

NEWS



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NPHA WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS AS PREFERRED VENDORS

Washington, D.C. – The National Park Hospitality Association is very pleased to welcome Thompson & Little, Inc., Dowdle Folk Art and Old Hickory Furniture Company as the organization’s newest members. Each will be a Preferred Vendor, recognizing commitment to providing high levels of quality in goods and services and support for the association’s mission of offering park visitors great experiences in great places.

“NPHA is excited to welcome these three new members,” said NPHA Vice Chairman and chair of NPHA’s Membership Committee Alex Klein. “We look forward to their contributions at our upcoming meeting this month and beyond as we work collectively to prepare for the next century of the National Park Service.”

Thompson & Little Food Service Equipment & Design has specialized in food-service equipment and supply order fulfillment, as well as kitchen design and layout services for 68 years. The company provides delivery and installation services and also manufactures custom stainless steel fabrication in its NSF certified manufacturing facility. A WBE-certified woman-owned business, Thompson & Little is headquartered in North Carolina and services the entire nation. The company offers full installation of top products or shipments directly to clients.

Dowdle Folk Art was founded in 1994 and now has grown into a thriving art, puzzle and media company. Dowdle provides high-quality, American-made and unique folk artwork and puzzles that are sold at national parks, museums and other retail locations across the country. Dowdle Folk Art is headquartered at the base of the Wasatch Mountains in Utah.

Old Hickory Furniture Company has made high quality furniture for homes and resorts around the country for more than 100 years. Incorporated in 1898, the company quickly became a leader in furnishing new national park lodges, including the Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone National Park. The dining chairs in the Inn’s main hall are the very same chairs shipped and installed in 1906. And nearly identical chairs were

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installed in 2014 in Glacier National Park's Lake McDonald Lodge. Old Hickory Furniture is headquartered in Indiana.

As Preferred Vendors, all three organizations will join leading concessions operations in the national parks for discussions with key Congressional and Administration officials and with top executives of the nation's other park partners about attracting and serving Americans and international visitors. Some 300 million visits to national park units will occur in 2014, although visitation has remained flat since the late 1980's.

All three organizations will attend and showcase goods and services at NPHA's 2014 Fall Meeting – **Supporting America's National Parks For The Next 100 Years**. The meeting will be held October 20-22 at the U.S. Department of the Interior and Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center in Washington, D.C. – a location operated by park concessioner and NPHA member ARAMARK.

The National Park Hospitality Association (NPHA) is the national trade association of the businesses that provide lodging, food services, gifts and souvenirs, equipment rentals, transportation and other visitor services in the National Park System. Concessioners have played an important role in creating lasting national park memories for more than 125 years. Concessioners operate in more than 100 national park units with combined sales exceeding \$1.2 billion annually and \$100 million+ in franchise fees paid to the National Park Service. The in-park concessioner workforce of some 25,000 persons assists visitors an estimated 100 million times annually. Information on national park concessioners is at www.parkpartners.org.

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