SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CO-OP EDUCATION
Numbers Circle Update 2

CO-OP EDUCATION
Communications Circle Update 3

CO-OP EDUCATION
We the People Circle Update 4

CO-OP EDUCATION
Physical Circle Update 5

CO-OP EDUCATION
Movement Circle Update 6

CO-OP GOODNESS
Harvest Days 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/4 Reduced Hours 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

9/26 Board of Directors Meeting 5:30 PM

CONTACT US

715-341-1555
info@spacoop.com
www.spacoop.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

This summer has flown by and the fall harvest will soon be upon us. I Wanted to introduce my-self as the new chair of the Co-op. I'm Troy Kuehn, local farmer/owner of Maple Bee Acres, LLC. My family and I raise pastured organic livestock, eggs and produce. I am in in my second year of serving on the board. I have learned so much from this wonderful experience and continue to do so.

Learning about how the Co-op operates with its very unique structure has been very intriguing to me. But more importantly seeing how the Co-op interacts with the community by supporting local farmers and makers while serving you as members with a place to find local, fresh and healthy products has been awesome to experience from the internal and external aspect of my life's journey. I will continue to be an advocate to ensure that the Co-op will continue to grow and prosper, serve the community and continue the selection of wonderful products for our members.

The Co-op would like to thank you for your membership and support. We are looking forward to serving the community for many years to come!

-Troy Kuehn

the Stevens Point Area CO-OP est 1972

50 years of local whole foods

NUMBERS CIRCLE UPDATE

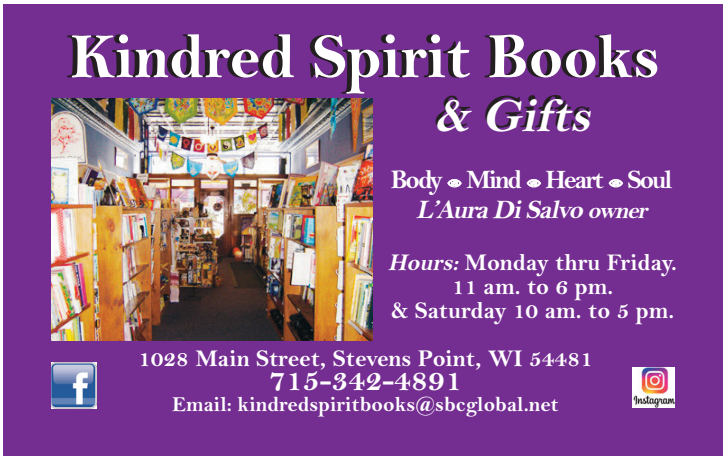
It's midway through the year and Numbers has been enjoying the quiet. We're well into our 2023 budget and not yet ready to start working on 2024's, and our short monthly meetings are mostly uneventful. We spend our time reviewing the budget, comparing it to the actuals, refining our cash controls, sharing our opinions & suggestions with the board of directors and working on our portion of SPAC's 2023 goals.

Since 2017 SPAC's management has been collaboratively creating annual goals that are shared with and approved by the board of directors. We aren't always successful in achieving all of the goals we dream up, but it helps with our focus, keeps us working together, and always results in forward progress.

For 2023, Numbers' overarching goal is to improve financial management and literacy of all of our staff and board members. To accomplish this we broke this large, general goal down into multiple, smaller goals.

The first smaller goal is to increase awareness of what the Numbers management circle members do. Our strategies have been to document task & job redundancy, update our job descriptions & update our monthly task list. While working on these, we've found the documentation to be helpful for new Numbers members as they take on tasks.

Our second goal is to increase the presence of our buyers at the monthly Numbers meetings. We've been working on this goal by communicating budget concerns between the two circles and inviting buyers to attend meetings when sales budgets are not meeting expectations. Additionally, we find bringing non-Numbers staff into our conversations helps bring awareness of the relationship between individual departments, sales, circles and the overall financial health of the Co-op.



