WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE AN EFFECTIVE DIRECTOR?

Cooperative Network and the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives have formatted the winter 2018 Co-op Directors Forum based on director input! This education forum will focus on cooperative equity management, communicating financial strategy, and challenges with a changing membership. An optional pre-session: “Cooperative Directors 101,” will be offered at no additional cost. New and veteran directors from co-ops of all types and sectors are encouraged to attend this interactive forum.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. **Cooperative Directors 101**

Designed for new directors, this session provides a basic overview of cooperative board responsibilities, board structure, director roles, and governance best practices. This pre-session is optional for those attending the winter 2018 Co-op Directors Forum.

**Courtney Berner**, Executive Director, UW Center for Cooperatives

9:30 a.m. **Registration**

9:45 a.m. **Cooperative Equity Management**

Due to their unique structure, cooperatives face unique challenges in managing their equity structure. In this session, we will discuss strategies for cooperative directors to actively manage their equity structure, including: the importance of equity policy; the 3 “legs” of capital management; how income taxes play a role in equity management; patronage refund options and how they affect equity management; and equity redemptions.

**Jeff Brandenburg**, CPA, Managing Principal Agribusiness and Cooperatives, CliftonLarsonAllen

**Michael Lensmire**, CPA, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen

10:45 a.m. **Break**

11 a.m. **Communicating Financial Strategy to Membership**

Cooperative performance is strongly influenced by the activity and dedication of the membership. As elected leaders responsible for safeguarding assets and making sound financial decisions to ensure the co-op’s success, co-op directors often have to make difficult decisions that impact the membership. In this session, we will discuss the importance of member education and strategies for communicating the co-op’s financial direction.

**Jennifer Byl**, CROPP Director of Dairy Accounting, CROPP/Organic Valley

12:15 p.m. **Lunch (included with registration)**

1:00 p.m. **Thriving with a Changing Membership**

In this session, co-op leaders look at changes in their cooperative sectors, discuss strategies to foster a cooperative culture that is inclusive to founders and new members, and how to demonstrate value to a diverse membership.

**Pete Kondrup**, General Manager, Westby Creamery Cooperative

2:15 p.m. **Q&A and Adjourn**

PRESENTED BY

**Co-op Directors Forum**

Organic Valley, Cashton, Wis. | Dec. 12, 2018

REGISTRATION

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<tr>
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<th>By Nov. 28</th>
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<td>All Attendees</td>
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Register online

LOCATION

Organic Valley
509 Organic Drive
Cashton, WI 54619

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Special thanks to:

**Organic Valley**

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For more information, visit www.cooperativenetwork.coop and www.uwex.umn.edu/centers/cooperatives