



Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives



Annual Report 2023

Welcome Members, Affiliates, Partners and Supporters,

As always, thank you to our member co-operatives for making our work possible. Thanks, too, to our affiliates and partners who allow us to connect our efforts and achieve shared missions.

Last year saw growth in member revenue after pandemic challenges and refocusing to strengthen commitment to economic justice. We initiated supporting our members through the use of the Co-op Lifecycle Framework, a co-op specific tool to improve the health of their businesses. We wrapped up a loan to Collective Copies from our Interco-operative Loan Fund and made another to Flat Iron Coffeehouse to replace their espresso machine. We also worked with partners to engage legislators, propose bills, sponsored worker co-operators to go to conferences and advocated to include co-ops as part of regional economic development.

In Solidarity, the VAWC Board of Directors,

Larisa Demos, *Flat Iron Cooperative*

Faith Seddon, *Collective Copies*

Suzette Snow-Cobb, Stakeholder Director

Neighboring Food Co-op Association

Carl Woodruff, *Oxbow Design Build*

Contact

413-268-5800

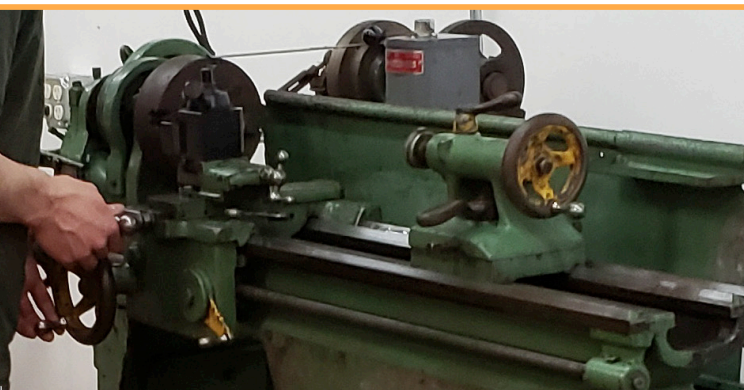
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Staff

Adam Trott, Executive Director

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Cover picture: Flat Iron Coffeehouse Cooperative's new espresso machine, purchased with support from VAWC's Development Fund.

Left: The Hive Makerspace's lathe being used by a current member.

Education

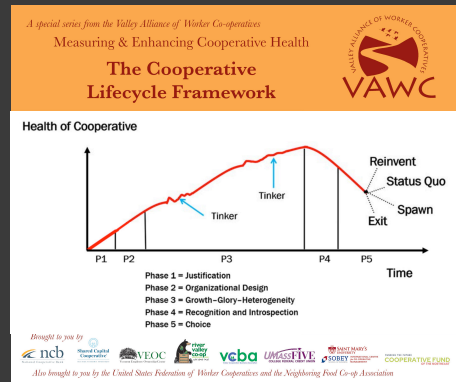
VAWC's cornerstone of education grew in 2023 with co-op health assessments, interns and scholarships. With proceeds from our AVWC Fund, we gave a scholarship to Carl Woodruff (*pictured right*) of Oxbow Design Build to go to the U.S. Federation of Worker Co-ops Conference. Carl was our third scholarship recipient in three years.



We hosted two interns from the Co-operative Enterprise Collaborative at UMass' Department of Economics. Thanks to Christiana Crane, who interned with Collective Copies, and Dylan Hatch who and wrote member snap shot stories of all VAWC members.

Improving Co-operative Health

What is co-operative health to you? What does it mean to have a job with dignity? Why do some co-ops last longer than others? VAWC launched a series to support its members with these questions through the use of the Co-operative Lifecycle Framework (CLF). VAWC wanted to invest in its members and take a 10,000 foot view of its co-ops. By using metrics and timelines tailored to worker co-operatives, VAWC is working to support its Member Co-ops in realizing their full potential.



VAWC is supporting all its members through a series of metrics and analysis using the CLF

Spreading the Message of Co-operation

We want the good news of worker co-ops to reach everybody. Last year we had more members participate in more advertising via print, online and radio ads in our region. Conference attendance, sponsorships and workshops open to the public were part of our work, too. We once again organized co-organized shared ads (see right) with the Valley Co-op Business Association to bring co-ops of all kinds together for National Co-op Month.

Co-ops Funding Co-ops

Our Interco-operative Development Fund was started in 2009 with inspiration from Italy, where all co-ops must contribute to co-op development. They have 79,000 co-ops with this external solidarity partially to thank. VAWC Members contribute 5% of surplus to this shared asset.



In 2023 our Fund made its fourth direct loan to a member - this time to Flat Iron Co-op. Within two days of a loan application, VAWC provided funding to replace an espresso machine that failed over New Year's Eve. VAWC has nearly \$40,000 invested in co-ops nationally.



National Co-op Month's shared print ad by VCBA promoted cross sector collaboration in our region and included VAWC and many VAWC members and affiliates.

Financial Report

We had yet another year of successful execution of our member-approved budget in 2022-2023. Highlights include:

- Increased staff time by one hour/week
- Built reserves to 8 months of operations
- Funded a scholarship to US Federation of Worker Co-ops Conference
- VAWC Fund made its fourth direct loan to a VAWC Member
- VAWC Fund has \$40,000 invested in co-ops nationally
- Utilizes co-ops for both its investments and banking services

Want to Donate to the VAWC Fund?

VAWC accepts donations to our Fund to increase our ability to meet financial need. All money accepted goes to the Fund.

Contact us: info@valleyworker.coop.

VAWC Financial Snap Shot

2022-2023 Budget	\$11,529
Reserves	\$8,300
Expenses	
Staff payroll & taxes	\$7,789
Printing, Phone and Web	\$300
Accounting & Bookkeeping	\$1,100
Marketing	\$1,100
Taxes	\$1,200
Memberships Sponsorships	\$550
Income	
Member Dues and Income	\$3,500
Affiliates	\$1,000
Sponsorships	\$2,300

Thanks to our Affiliates

Affiliates are co-ops and individuals that support our mission and success. Thanks to:

Boston Tech Collective
Bob Gardner
Green Mountain Spinnery
River Valley Co-op
PV Squared
Suzette Snow-Cobb

Legislation

Creating sympathetic legislation is a hallmark of successful co-op economies around the world. VAWC takes a multifaceted approach for both within and across sectors.



In 2022 we worked with partners to have focused legislative measures building technical assistance and funding for worker co-ops in Massachusetts. We were part of national efforts, too, and were active supporters of Main Street Employment Act 2. We got out the co-op vote as a participant in the Twin Pines Voter Project through the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA.

Thanks to our Members

Collective Copies*
Flat Iron Cooperative
The Hive Maker Space
Oxbow Design Build Cooperative
Pedal People Cooperative*

** Collective Copies and Pedal People are founding VAWC Members*



VAWC is a proud member of the following co-operatives:



**Shared Capital
Cooperative®**



A member of:



An investor in:

FUNDING THE FUTURE
COOPERATIVE FUND
OF THE NORTHEAST

And a Federation Partner of:

