



May Board Meeting Recap — submitted by James Kloor

California Center for Cooperative Development 2018 Conference

In late April, Board Secretary Leah Stamper, Board President Colin Fiske, and I attended the 2018 California Co-op Conference. With more than 100 attendees the conference was brimming with great sources of information. We put some names to faces, and even ran into Restif Cleaning Services, a worker-owned co-op you'll probably recognize, as they are a Humboldt County business. Co-ops are amazing creatures, and the board is excited to bring back our learnings and share them with you. First up: a rethinking of our current board meetings. We're hoping to cut down the meeting times to allow more time for member participation and discussion amongst the board on challenging topics. Please come and engage with us while we try out this new structure!

Racial Equity Statement – Next Steps

In July 2017, the Co-op stated its commitment to racial equity work when the board approved a [Racial Equity Statement](#). This was a great first step to address racialized inequities, but it was only the first step. At our May meeting the board approved moving forward with a proposal from Stepping Stone Diversity Consulting that will support organizational growth and change, including a plan for conducting a baseline assessment using quantitative and qualitative tools with specific steps and a timeline for implementing them, as well as a strategy for transforming the findings of the baseline assessment into actionable steps. While the specific focus and priorities of the strategic racial equity plan will stem from feedback collected through the baseline assessment, we can use best practices and research from the field to anticipate some areas that may need attention, and outline the steps required for implementation. This is our second step into addressing systemic practices that reach much further than just groceries, and again re-emphasizes how amazing co-ops are. Stay tuned-I look forward to sharing with you the findings and future action steps. And if you want to be involved, please let us know.

National Bike Challenge

Did you know that May is National Bike Month? With the beautiful weather that has been gracing our lovely community I encourage you to get out and ride your bike. There are some great biking trails available in our region. If you haven't had a chance to check out the Humboldt Bay Trail, I'd highly recommend you gear up, snap on your helmet, and pedal your way along the coastal trail, sighting shore birds, cresting waves, and smiling faces.

Future Meetings & Committees

As always, please join us for one of our committee meetings or come to the board meeting every first Thursday of the month at 6pm at the Ten Pin Building at 793 K Street in Arcata. Meeting agendas are posted one week in advance of meetings and can be found on the Co-op website at www.northcoast.coop and in the stores. We'd love to see you there, and hear your thoughts regarding our Co-op.