

Oshkosh Food Co-op

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NEED TO KNOW NEWS: Here's what's going on with the Co-op!

1. **Our Co-op has grown over to a total of 355 members.** Which means if every member recruited ONE person we'd be on our way to securing a location.

2. We mailed you your Member Card!

Your Member Card is proof that you've taken concrete action to strengthen Oshkosh's food systems. Don't forget – many Co-ops practice reciprocity, which means you can qualify for Member deals at other Co-ops in Stevens Point, Madison, and beyond!



3. Planning **more Meet and Greets!** Our Bare Bones Member Monday Meet & Greet was such a success, we've decided to do more! Stay tuned for more details on events where you can come get updates on the Co-op's progress, become a Member, meet other Members, and build Co-op community!

4. **Board Retreat happening in January!** Your board takes this project seriously and we dedicate time to ensure our plans keep us moving forward – we'll be holding our Annual Retreat from 10-3 on January 29th.

5. Love my Credit Union news – while we didn't win a prize, **our Co-op garnered over 7700 votes in support!** During our voting campaign, new people found out about the Co-op, shared information about us, and our visibility increased! And bonus – **Verve, A Credit Union, generously shared the video** with us for future use to help us tell our story beautifully and recruit more members!

Upcoming 2017 Board Meetings

February 1

OFC Board Meeting [7:30-9:30]
Location: 817 Waugoo Ave, Oshkosh

February 15

OFC Board Meeting [7:30-9:30]
Location: 817 Waugoo Ave, Oshkosh

March 1

OFC Board Meeting [7:30-9:30]
Location: 817 Waugoo Ave, Oshkosh

One Thing To Do to support your Co-op!

Share your Membership Card Selfie on Facebook!



Post them on the Oshkosh Food Co-op Facebook page and tag them with #OshkoshFoodCoop and #MemberSelfie to be entered into a drawing!

Building community while we build the store

You can be involved in long or short term volunteer opportunities to help us get the store opened – here are a number of Member-Owners who work at the Winnebago County Health Department who used their lunch break to help us stuff envelopes and mail Membership Cards!



What has your board been working on this month?

1. We **continue the Pro Forma process** – this comprehensive financial process puts our working plans for the Co-op into spreadsheet form, which in turns helps us for planning, decision-making, and will create a solid foundation when we need to meet with lenders and financial institutions for loans and capital for our project. We continue conversations with Pro Forma expert, Bill Gessner, from CDS Consulting.

2. We have been **matched with People's Co-op in La Crosse as our Mentor Co-op!** This is exciting news as it means we have another source of Co-op expertise at our fingertips! Their General Manager, Liz, will be a great resource – we're excited!



3. We had a number of **presentations and tabling** events to different interested groups – Farmers Market, Oshkosh Master Gardeners Club, and more!

4. We continue to participate in our **bi-monthly Co-operative planning calls** to network with other Co-ops – the next call is happening on February 13th from 3-4PM. On our last call, January 9th, we discussed technology needs of Co-operatives and how we can best manage and organize the data we need to be successful!

5. We have **2 board meetings** in January and two more planned for February – these regular meetings ensure we keep moving forward. If you are interested to see what happens at a board meeting, they are open to all Members. Stay for as long or little as you like.



A huge thank you to our volunteers! We know people's time is valuable and our board and volunteers have donated a very valuable service in support of the OFC – to the tune of over \$27,000 in volunteer hours in 2016. We thank you!

On behalf of the OFC Board,
Kelly Matthews, OFC President

In the Community

Winter Farmers Market

We are going to be at the Winter Market the 2nd Saturday of each month. Come see us at Merrill Middle School at 108 West New York Avenue, in Oshkosh.

Find us there February 11th and March 11th – we'd love to see you! Did you know you can sign up to be a Member-Owner at our table at the Farmers Market?

If you bring your checkbook, you can fill out a brochure, leave a check, and leave the Market an Owner of the Co-op!

If credit cards are more your speed, you can access our payment plan (\$11/month or pay in full via our website).

Wear your Co-op t-shirt to the Market (and other places) with pride!