Our last mini goal is to identify & implement new performance metrics for sales departments. This pre-Covid project had been put on pause while we worked on SPAC's success through the pandemic. Now, feeling a little less panicky it's time to pick this task back up. We intend to accomplish this goal by cleaning up our point of sale system to ensure our product categories are accurate. Once we're confident in the accuracy of our categorizations we can begin to identify areas of the store that overperform or areas that need improvement in greater detail than by general departments alone.

We look forward to updating you all next Spring with our progress with these goals, as well as share what goals we come up with for 2024!

-Jessica Lawson

COMMUNICATIONS CIRCLE UPDATE

The Communications circle is responsible for external and internal communications for the SPA Co-op. We create the newsletters, send promo emails, host our website, create content for social media, and are in charge of outreach and education.

At the beginning of the year, the Communications Circle created out 2023 goals. These will most likely be re-prioritized due to major turnover, but they were created as follows:

1. Increase member engagement.
2. Improve online presence
3. Improve coordination of internal communication

Aside from the creation of our goals, Comm discussed tweaking our membership structure, defining roles and responsibilities within the circle, and opening our second property as a rental space for meetings, small events, etc.

Early in spring, the circle began delegating tasks to get a jump-start on our goals, and discussed the potential for updating our outdoor signage. We started prep for our return to tabling at the Energy Fair. MREA reached out asking if we'd sponsor a documentary screening in exchange for waiving a booth fee and we were happy to oblige. We initiated bringing back monthly giveaways to address our goal of increased member engagement. Comm started planning the General Membership Meeting in early March.

Artha Yoga

9812 Cty. Rd. K, Amherst

New Class Schedule!

Classes at the Artha Gazebo

Tuesdays - 9:15 a.m.

Thursdays - 5:30 p.m.

Class at Splash Fitness in Waupaca

Wednesday - 5:15 p.m.

Online Classes

Tuesdays - 5:15 p.m. • Wednesdays - 8:15 a.m.

For more information, email info@arthaonline.com, call 715-281-7799, or visit arthaonline.com.

Late Spring into Summer was an exciting time for the Comm circle! We held a super successful GMM that included catering from Chef C's Munchie Mobile, and samples from Whitefeather Organics, Siren Shrub, and Great Northern Distilling. Our members enjoyed interacting with each other as well as connecting with staff and board members. There were multiple tabling opportunities throughout June and July. Our outreach team tabled at Point Pride, a UWSP doctoral candidate mixer, and spent all Energy Fair Weekend at our booth.

After our busy outreach season, things have been a bit slower for Comm. There are a handful of exiting employees who were quite involved in the circle, and their responsibilities were redistributed at the most recent meeting in August. The goals will continue to be worked on as the new and existing circle members find their groove.

-Jackson Eckendorf

GIMME SHELTER CONSTRUCTION

- Integrated Renewable Energy Systems
- Masonry Heaters
- High Performance Homes
- Design and Consult

