

# SUMMER 2015 E-NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the California Center for Cooperative Development's Summer 2015 e-newsletter. Be sure to [sign up](#) for our periodic newsletters to get updates about current projects, news from the cooperative world and upcoming events! Click on the links below to go directly to an article of interest, or read all articles by scrolling the page.

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## Celebrate Cooperatives on International Day of Cooperatives



July 4, 2015 is not only USA Independence Day, it is also the United Nations' International Day of Cooperatives (an annual event on the first Saturday of July). The international event is held to increase awareness of cooperatives and promote the movement's successes, as well as ideals of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace. This year the theme is equality, an important component of Cooperative Principle #2 (democratic member control) and #3 (member economic participation).

According to the International Cooperative Alliance, inequality affects not only perceptions of self-worth but also has profound effects on the economy, infrastructure, safety, and democracy. Cooperative businesses address these social and economic concerns by having open and voluntary membership, democratic control (one member one vote), and providing equal access to the benefits. "Choose co-operative, choose equality" is the slogan for this year's event, highlighting that equality is inherent within cooperatives.

Cooperatives build stronger communities, create jobs and opportunities for the benefit of their members. Across California the cooperative business model is used to address economic and social needs of communities, and the International Day of Cooperatives is a day to celebrate the role cooperatives play in reducing inequality.

In celebration of the International Day of Cooperatives, the California Center for Cooperative Development invites us all to promote how co-ops build a better world. For ways your cooperative can celebrate, visit [ICA's event page](#).

## Co-op Day at the Capitol Highlights Contributions of Cooperative Businesses

*Looking forward to cooperative growth*

While city initiatives in New York and Wisconsin over the last year have dedicated funds to cooperative development, bills in California seeking legislative changes to foster co-op friendly regulations have met mixed results. Outreach and education around the cooperative business model are a crucial step towards regulatory changes to help grow the cooperative movement.



In 2015, [Co-op Day at the Capitol](#) was a huge success. On May 18, The Artery, Davis Food Cooperative, Golden State Power Cooperative, and USDA Rural Development joined CCCD on the North Side of the California Capitol Building to promote cooperatives. Sacramento Natural Foods provided co-op reusable bags and information to hand out at the event. Many people visiting the Capitol on Monday stopped by for information, and it was fantastic to see green co-op bags that day! CCCD would like to extend a sincere thank you to participating co-ops for your time and enthusiasm – it was a great event!



The timing of this year's event coincided with an important piece of cooperative legislation: AB 816, referred to as the 'Worker Cooperative Bill.' The bill, which passed Assembly in May and has moved on to the Senate, is aimed at supporting existing worker cooperatives and promoting the establishment of new worker cooperatives. CCCD and other participants met with legislators during Co-op Day at the Capitol to increase co-op awareness and promote this bill. In taking the time to meet with legislators about cooperative legislation, the event not only educates elected officials on the cooperative business model but also highlights the support and impact it has on

California communities.

Co-op Day at the California Capitol is an important annual event organized by CCCD to promote awareness and understanding of cooperatives, as well as showcase their local and national impacts. In bringing together cooperators from various sectors at the California Capitol building, Co-op Day at the Capitol exhibits cooperation among cooperatives (Co-op Principle #6),

provides education about cooperative businesses, and shows California's elected officials the support and important contributions they make towards a thriving California economy.

In looking to the future, CCCD would like to expand and improve on this event to increase participation and awareness of the cooperative difference. In addition to tabling at the Capitol, participating co-ops and guests are encouraged to make appointments with their legislators to provide education on the cooperative business model.

Are you interested in helping to grow the cooperative movement and this vital event? CCCD intends to establish a committee of dedicated cooperators to aid in the outreach and execution of the event to help build on the momentum from the 2015 event. If you are interested in potentially serving on the committee, or have general feedback and suggestions, please email [coops@ccd.coop](mailto:coops@ccd.coop).

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## California Co-op Conference Celebrates Another Successful Year

The [California Co-op Conference](#) held at the historic Sierra2 Center in Sacramento was a great success, bringing together almost 130 cooperators from across California and even a few from out of state! The conference proved to be a valuable event for attendees to network, share information and learn about how to start and strengthen cooperative businesses and organizations.



The conference began with a keynote address by Jessica Gordon Nembhard, author of *Collective Courage: A History of African American Economic Thought and Practice*. Dr. Nembhard shared the important role of cooperative membership for African Americans in overcoming economic and other obstacles.





During the two day conference, twenty six concurrent workshops provided opportunities for learning about the business model and how co-ops benefit members and build stronger communities. Some feedback from conference evaluations include “Amazing informative & inspiring [...] So proud to be a part of the cooperative movement,” “excellent, substantive content,” “Thank you for the thought provoking and stimulating conference,” and “good information, right presentations.” CCCD is thrilled to receive positive feedback about the conference and that the workshops were of value to growing your cooperative businesses! Thank

you everyone for attending and making this conference the best one yet!

CCCD hopes you will continue the momentum in your communities and will join the conference next spring. Conference pre-planning for next year’s conference is underway! Interested in being involved in the 2016 conference? Expect a call for workshops in November, and contact us if you are interested in participating in the organizing committee at [coops@cccd.coop](mailto:coops@cccd.coop).



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