



## Co-op Developments

A short 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!**

Support Co-op Development in the PNW: Donate Today!

As the year comes to a close, please consider supporting cooperative development in the Pacific Northwest with a donation of any amount through our [Network for Good site](#). NWCDC provides on-going technical assistance to dozens of on-going cooperative projects in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, our staff fields in-takes and questions about co-op development on a regular basis. [Help us remain a strong](#) and vibrant development center with tax deductible gift of any amount!



### Webinar Follow up to Roundtable a Success!

NWCDC followed-up on its October Roundtable (sponsored by NCBA/CLUSA and CDF) with special webinar on the Limited Cooperative Associations with attorneys Michael Droke and Jason Wiener.

Over 30 people participated in this lively discussion about Washington's newest form of cooperation. If you missed the webinar or want to learn more, [listen to the recording here](#).

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### ROC NW Awarded \$500,000 Grant!

**ROC NW**, a project of NWCDC, has been awarded a \$500,000 grant by the **Washington Housing Trust Fund** to support the new **ROC Infill Revolving Loan Fund (iRLF)**. This new loan fund will provide capital loans to housing co-op projects in Washington that fall outside of other loan programs. The [Housing Trust Fund](#) is a project of the State of Washington's Department of Commerce. Since 1986, the Housing Trust Fund has awarded almost \$1 billion in funding and helped build or preserve nearly 47,000 units of affordable housing statewide. **Sam Green** has been a driving force in securing funding for this program.

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### Evergreen ROC in Shelton, WA Moves Forward

Residents at the Evergreen Mobile Home Community in Shelton, WA, a 47 home community, voted unanimously in November to form a limited-equity housing co-op under the ROC-USA model. The community formed an interim board of directors and set a membership fee of \$150. The community is made up of mostly Guatemalan families and

member meetings are being held across 3 languages - English, Spanish, and Mam. The park needs major infrastructure repairs and the newly formed board of directors will be seeking support from the Shelton community for support and contributions. If the purchase of the park goes through, residents will purchase the homes they rent for \$1 and have a lot rent decrease.

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### NWCDC Staff to Chair Union-Coop Council

**John McNamara** was tapped to replace retiring co-chairs of the [US Federation of Worker Co-op's Union-Coop Council](#). This council works to connect, support, and promote the synergy between labor unions and worker cooperatives with the mission "We are building bridges between worker cooperatives and organized labor to harness the power of collective action to democratize enterprise, while promoting sovereignty of labor and subordination of capital." John replaces co-chairs **Mary Hoyer** and **Liz Ryder** who founded the council. One key function of the council is a bi-monthly call open to anyone interested in learning more about how labor unions and worker co-ops can work together.

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### 4th Annual National Homecare Co-op Conference

In November, NWCDC joined caregivers from homecare cooperatives all around the country, met in Dulles, VA to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual National Home Care Cooperative Conference. The conference is organized by the Cooperative Development Foundation and hosted at the headquarters of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. For three days homecare workers, as well as cooperative developers, networked, learned from each other and enjoyed the comradery. Caregivers working in client's homes are often isolated with few opportunities to meet with other caregivers making these three days together priceless. Topics ranged from marketing to board relations to advocacy. But perhaps, most enlightening were the personal stories of caregivers and their co-ops.

Washington State was well represented by the 4 homecare co-ops in our state: **Circle of Life** – Bellingham; **Capital Homecare Co-op** – Olympia; **Peninsula Homecare Co-op** – Port Townsend and **Ridgeline Homecare Co-op** – Port Angeles.

As **Kris Buettner**, Circle of Life Administrator said, "The whole experience of attending the conference gave me inspiration and hope!"

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### Re-imagining the Rural West

The [Western Governor's Association](#) met in Post Falls, Idaho for the Re-imagining the Rural West initiative. The panel on cooperatives included a number of our friends: **Lori Capouch**, Rural Development Director, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives; **Tim Freeburg**, Board Member, Pacific Northwest Farmers Cooperative; **Kate LaTour**, Government Relations Manager, National Cooperative Business Association; **Tim O'Connell**, West Region Coordinator, Rural



Development Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture. **Diane Gasaway** was also present as an active participant during the discussion. The Co-op session is available for viewing on [YouTube](#). The entire session as well as other events can be found [Western Governor Association's](#) website.

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### The Flaming Eggplant Ready to Re-open



NWCDC provided a 10-week training program on democratic governance and management to the student collective of [The Flaming Eggplant](#) at The Evergreen State College in the fall quarter of 2019. The training aimed to provide a general foundation of democratic management, financial tracking, and marketing the cafe. Over the next two quarters, NWCDC will continue working with the student-workers to provide direct technical assistance as they begin operating the cafe.

## THE LEGACY PROJECT

Learn about the different options of employee ownership and transitioning to an employee-owned business. Watch the full 7 part series on converting an existing business to an employee-owned cooperative on our web site at [The Legacy Video Series](#).

[DONATE TODAY!](#)

### 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! **Any amount is welcome.**

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