www.gimmeshelteronline.com

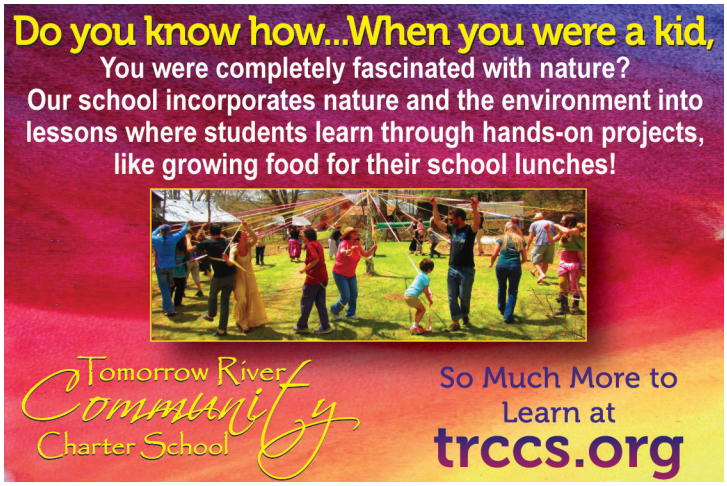
715-824-7200 Amherst, WI

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

Logan Brice - loganb@spacoop.com
Trevor Roark - trevorr@spacoop.com
Deandra Dewalt - deandrad@spacoop.com
Andrea Olson - andreao@spacoop.com
John Pearson - johnp@spacoop.com
Jackson Eckendorf - jacksone@spacoop.com
Michelle Nieuwenhuis - michellen@spacoop.com
Jessica Lawson - jessical@spacoop.com
Troy Kuehn - troyk@spacoop.com
Hallye Web - hallyew@spacoop.com

WE THE PEOPLE CIRCLE UPDATE

For those of you that don't know, We the People (WtP) is considered the Human Resources circle of the Stevens Point Area Co-op. Members in this circle are involved with policy creation, streamlining the hiring and training process, handling staff complaints, as well as staff enrichment. Anyone employed at the Co-op is able to participate and join the circle and we encourage community members to join in as well. It's been a busy year for the We the People Circle.



WtP has spent much of this year so far trying to focus on staff enrichment. The most exciting addition we've made is offering our employees healthcare through Aflac. Employees at SPAC are now able to enroll in different types of preventative health care such as cancer screenings, dental care, and vision care for a discounted price. This was huge for the Stevens Point Area Co-op and We the People are so happy to have facilitated this change for our staff members.

Before Covid in 2020, SPAC used to celebrate staff birthdays by holding employee lunches on the 2nd floor of the building. These lunches were generally catered in, but sometimes would be cooked by our party coordinator. Ask any of the senior staff and they'll tell you how much fun these lunches were and what a morale booster they were! By writing a couple proposals and finding a new party coordinator, WtP has decided to bring back our staff birthday lunches! Every quarter, our party coordinator will put together a lunch to celebrate our employees birthdays.

Another aspect of staff enrichment We the People has been working on is staff training. Earlier in the year, a police officer from Stevens Point led a discussion about active shooter safety training and last month our staff attended an American Sign Language (ASL) workshop. We the People is always keeping their eyes peeled for any other beneficial staff trainings that our city has to offer and we'd love to hear your suggestions!

Additionally, We the People has welcomed our new vice chairperson, Hallye Webb, into the circle! We look forward to working with Hallye in the future. If you have Human Resources experience or you're simply interested in joining the We the People Circle, the circle meets the 1st Thursday of every month from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. We'd love to have you!

-Michelle Nieuwenhuis

PHYSICAL CIRCLE UPDATE

Here's some of what the Physical Circle has been up to since the Spring GMM:

The required re-doing of structural work on the front of our rental house next door has been completed!

Remaining exterior work is underway and will be completed by October first of this year!

Landscaping has begun and we plan to continue greening it up next season!

The rusty ol' rain gutter, which had conveniently started to leak and drip where people walk has been replaced by a seamless aluminum upgrade. No more giant icicles and slippery loading dock ramp!

Our ongoing effort to improve energy efficiency where possible, continues; from the new high efficiency HVAC system installed this year to reducing "phantom" electrical loads, we are working to shrink our footprint.

We've done some basement plumbing updates and upgrades including the addition of a much-needed utility sink.

We got some LOVE! SPAC was selected for "Labor of Love", a volunteer organization made up of new UWSP students getting out in the community and we received some generous volunteer work in and around the store and property, Way to go Pointers!

And finally, a hearty thank you goes out to all that use our "Little Free Pantry"! The steady volume and variety of donations is always surprising and has helped many people in the two years since it was built. It has only been hit once by a delivery truck, but was unharmed and back up in less than a day! "Need a little? Take a little. Got a little? Leave a little."

-John Pearson

We'd like to thank our kind friends at Pisarski Funeral Home for being thoughtful, generous neighbors for many years!

