

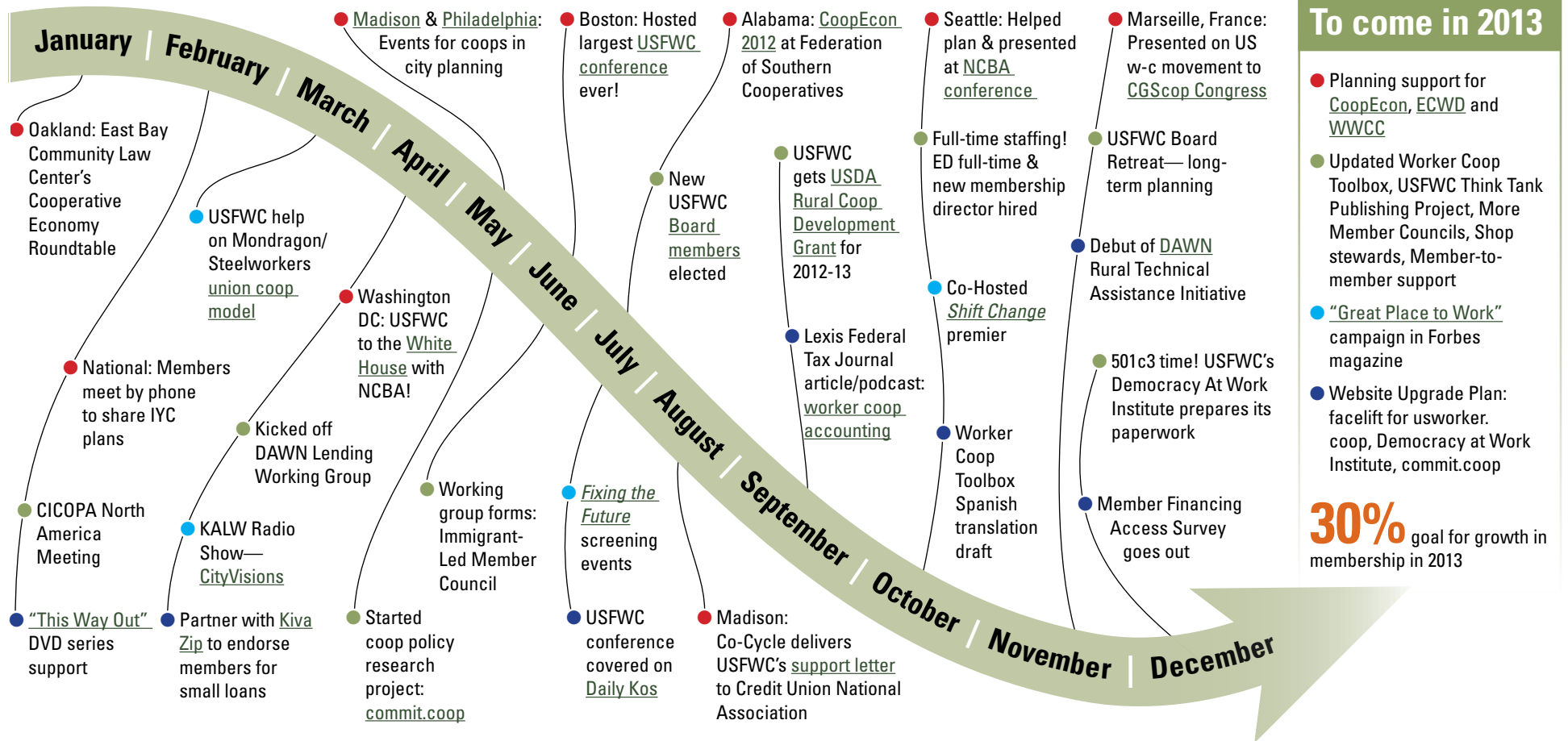


# U.S. FEDERATION OF WORKER COOPERATIVES

# 2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

[WWW.USWORKER.COOP](http://WWW.USWORKER.COOP)

● INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES & EVENTS ● BUILDING THE FEDERATION ● MEDIA ● RESOURCES & BENEFITS



## To come in 2013

- Planning support for [CoopEcon](#), [ECWD](#) and [WWCC](#)
- Updated Worker Coop Toolbox, USFWC Think Tank Publishing Project, More Member Councils, Shop stewards, Member-to-member support
- "Great Place to Work" campaign in Forbes magazine
- Website Upgrade Plan: facelift for usworker.coop, Democracy at Work Institute, [commit.coop](http://commit.coop)

**30%** goal for growth in membership in 2013

**89**  
Public inquiries answered by USFWC

**279**  
worker cooperatives counted in the USFWC's research to be published Spring 2013

**93**  
USFWC worker cooperative and democratic workplace [members](#)

**5**  
USFWC members receive free [technical assistance](#)

**6**  
Clients/projects assisted by DAWN advisors

**8**  
[DAWN](#) apprentice peer advisors trained

**6**  
City governments declare support for worker coops. More in the works!

**2000+**  
"Likes" on USFWC [Facebook](#) page

**400**  
attendees for USFWC [conference](#)

**3**  
Languages interpreted at the conference

# So, what's happening in 2013? YOU ARE.

**Our Federation is a powerful tool.** It is our seat at the table in the cooperative movement and allied movements. It can raise and direct resources. It can represent worker cooperatives publically. It can advocate for policy that we need. But for this work to be meaningful and connected, our Federation needs to be led by its members, by worker cooperators. **The work of the USFWC is all our work.**



We've known this all along, and the intention was there, but the staffing was not. In practice, supporting meaningful member leadership at a national scale takes time and money we have not had. We found ourselves in the Catch-22 of knowing that better member involvement would ease the workload but not able to get over the initial hump to support that involvement. Well, now we finally have the resources for full-time staffing.

**Our first priority for this increased staff capacity is to support members getting more involved in the USFWC. Our goal is to build a Federation staffed by staff but led by members.** We hope this is your goal too. And we hope to see members not just running for the Board, but using the USFWC as an umbrella for their own organizing, starting projects, forming Member Councils, proposing partnerships, advancing a vision. This is the most important thing we as a Federation can do.

We are at a critical moment for worker cooperative organizing in the United States right now. We're starting to see resources, attention, major new projects, growth in certain industries, and some exciting vision take shape. We worker cooperatives need to be leading this. We should be shaping the stories, stating the needs, starting the projects, making sure they align with the principles and practice we live every day in our workplaces. Folks, we need to be KEEPING IT REAL. The realest it gets is when you bring yourself into the mix. **Give us a call, won't you?**

## Here are a few things you can do to make this real:

### **1. Read and share USFWC communications**

We know that strong communication is critical to helping people get meaningfully involved. We will make more regular and thorough reports on USFWC activities, so you can see what we're all up to, get inspired, get involved.

### **2. Choose a "shop steward" for your workplace and make space for USFWC business on your agenda**

With an active contact person at each member workplace, we hope to have a regular space on your GM agendas to share information and develop ways we can work together.

### **3. Make member-to-member connections**

We hear again and again that the most valuable part of USFWC membership is the opportunity to learn from each other. We are planning a series of member-led webinars starting in Spring 2013 to share information. Want to present on a topic? We also want to support a workplace exchange – would you be interested? Let us know.

### **4. Apply for member scholarships to events**

Don't let cost be a barrier to participating. This year we have raised more funding for member scholarships to the Eastern and Western conferences, and the Southern CoopEcon. We are also raising funds for paid internships and fellowships doing USFWC work. We'll announce soon – then you apply!

### **5. Use your benefits**

Did you know we offer FOUR free hours of technical assistance to all USFWC voting members? Did you know we offer credit card processing for USFWC members through a preferred partner? When was the last time you looked through (or donated to) the Document Library?

### **6. Spear-head a new project**

USFWC staffers are supporting member-led projects to improve financing access (Kiva Zip, high-risk loan pool), and advocate for city policy. We expect to expand these and take on new projects in 2013 – send us yours!