



the

## COOPERATIVE

spirit

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Board of Directors  
Meeting 5:30 PM 5/25**

**Memorial Day:  
Reduced Hours  
8-9 AM - 9-6 PM 5/31**

**Board of Directors  
Meeting 5:30 PM 6/22**

**Store Inventory:  
Reduced Hours  
7-9 AM - 9-6 PM 6/30**

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## General Membership Meeting

As we step into summertime, the Co-op remains alive and happy with activity - both in the storefront and behind the scenes. Over the past few months, we implemented a food survey to our members and customers alike to find out what's important to you when it comes to your food, continued our partnership with the Cook Altenburg Cooperative warehouse, and have started to think critically about our building's future, looking within and outward in order to plan for the inevitable growth of our food cooperative.

All of these projects begin within the collaborative framework of our management circles. Our current management circles - Communications, We the People, Physical, Movement, and Numbers - help develop initiatives that keep our Co-op healthy, functioning, and moving and adapting in the direction we need it to. Participation in the management circles are open to all members and staff, including the Board of Directors and Working Members. So please, if you have the drive, can lend a hand, and want your voice to be heard, consider joining one of the circles. After all, it's your cooperative.

Another very important way to join the discussion and let your voice be heard is by attending our Spring General Membership Meeting. This year's meeting will take place on May 23rd at 5:30 PM and will, as always, include our member forum, where Board, staff, and members will participate in a discussion involving anything and everything of concern or curiosity regarding the Co-op.

Feel free to join in the discussion and community spirit in person outdoors at the Idea Center. Masks are required indoors; no exceptions. We will have single serving food and drink to be mindful of social distancing and Covid precautions. If you prefer to join from home, a link to the streaming of the meeting will be available. We would love to hear your thoughts on projects and join in on celebrating the start of another beautiful Wisconsin Summer.

-Celia Sweet

## CONTACT US

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info@spacoop.com  
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## Monday

Bicycle Delivery and  
Phone & Online Orders  
7:00 am - 8:00 pm

## Tuesday - Sunday

Phone Orders  
7:00 am - 9:00 am  
In-store Shopping  
9:00 am - 8:00 pm



## FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN

Fair Trade is not a new phrase to many of the readers of The Cooperative Spirit; we've talked about it in previous issues. This time, however, we're talking about an aspect of it that hits a little closer to home - Fair Trade Campaigns. Fair Trade Campaigns is a grassroots movement that connects consumers and advocates of Fair Trade across the US to help increase the availability of Fair Trade products. The SPAC is teaming up with the UWSP Office of Sustainability to start its very own Fair Trade campaign to make Stevens Point an official Fair Trade town!

You can trace Fair Trade Campaigns across the entire world, but it actually all started in the United Kingdom. Garstang of Lancashire was the first Fair Trade town in the world, which sparked the international Fair Trade towns movement. Within a few months, the movement caught speed and Fair Trade sales skyrocketed. But it's not just towns that can start campaigns; cities, universities, schools, and congregations can all start Fair Trade Campaigns!

From country to country, the criteria for becoming a Fair Trade town can be adapted but they still maintain the main elements.

Currently, there are over 300 active Fair Trade Campaigns across the U.S., raising awareness and advocating for Fair Trade products. When a campaign is started, the organizers must meet the following criteria:

- Building a core team or steering committee
- Documenting product availability
- Gaining attention from the media
- Sourcing Fair Trade products at retailers, events, and meetings



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UWSP Office of Sustainability and the Stevens Point Area Co-op are slowly plugging away at this list to get Stevens Point labeled as a Fair Trade town. Fair Trade provides economic stability and sustainable livelihoods for international farmers, artisans, and workers to lift and keep themselves out of poverty. It allows for equitable compensation and fair, ethical treatment. In addition, there is a premium known as a Fair Trade Community Development Premium that helps with community development projects which benefits the worker's families and communities. We are happy to be able to make a difference and look forward to when Stevens Point can be labeled as a Fair Trade town. You can check out some of the Co-op's Fair Trade products on page 6 of this newsletter and be sure to stay tuned to our social media page for updates on our journey to becoming a Fair Trade town!

Check out these other small businesses that offer Fair Trade products:

- The Coffee Studio
- Zest
- Emy J's

Do you know of a small business that sells Fair Trade goods that we missed? Email newsletter@spacoop.com and we will add them to our list!

-Michelle Nieuwenhuis, Collective Manager, Communications Circle

## THAT TIME OF YEAR: GROWING COLLECTIVE PLANT SALE 2021

Spring has sprung and Summer is close behind! It's time to get out your broadforks and prepare your garden beds so that they're ready to be filled with amazing plants from the Growing Collective Plant Sale! This is the seventh year that Growing Collective members have hosted the sale at Central Rivers Farmshed, and 2021 will once again provide a greenhouse full of healthy, organically grown vegetables, herbs, edible flowers, and native plants for sale.

