostel development detail:

The Hawthorne Hostel realized the completion of a progressive water sustainability system that collects roof water runoff and reuses it to flush toilets in the hostel. The project, a partnership with the City of Portland, utilizes large cisterns to collect the rainwater and unites their function into a system that employs a water runoff swale of native vegetation to manage the flow of the bountiful rain we famously receive during our wet winters here. As a result, significant water runoff is reused, even into the dry season (yes, we do get those in Portland!) and redirected away from city sewers. This \$130,000 system is an innovative showpiece for the city and a proud representation of the Hawthorne Hostel's long standing commitment to green practices and sustainable building applications and has already provided significant city-wide interest in our organization.

Portland Northwest Hostel development detail:

The Northwest Portland Hostel completed renovations of its group center kitchen and dining area. The group center building, next to the main hostel, allows groups to have their own facilities, including a kitchen, dining and meeting space, bathrooms, 32 dorm beds and 2 leader rooms. It is quickly becoming popular with groups of all types and is designed to host hostel programs such as Cultural Kitchen and All the Places You Can Go. The hostel also replaced 80 windows with an energy efficient type, receiving \$15,000 in Energy Tax Credits.

c. Promoting Our Network

The Oregon Council has continued to enhance our promotional and outreach delivery by hiring a full-time programming employee in FY 2009 and by utilizing 3 interns to work in unison with the Council to develop our volunteer base, to enhance our program offerings, to open up new

partnerships with like-minded organizations, and to enhance our mission delivery. We were greatly encouraged by the results we garnered from these people and encouraged to continue to build on their successes to better build our organizational infrastructure and reach. We successfully lobbied congressional offices in Washington DC in November, encouraging the reading of a floor speech by Representative David Wu commemorating the anniversary of hostelling in the U.S.

d. Building Our Membership

In addition to the wide variety of our programming catalog, we also utilized community outreach and organizational participation in such events as the Girl Scouts GirlFest event, local university global workshops, and community events to build awareness to our organization and its exciting opportunities for community members.

e. Expanding Our Resources

The Oregon Council sought out and brought in new board members with vital organizational experience, creative staff people and volunteers dedicated to sharing their passion for travel, and skillful interns through AmeriCorps and through non-profit college programs to expand on our people resources. We committed an organizationally unprecedented amount of capital to employee wages in FY 2009 in order to better deliver on our mission and community outreach. We held three very well attended training sessions for volunteers interested in representing the organization as presenters for World Travel 101 and Women Traveling Solo programs. We enhanced our impact in the community by expanding the facilities of both hostels to increase bed availability and to provide meeting and communal space for both hostellers and the community alike. We are better prepared to build our enterprise and its impact than ever before in the Portland area and are thrilled by the opportunities that this effect will provide for us going forward.

f. Shaping Our Organization

As we look forward to an exciting year of hostelling anniversary celebration events and innumerable organizational activities and programs, we hope to continue to enhance our mission delivery footprint and exposure in Oregon. We plan to greatly enhance our board, adding valuable skill sets and committed energy to our organization. We plan to expand our program appearances and to continue to explore innovative program possibilities to reach constituencies currently missed or underleveraged. We hope to highlight the hostelling experience through innovative media and web based delivery methods. We plan to develop strategies that best enhance organizational capacity and structural efficiencies to best use our resources to provide the greatest impact. Mostly, we hope to continue the successes we've had to date with the same energy, commitment and excitement that have produced our established reputation of accomplishment and innovation and to make sure we continue to have a lot of well earned fun and satisfaction along the way.

3. OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The **Hostelling International USA, Oregon Council** is governed by a Board of Directors elected from the community. Officers are elected by the Board. Below are current officers and Board members who have served during part or all of the Fiscal Year.

CURRENT OFFICERS:

President:

Andy Furrow
Bank of America –
Global Commercial Banking
Portland, Oregon

First Vice President:

David Schargel
Executive – Hometown Advantage
Portland, Oregon

Second Vice President:

William Soltman
Attorney, Soltman Law Office
Portland, Oregon

Secretary/Treasurer:

Henry Welch
Dignity Homecare, Owner
Portland, Oregon

Treasurer:

Jeremy Black
Project Management Professional
Tualatin, Oregon

BOARD MEMBERS:

Laus Mwakalebela
MercyCorps
Portland, Oregon

Roberta Young
Policy & Program Development
Portland, Oregon

Joey Villahermosa
Wells Fargo – Foreign Exchange Analyst
San Francisco, California

Karin Waller
Portland State University
Portland, Oregon

Maria Loebach
Trial Assistant
Portland, Oregon

Tricia Melnik
Wild Salmon Center, Program Manager
Beaverton, Oregon

4. FINANCIAL RESULTS

Financial results for the Fiscal Year ending 31 March 2009 are summarized below:

	\$	%
Net membership	41,431	10.7
Hostel operations	207,096	53.2
Contributions	126,679	32.5
Others	14,090	3.6
TOTAL REVENUE	389,296	100.0
Program services	375,429	91.2
Fund raising	7,370	1.8
Administrative	28,671	7.0
TOTAL EXPENSES	411,470	100.0
NET ASSET CHANGE	-22,470	
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	383,219	
ENDING NET ASSETS	367,045	

5. PLACE OF BUSINESS

The principal place of business for the Hostelling International USA, Oregon Council is located at 3945 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon, 97214. For further information, contact MJ Riehl, Oregon Council Coordinator at 503-239-0030, or at council@oregonhostels.org