

Annual Meeting Report

“It’s a Now or Never Moment”



Member/owners who attended the Co-op’s April 28 Annual Meeting heard sober news about the organization’s financial situation.

Summary and Excerpt from the Treasurer’s report:

In 2018, the Co-op shifted to a new management structure, making a critical investment in one of the store’s biggest assets, its employees. We provided modest wage increases, to move towards a more livable standard, and new management positions – both investments needed to support to increased revenue.

Organizational changes created a sudden worsening of the figures that determine the financial performance of the co-op. But signs of difficulty were already visible in the previous years, indicating that our co-op was already running a weak operation that could be negatively impacted by any unforeseen event.

- *The Gross Profit remained essentially flat over the last 4 years*
- *Payroll Expenses absorb 72% of the whole Gross Profit in 2018*
- *Current Liabilities have almost doubled in four years, with Accounts Payables, the money we owe to our suppliers, are 219% of what they were in 2015*
- *The already meager return for our members has been zeroed for the last two years.*

Yes, we have a place where we can purchase local, healthy, and good quality food and groceries. Yes, we are an outlet for local products. Yes, we are a cozy place where our community can meet and socialize.

But, we are lacking the means to support those in our community that are I need. We are hurting the sustainability of the local economy if we cannot pay our local suppliers and businesses in a timely manner. We need to at least break even if we want to be a not-for-profit co-op.

Board President Sarah Phillips and General Manager Jean Hamilton emphasized that the Co-op is at a critical juncture. They said that Deep Engagement by membership is needed to

- **Support fund-raising for working capital to pay vendors**
- **Attend upcoming community meetings and weigh in on directions for a sustainable future for the store**
SAVE the DATE: Saturday, June 8, 4-6pm at the Co-op
- **Contribute skills, resources and time as working members: for instance, join the May 31 painting party.**
- **Shop at the Co-op as much as you can. One simple thing is to purchase a gift card for yourself or others. When you do this, it helps the Co-op’s cash flow, can reduce credit card fees and it makes checking out a breeze.**

In upcoming weeks, the Newsletter Committee will send additional short updates. Please read them: you're an owner of the business. If you have thoughts or comments, contact Sarah Phillips, Board President, at sa_philli@yahoo.com or 426-2043.