The Growing Collective is a group of gardeners that work together to grow seedlings for their own garden, plus extra plants to sell to the public as a fundraiser for Farmshed. Members hold monthly meetings and host volunteer work days throughout the Spring, doing everything from choosing which exciting new varieties and old favorites to grow, to washing pots, starting seeds, transplanting, watering, and general greenhouse construction and maintenance. In their collective nature, 13 Action Teams focus on specific aspects of the growing process such as facilities, budget, and plant care. All members of the Growing Collective are a part of at least one Action Team so they can have meaningful volunteer experiences by learning how the collective operates.

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Last year in response to the pandemic, the Growing Collective Plant Sale was pre-order, on-line only. This year, there will be an early online sale followed by an in-person sale in the Farmshed Greenhouse. A list of plant varieties will be released a few weeks before the sale. Many varieties sell out quickly, so plan ahead. The Growing Collective will be saving unique varieties and historical favorites specifically for the in-person sale, for those that want to pick out their plants themselves.

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**Charity Millard, D.C.**  
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The online Farmshed member only sale opens on Sunday, May 16 at 2pm. The sale opens to the public on Tuesday May 18. When ordering, shoppers will schedule a pick-up time for May 22-24 or arrange to have their plants delivered via bicycle by Curbwise, LLC.

The in-person sale will be held on May 27 from 4-7pm, May 28 from 4-7pm, and May 29 from 10-3 pm. Masks will be required for entry into the greenhouse and capacity limited to 20 customers at a time. The checkout line will be outside, on the east side of the Farmshed greenhouse to ensure smooth, safe flow in and out of the sale.

In addition to incredible plants, the Growing Collective Plant Sale will also feature compost products from Hsu's Growing Supply, seed potatoes from Whitefeather Organics, and compost bins and pails from Recycling Connections. There will be lots to check out at both the online and in-person sale, so mark your calendars because Spring is definitely here!

Online sale information can be found at [www.farmshed.org](http://www.farmshed.org) and on the Facebook event.

-Taylor Christiansen



## CANDIDATE BIOS

### Shannon O'Donnell

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving on the SPAC Board of Directors since November 2020 and as Secretary since March 2021, alongside being a Working Member. I grew up in Stevens Point and I moved back here in September 2020 after completing an MA in Public Advocacy and Activism in Ireland. Through this program, I developed skills in the areas of management, communications, public relations and human rights. Outside of work and traditional education pathways, I have maintained a commitment to social and economic justice through my involvement with grassroots racial justice organizations in Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, and Ireland. As I continue to deepen and expand my personal social and economic justice frameworks and commitments, I am excited by the opportunity to do this through pursuing food justice and investing in local food systems as an elected BOD member in community with the SPAC Board, Staff, and General Membership.



### Logan Brice

I have been an active member of the BoD for SPAC for the past two years. I currently serve as the Financial Officer on the executive committee and facilitate Numbers' meetings. I am interested in continuing to serve in a management role to maintain financial accountability and transparency. Local food access and security remain top priorities in my involvement with the Co-op. I am excited to contribute to building a more robust local food system by expanding the resources that we own collectively. Integration of more pieces of the supply chain will allow the Co-op to source more food locally while lowering our cost of goods. Feel free to contact me with any Co-op related questions, 920-619-5476.



### Troy Kuehn

I'm Troy Kuehn from Granton Wisconsin. I attended Granton High School and Vermillion college attaining my Forestry tech degree. I classify my vocation as a self employed entrepreneur. While becoming a Fourth generation owner in our families Timber Harvesting business; I enjoyed coaching elementary-varsity mens basketball, varsity women and mens Cross Country and Track & Field for over a decade at Granton High School. Recently starting a certified organic farm in May of 2017, Maple Bee Acres, LLC. My family's Organic farm raises organic certified chicken, pork, beef and other produce. I love to be outside and enjoy learning and experiencing new things in life. The best part of farm life is watching my son Taywa grow and develop a relationship with the animals and soil.



## WHY DOES SHOPPING AT THE CO-OP MATTER?

What kind of environmental impact is made when we make a conscious choice to shop at our local Co-op instead of the big, corporate stores? As the little changes we create for ourselves, our community, and our planet become bigger lifestyle changes, we forget that those little things are moments of activism and make a bigger difference than we think.

The Co-op creates a space for local producers to begin growing their businesses. We are at a special level of sale volume where it is possible for smaller businesses to sell product, but not at such a high volume that it's impossible for them to meet minimum sale requirements.

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Where you shop impacts the environment. Most of our produce is certified organic with the exceptions of small producers of specialty products that are certified naturally grown. We take pride in our trustworthy and honest relationships with our local and community farmers we've been developing throughout the years and we support their farming practices.

