

Workshop Title: Growing a New Economy: Local and Regional Support Networks for Democratic Workplaces

Description: As the number of worker cooperatives and other democratic workplaces grows throughout the United States, local and regional support networks can play an important role in meeting the unique legal, accounting, marketing and organizational needs of these workplaces in your neck of the woods. Come learn about various ways in which worker coop support networks have organized through the country, hear about their program objectives and operational structures and get ideas about how to start a support network appropriate for your region and relevant to the needs of worker coops in your area. Three speakers representing different models of regional support organizations will give brief, but thorough, presentation of their respective organizations with plenty of time for your questions.

Presenter(s): Sue Bob, Kasper Koczab, John McNamara, Troy Pieper, Adam Trott

Presentation Outline: The 1.5 hour presentation will start with approximately 40-50 minutes of back-to-back presentations from five folks representing support networks from:

1. Madison, Wisconsin
2. Minnesota
3. Greater Boston Area
4. Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont
5. San Francisco Bay Area

Each presenter will speak for no more than 10 minutes. Each presenter will answer some or all of the following questions:

1. Brief description and/or history of their support network
2. What is the structure of their support network (annual dues paid, totally voluntary, no structure other than personal relationships, etc.)?
3. What the main activities are for the support network in their region (social gatherings, funding new and existing coops, public education, etc.)?
4. Why they find their support network to be important in building the worker coop movement?
5. One really cool thing everyone should know about their support network and how to get involved if you're moving to that part of the country.

The second part of the presentation will be reserved for Q&A from the audience. We will hold all questions till all the presenters are finished. At this time we have not decided on the order in which we will present, but perhaps we'll go by the geographic area folks are representing starting on the East coast and moving West.

All presenters have been asked to prepare a list of their networks member workplaces as an audience handout. Two have confirmed they will be able to do that.