



northwest cooperative

development center

Twenty on the Twenty

A 20-second (or so) monthly update about co-op development in the Pacific Northwest provided to you on or about the 20th of each month. **Please share with your network!**

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WTV Truckers Coop: Getting in Gear



Miles Nowlin facilitates a discussion on tactics

NWCDC staffers traveled to Ontario, Oregon this month to meet with the board of the **WTV Truckers Cooperative**. The board spent three hours discussing the progress to date and what needs to happen to get the co-op moving. **John McNamara** and **Miles Nowlin** met at the offices of [Euvalcree](#), a community organization dedicated to supporting the Latinx community which comprises over one-third of the Malheur County population. Euvalcree will apply for a Rural Oregon Initiative to help support the co-op with a full-time manager.

WTVTC directors and NWCDC also met with the [Snake River Economic Development Alliance](#) and the **Treasure Valley Community College Small Business Development** team to inform them of the project and elicit their support in further development of entrepreneurial opportunities for the co-op.

On the Road to Senegal

NWCDC staffer, **Daniel Arrañaga**, spent

two weeks in Senegal assisting an agricultural cooperative with communication and other development as a volunteer with the [NCBA/CLUSA](#). He brought lessons learned from his work with the Resident Owned Communities and NWCDC's recent staff retreat. As an immediate effect of Daniel's efforts, the co-op members decided to use the communication tool, *Whatsapp*, to help keep members in touch across the thirteen villages covered by the cooperative's service area.

NWCDC will be posting more pictures and videos of Daniel's trip on our [Instagram Page](#).



Business Services Cooperative Joins Oly Co-op Community

On January 1st, Olybooks, LLC becomes [Business Services Cooperative](#) and the 3rd worker co-op in Olympia. BSC provides bookkeeping, financial management, financial consulting, and management services to cooperatives and small local businesses in the area. That all includes everything from simple data entry, payroll, etc. to helping liaison cooperatives with other professional services that can be hard to gain access to, or at least communicate with given strong cultural differences between members and the professional class needed to access wealth in the economy.

Their mission is to strengthen a cooperative economy by providing comprehensive business and consulting services primarily to cooperatives and small businesses by skilled and helpful professionals. The core ownership of the co-op have extensive history with New Moon Co-op and NW Construction Co-op.

Dumpster Values Sells to Workers



[Dumpster Values](#), a retail store in downtown Olympia specializing in refurbished clothing, will soon become the newest worker co-operative in Thurston County. Dumpster Values approached NWCDC last winter about converting the store from the single proprietorship to a collective owned and managed by the workers. After several months of education, training, and information, the conversion is set for December 21-the 172nd anniversary of the Rochdale Society's first day of operation.. NWCDC continues to assist the fledgling collective with strategic planning, marketing, financial training, and business planning as they manage through the conversion.

Capital Homecare Progressing

NWCDC's Revolving Loan Fund approved a \$25,000 start-up loan for [Capital Homecare Cooperative](#) in Olympia. This loan will provide the means for the cooperative to meet its insurance and licensing requirements to become operational in early 2018. In November, the Co-op board hosted a community meeting and were joined by NWCDC's **Deborah Craig** and **Victoria Sprong**, a director of **Circle of Life Cooperative** in Bellingham. The board answered questions from potential members and made contacts for both future members and clients. CHC also has hired Business Services Cooperative, a worker co-op providing accounting and financial training, to assist them with administering payroll and other accounting practices. The caregiver co-op filed for its Agency license this week and expects to be operational by February.

Once licensed, CHC will become Olympia's 5th worker co-op to be operational (up from just 2 the year before). This marks an incredible spike in co-op development in Washington's capital and 2018 might see an additional 2-3 worker co-ops launch as well.

New Leaders Appointed at USDA

- **Bette Brand** has been named Administrator of the **Rural Business-Cooperative Service** of the USDA. Ms. Brand has extensive experience in the Virginia agricultural community and over 35 years of work with Farm Credit. She is a past board member of the Virginia Cooperative Council.
- **Kirk Pearson** has been appointed State Director of the **USDA Rural Development** in Washington. Sen. Pearson currently represents the 39th Senate District in the Washington Legislature (most of Snohomish and Skagit Counties and the northeastern tip of King County). He chairs the Natural Resources and Park Committee.

We welcome Ms. Brand and Sen. Pearson to the Rural Development community and look forward to working with them.

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You may earmark specific projects.

NWCDC | 360-943-4241 | 360-570-8415 | info@nwcdc.coop | www.nwcdc.coop

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