We put trust into the Fair Trade certifiers, so much that we're working to become a Fair Trade town, as you probably read on page 2. One company we trust for their transparency within their chain is Equal Exchange. Read more about their products on page 6.

When you buy in bulk and also bring in a reusable container, you are reducing waste. Every little bit counts! Repurpose old jars and find a new favorite in our bulk section. We are also looking at ways to bring you more bulk produce options!

We do everything we can to be as "green" as possible. We put extra effort in to reduce spoilage throughout the store, reuse everything we can

from shopping bags to scrap pieces of paper to cardboard boxes, compost our produce, turn off lights, separate our plastics, paper, cardboard, and glass — just to name a few habits.

When you shop here it affects us, the employees, directly. The Co-op employs 22 community members. We work to create an understanding that every single task done at the Co-op matters, whether it is crunching numbers or stocking shelves.

SPAC creates and empowers its employees to be leaders in our community. Employees gain a true experience of what it's like to run a small business. The current collective structure has created many new leaders and gives those leaders a unique experience.

The types of products we buy and sell at the Co-op supports a larger community of people. Many of our vendors are community members. You're helping support the community at large when you shop here. Your bag credits, money from our spare change jar, and 1% of our sales on Fridays are donated to different community organizations monthly and you help vote on what those community organizations will be for the year. In addition, if you buy blemished, organic produce from our Scratch n' Dent bin, that money goes directly to different community organizations that work to prevent hunger!

Cooperatives are tiny representations of the democratic process. You can vote and you can represent sections of the community by running for our Board. Joining and actively participating in a food co-op allows your voice to be heard. Thanks for all of your support and contributions, big or small, because all of it truly makes a difference.

-Michelle Nieuwenhuis

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## FEATURED PRODUCTS

We're focusing on products and companies that are Fair Trade Certified! Check out these items and brands you can feel good about purchasing!

**Equal Exchange: Bananas, Avocados, Ginger, Teas, Chocolates & so much more** - Equal Exchange is a repeated brand throughout our Co-op. When Equal Exchange first started in 1986, it was only fairly traded coffee. Now, 30 years later, Equal Exchange has a plethora of fairly traded items available. Keep a look out for their logo around SPAC!



**Aid Through Trade: Roll on Bracelets** - Damian Jones was a Peace Corps volunteer in the late '80s and was inspired by the artisans of Kathmandu Valley. During his time in Nepal, he watched many groups of people in different regions create unique and beautiful jewelry designs but one thing was consistent among them - the women's lives changed dramatically when they had a fair income. This inspired Damian to create Aid Through Trade, a fashion design company with ethics, and introducing to the world for the first time to The Original Roll-On® Bracelet. These bracelets are made out of beautiful glass beads and can be "rolled on" to fit a wide variety of wrists.

### **Alaffia: Assorted Lotions, Soaps & Beauty Products**

Everyone loves a good romance, especially when it creates a company that focuses on fairly traded beauty products. In 1996, a young man from West Africa met a young woman from rural Washington State. They wanted to use their skills to create opportunities for women in Africa to receive fair prices for their work. They started with shea butter. In 2003, Alaffia was created. To this day, Alaffia continues to redefine the natural products industry with its values of equality and empowerment.

### **African Market Baskets: Sunhats & Baskets**

- This company has been importing baskets from Ghana for 35 years and helps support over 5,000 weavers and their families. The purchase of these baskets helps bring much needed income to the villages surrounding Bolgatanga. From generation to generation, this skill is handed down and provides employment to approximately 10,000 people, mostly women. A single woman can make an average of two baskets per week in addition to household chores, firewood and water collection, and caring of children. These baskets have become a Co-op staple and we look forward to continuing to help the women of Ghana.



### **Good Paper: Greeting Cards**

- The mission at Good Paper is to restore the human spirit, the humanity and beauty within each of us that gets so easily forgotten and tossed aside. They believe that a card can be more than just ink on paper; they believe that a card can change a life. The cardmakers at Good Paper are women who have escaped sex trafficking in the Philippines and young adults who have been orphaned by disease in Rwanda. So yes, cards can change the world.

## COUPONS

The Coupons Have Moved!

When the Co-op transitioned to curbside ordering only, the collective managers thought it would be best to put the SPAC coupons on hold to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. After much discussion, we're proud to reintroduce our coupons, but this time they're a little bit different.

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Before, members would find their coupons in this section of the newsletter, now you get your coupons emailed to you along with weekly new products. Don't have an email? Don't worry about it! We also have our coupons posted every Thursday on our Member Engagement bulletin board right next to the weekly meeting agendas. Are you not receiving our emails? Email communications@spacoop.com with your full name and email address and we will make sure to add you to our mailing list!

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Frank Pisarski, Jr. ~ Frank Pisarski, Sr. ~ David Pisarski

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**Have a suggestion? Have an idea? Feel free to email one of our board members with your thoughts!**

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