



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!**

[Visit our Website](#)

Evergreen Students Wrap Up Internships

NWCDC hosted four interns from The Evergreen State College during the Winter quarter. Fred Medicott and Gatlin Fasone-Youngblood (pictured right) presented final projects for their course (Student Originated-Studies: Community-Based Work in a Challenging Time). Gatlin developed a training program for new co-op directors in Spanish while Fred's developed an on-boarding web site for NWCDC interns. Both projects will be very useful to NWCDC and thankfully, both students expect to continue their internship with us next quarter.



Capital Homecare Co-op Receives License to Operate

[Capital Homecare Cooperative](#) received approval from the State of Washington to begin operations and accept clients on March 2, 2018. CHC became the third home care co-op in the state and the 5th active worker co-operative in Olympia. The co-op has been actively seeking clients.

Washington may not have the largest home care co-ops in the country, but The Evergreen State does have the most. Recent workshops in Skagit County by NWCDC may lead to up to four or five new home care co-ops covering Skagit, Islands, and Clallam Counties.



NWCDC Meets With Fed About Business Succession Planning

Organized by the USDA Rural Development West Region Community Economic Development Director, Tim O'Connell, NWDC met with the USDA, SBA, Dept of Commerce, and the Federal Reserve to consider means of saving jobs in rural communities. The aging "baby boom" population (people between 54-72 years old) presents an unprecedented generational turnover of businesses. Combined with increase automation in agriculture, the impending retirement of small business owners in rural communities creates a serious economic challenge for rural towns. Conversions to worker or consumer co-operatives may help maintain the fabric of rural communities while also building a resilient local economy. NWDC staff was honored to be the only NGO invited to the meeting and helped educate the participants on the value of co-operatives and will continue to work with the agencies to develop plans to strengthen rural communities as the transition of the baby boom generation continues.

Twisted Strait Fibers Hosts First Annual Membership Meeting

[Twisted Strait Fibers](#) reached a critical milestone in February by hosting its first general membership meeting and replacing the incorporating board by electing a permanent board. The newly elected board consists of six directors (pictured right): three continued from the temporary board (Marcia Adams, Ann Rosecrants, Wendy Bond) and three new directors (Connie Beauvais, Molly Gose-Busby, Kathy Martin). The co-op now has 56 members and expects to begin e-commerce operations by June 30, 2018 with the products of four members and then adding one additional member's products per month.



NWDC Visits Farmer Incubator Program

Staffer John McNamara and Intern Fred Medicott visited the Gresham Grange in eastern Multnomah County, Oregon to speak with the 2013 graduating cohort of the Headwaters Farm Incubator Program organized by the East Multnomah Water and Soil Conservation District. The HFIP helps develop new farmers through a five year process that includes classroom activities and acreage for the new farmers to practice the classroom lessons and find out if agriculture is for them. Students also operate a market for their produce. NWDC was invited to participate in the final meeting of the cohort to discuss how co-ops can assist farmers to gain better access to markets, share costs, and otherwise support their efforts.

DONATE NOW!

Help us provide technical assistance to co-ops!

You don't have to wait for the end of the year to support our programs! You can provide a **tax deductible** one-time donation or monthly sustaining gift to help fund the work of co-op development!

You may earmark specific projects.

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