

Co-op Directors Forum

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

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 an overview on cooperative board responsibilities, board structure, director roles, and 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 a range of equity management challenges. This session will help cooperative directors to better understand and manage their cooperative's equity challenges. Topics will include 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 patronage of members. As elected leaders, cooperative directors are responsible for safeguarding the co-op's assets and making sound financial decisions to ensure the co-op's success. This often means making difficult decisions that impact the membership such as investing in equipment over distributing patronage. In this session, we will discuss the importance of member education and strategies for communicating the co-op's financial strategy.
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



REGISTRATION

	By Nov. 28	After Nov. 28
All Attendees	\$125	\$150

[Register online](#)

LOCATION

Organic Valley
509 Organic Drive
Cashton, WI 54619

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Daniel Smith, President & CEO
Cooperative Network
daniel.smith@cooperativenetwork.coop
Phone: (608) 258-4413

Courtney Berner, Executive Director
UW Center for Cooperatives
cberner@wisc.edu
Phone: (608) 890-0966

Special thanks to:

