

Hi folks. On behalf of the steering committee, I wanted to transmit the first WORC'N Steering Committee activity report. -- Micha

**FEB/MARCH-** The steering committee is so far comprised of Ben Mauer, James Bachez, Tim Hall, Stacey Cordeiro, and Micha Josephy. We volunteered for this role at the February WORC'N meeting and we've met monthly for the past two months, and expect that to continue. Most of our time, both in meetings and out, has focused on monthly events. Our expectation is that once we routinize event organizing, we will start exploring other issues like WORC'N's strategic direction, infrastructure and other projects. The steering committee could use a few more eligible members, especially more women and more people of color from new co-ops and old-timers alike, so please reply if you'd like to join the steering committee or want more information about eligibility.

WORC'N hosted an evening of events in early March, led off by a worker co-op 101, delivered by Stacey, and a presentation by Maggie Cohn on CFNE's financing tools. Maggie's presentation was conceptualized as an opportunity for people involved in existing or well developed co-ops to learn and discuss. If you attended that evening and have feedback for us, please let us know. Based on our internal evaluation, we're tweaking things a little for April. We also secured a modest financial contribution from Harvest Food Co-op towards some of the food we'll need for future events.

**APRIL-** Our plan for April is to break the two events into two consecutive Thursday nights. The peer resource session will be on the 11th and the co-op 101 will be on April 18th. Stacey will again lead the co-op 101, with support from Micha, but welcomes anyone who wants to train-up on the presentation or who wants to help improve the presentation to contact her. These 101s are delivered as a partnership between WORC'N and the Boston Center for Community Ownership, the co-op development center that Stacey's creating. These are geared to people new to the worker co-op sector/movement and will be publicized publicly. Please send people in your co-op who you think could benefit from a bigger co-op context.

Here's our vision for the peer resource sessions- each month a different co-op will take responsibility for the content of the session. We envision the content revolving around an issue that that particular co-op is struggling with. The co-op will present the issue and how they've been thinking of approaching it. Then all participants in the session will consider paths forward. We expect that a lot of the participating co-ops either have dealt with similar issues, are currently dealing with them, or expect to in the near future. But rather than having a general workshop on "marketing," for instance, we can help a particular co-op develop marketing strategies that are particular to their business. This will also decentralize some of the planning responsibility from the steering committee. These sessions will not be publicly announced and will be geared to existing worker co-ops and prestart-up efforts that are well developed. Here too, please send folks from your co-ops in addition to you, the usual suspects.

We will kick this off in April, with a session focused on Boston Collective Delivery, with a specific topic to be announced Ben and James are organizing this session.