Pisarski Funeral Homes & Cremation Center

Website: www.pisarskifuneralhome.com
Email: pdfh703@charter.net

703 Second Street ~ Stevens Point ~ 715-341-4595
2911 Plover Road ~ Plover ~ 715-344-7454

David Pisarski ~ Frank Pisarski, Jr.

cinnamon roll~breads~pastries~cookies~muffins~wheat-free options

EARTH-CRUST BAKERY Est. 1976

THE BEST LITTLE BAKERY IN TOWN!

m-f 9am to 2pm

(715) 341-4155

solar powered

633 2nd Street Stevens Point, WI

MOVEMENT CIRCLE UPDATE

The Movement Circle focuses on the movement of products in and out of the store. The members of the Movement Circle are the buyers who bring in your favorite products, complete your special orders, and do their best to provide you with products that meet our high standards. The movement circle is an off-shoot of the Numbers circle, so while movement is not its own management circle, it is still an imperative part of the Stevens Point Area Co-op.

THE CO-OP'S CO-TO-GO COOLER IS FULL OF DELICIOUS GRAB & GO MEALS

We've been working hard on highlighting the local products on our shelves. If you receive our emails, you'll notice that we've been stepping up our promotional efforts and making sure we include local products in our emails. Additionally, keep your eyes peeled for new "local product" signage around the store as we hammer out the details of what we want our tags to look like. We want shopping local to be easy and it's one of Movement's goals to make it easier for our members to identify which products are Wisconsin-made.

Additionally, the Movement circle has made running reports with our point of sale system a priority. By running reports, we're able to see what products our customers like the best and what products may not be right for SPAC. A large part of this has been updating our product categories. With our product categories updated, buyers are able to to see what types of products work best in our store. As always, our ears are always open to product suggestions so be sure to let your cashier know what YOU want to see on the shelves.

Do you have a product suggestion or want to join the Movement circle? The Movement circle meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM!

-Michelle Nieuwenhuis

HARVEST DAYS

Get ready for one of the most exciting times at the Co-op: Harvest Days! For the whole month of October, we are giving you 10% off all bulk items in the store. This includes bulk herbs and spices, coffee, and tea. Use the opportunity to try something new or stock up before we get stuck inside for the half year white-out we call Winter. We have everything from unpasteurized almonds to freeze dried mushrooms, allspice to yarrow root, light to dark roast coffee, maple syrup to honey, and everything in between. Well, not everything, but we have one of the largest bulk selections you'll find in Central Wisconsin. As always, we encourage you to bring in your own bulk containers to get the $.05 credit to take off your final total or donate to our 1% Friday organization for October, The Portage County Breastfeeding Coalition.

Here's something even more exciting: We're still giving a discount on our Bulk Pantry Essentials program! That means that we'll be doing discounts on discounts on discounts on your favorite Bulk necessities

Fall is an exciting time at the Co-op, and Harvest Days is only one of many reasons. Our Produce cooler is going to be bursting at the seams with the local harvest, we'll be congregating as a cooperative for our Fall General Membership Meeting, and we're going to continue to do our best to serve you as your Co-op staff members. See you in the aisles!

-Michelle Nieuwenhuis

THE STEVENS POINT AREA CO-OP
633 Second Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESORTED STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STEVENS POINT, WI
PERMIT NO. 51

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN PEARSON • ANDREA OLSON
LOGAN BRICE • TREVOR ROARK
TROY KUEHN • MICHELLE NIEUWENHUIS
JESSICA LAWSON • DEANDRA DEWALT
JACKSON ECKENDORF • HALLYE WEBB

the Stevens Point Area CO-OP est 1972
50 years of local whole foods

NEWSLETTER TEAM

MANAGING EDITOR:
MICHELLE NIEUWENHUIS

DESIGN & PHOTO:
NICHOLAS RICHARDS

EDITOR:
NICHOLAS RICHARDS

PRINTING:
DOLCE IMAGING

CONTRIBUTORS

MICHELLE NIEUWENHUIS • JESSICA LAWSON
JACKSON ECKENDORF • TROY KUEHN
JOHN PEARSON

@SPACOOP