



Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives

Supporting the Success of Worker Co-operation in the Valley & Beyond

Report from the Executive Director

for VAWC Member Meeting, October 24, 2018

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Happy Co-op Month! 2018 Annual Meeting

We're celebrating with 40,000 co-ops across the country about the unique impact of serving members over profit.

VAWC staff and VAWC members were present at a number of conferences since August including Co-op IMPACT in Washington, DC, and the Worker Co-op National Conference in Los Angeles.

Worker co-ops add a critical voice of worker emancipation to our communities and the co-op movement. It is great to see this voice so prevalent in October in so many ways.

5th Principle In Action

Students complete the Certificate in Co-op Enterprise at UMass, Amherst

We're happy to report Antonia Morini and Christopher Diaz received the Certificate of Co-op Enterprise through the Department of Economics at UMass, Amherst. Chris researched the impact of worker co-ops throughout New England. Antonia researched secure food systems and member access at Dorchester Food Co-op.

New applicants for the spring are rolling in and two member co-ops have applications. VAWC will assist with the coordination of research and goals for on-the-floor labor.

Class Visit: VAWC Brings the Story of Our Regions's Co-ops to Students

VAWC presented at the Economics of Co-operative Enterprise class at UMass. Students participated in exercises about co-ops and the economy and learned how worker-members can run their own development and support and how worker co-ops are democratizing our social and economic lives.



Above, interns from the Co-operative Enterprise Collaborative program at UMass, Amherst receive their certificates. Below, the board of the US Federation of Worker Co-operatives addresses attendees; Doug O'Brien, CEO of National Co-op Business Association; shows support for worker co-ops at Co-op IMPACT and a sculpture at NCBA's head office.



Worker Co-ops Make Impact in Co-op Month

In October VAWC members made a broad impact in and outside the co-operative movement. Co-op Month saw VAWC at conferences and educational events, in print advertisements and radio shows, and having sales and promotions about co-ops adding the voice of worker co-operation.

Through our partners and programs this voice is reaching new ears. Whether this is having more attention focused on our sector at the National Co-op Business Association or the growing awareness of our member worker co-ops and the work we do as a federation, VAWC member co-ops continue to elevate the input of worker co-ops to local, regional and national dialog.

We're promoting our federation model, too. For its size, VAWC's development, educational programming and development fund continue to impress others and spark curiosity. We continue to be asked by worker co-ops across the country about our federation and how it expands the reach of its members' values. VAWC is an additional venue where working people can have a say in their lives and their communities. Thank you to Co-op Month for giving us an opportunity to forge relationships and share strategy to democratize our economy.

Upcoming Events

Enhancing Business Performance Executive Education Course from Co-op Management Education, Sobey School of Business

November 2-4 in Greenfield, MA

Anniversary of Rochdale Pioneers opening their store in 1844

December 21

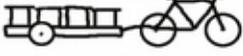
This October, over 40,000 co-ops across the United States are celebrating Co-op Month. This year's theme, **Co-ops See the Future**, invites co-operatives and their members to dream big!

Visit your local co-ops and credit unions to find out more about how we're working together to help people build stronger local communities and a more inclusive economy for generations to come.

Want to know more? Visit www.vcba.coop.

CO-OPERATIVES SEE THE FUTURE



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|  <p>www.vcba.coop</p> | <p>This ad brought to you by these organizations and the Valley Co-operative Business Association, with support from the National Co-operative Business Association.</p> | |  <p>www.ncba.coop</p> |

Voluntary and Open Membership • Democratic Member Control • Member Economic Participation • Autonomy and Independence • Education, Training and Information • Co-operation among Co-operatives • Concern for Community

The annual shared advertisement organized by the Valley Co-operative Business Association, printed as full page ads in both the Valley Advocate and the Greenfield Recorder. Did you know VAWC member co-ops get 25% off member dues to VCBA?

Worker co-operatives and our movement are made stronger through shared identity, statutes and structural provisions that preserve our individual autonomy while clearly identifying our organizations as co-operatives united in the common cause of developing a co-operative economy.

Definition

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

Values

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Principles

The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Information and Training
- Co-operation among Co-operatives
- Concern for Community

The worker co-operative identity is further detailed by the World Declaration on Co-operative Worker Ownership established by CICOPA (The International Organisation of Industrial, Artisan and Service Producers' Co-operatives) in 2004.

The Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives (VAWC) is rooted in the ideals of co-operation, mutuality and solidarity. VAWC is itself an expression of co-operative principles — a “co-op of co-ops” that have come together as a means of strengthening the efforts of our individual co-ops to develop their businesses, serve their members, and contribute to the wider co-operative economy. Our core goal is to provide ourselves with the resources and support we need to advance our co-operatives, empower our members, and benefit more people in our communities.

VAWC Member Co-ops

Collective Copies

Green Mountain Spinnery Co-op

Oxbow Design Build Co-op

Pedal People Co-operative

VAWC Board of Directors

Faith Seddon

Collective Copies

Lauren Yohe Von Krusenstiern

Green Mountain Spinnery

Suzette Snow-Cobb

Franklin Community Co-op
– Stakeholder Director

www.valleyworker.coop

Working
for a Co-operative Economy