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NASCO's History

In the Spring of 1968, students from campuses across North America ignored more tropical climates and traveled to Ann Arbor for their Spring Break to talk about campus cooperatives and to consider the establishment of an organization which would promote the development and expansion of cooperatives on North American campuses. The Conference created an enthusiastic response to the prospects of an organization which could work with and on behalf of student cooperatives across the continent.

NASCO's early years were given a boost by grants from the Jack Kaplan Foundation and from the Cooperative Foundation. However, to keep NASCO afloat during lean times, the Board imposed on itself a 1% income tax. Throughout the period, NASCO sponsored a series of conferences in the United States and Canada, and published a newsletter using volunteer and part-time staff.

In 1971, NASCO hired its first full-time staff member. The newsletter eventually evolved into a magazine called the Journal of the New Harbinger, which later became Co-op Magazine. Co-op Magazine was published until operating losses forced NASCO to discontinue publication in 1981. The regional conferences gave way to the annual Cooperative Education & Training Institute, begun in 1977. Since then, the NASCO Institute has trained thousands of cooperators. The Institute is today the cornerstone of NASCO's training programs.

In 1982, NASCO re-oriented itself toward cooperatives serving primarily students. Special programs were developed to help transfer student cooperative leadership to other sectors, serving both to benefit the broader cooperative movement and NASCO's campus co-op constituency. NASCO's publications program and the Institute have continued to serve all types of cooperatives.

In 1987, NASCO adopted a new business plan which called for initiatives in the areas of member recruitment, member services, career development, cooperative development, and co-op movement outreach. As part of that business plan, the Campus Cooperative Development Corporation was established to focus efforts aimed at developing campus housing cooperatives. NASCO has also incorporated NASCO Properties, a subsidiary with which to own property and help new cooperatives get started.

NASCO's Vision

To achieve a socially and financially responsible North American cooperative sector for all people and organizations interested in applying the principles and practices of cooperation.

Now in its twenty-ninth year, the North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO) is a non-profit, tax-exempt cooperative resource organization dedicated to the expansion and improvement of the North American cooperative community. NASCO works to realize its vision through its work with campus-based cooperatives by providing educational programs, consulting and technical assistance, and development services. In addition, NASCO works with other cooperative sectors and the general public to promote the principles and practices of economic democracy through cooperation.

NASCO President's Letter

Howdy Co-ops! If I could have a few minutes of your time, I'd like to tell you about the state of NASCO and the direction we are heading. NASCO is currently in the first year of its five year strategic plan. This plan has been in the works for the last couple of years and has just recently been reviewed and adopted by the NASCO board of directors. The NASCO board and staff is dedicated to this newly adopted strategic plan and the basic initiatives it promotes:

* Keeping Membership Relevant includes increasing the quality of NASCO services and reaching out to groups not under the NASCO umbrella.

* Democracy and Participation is geared towards the development of palpable structures for member control and involvement in NASCO to justify membership as an investment in a movement of cooperatives.

* Regionalization proposes regional staffing and administrative structures to better direct NASCO's programs and services to geographical concentrations of co-ops. It also proposes to develop forums for communications among members of those cooperatives to co-ordinate NASCO's services in a particular region.

* Innovation aims re-establish NASCO as the focus point for new ideas on how to engage the cooperative mission of social responsibility. Another goal of innovation is to have NASCO learn how to better serve various types of cooperatives.

* Public Education attempts to broaden NASCO's connections to communities which support the development of cooperative alternatives in campus communities, specifically the cooperative movement, progressive student organizations, and university policy communities.

* Partnerships and Coalition-Building proposes to selectively develop NASCO's working relationship with organizations that directly support the creation and expansion of economic and educational alternatives in campus communities. The focus will be on developing and administering shared programs, identifying areas of joint research, or collaborative advocacy.

The NASCO board and staff are excited about the challenges ahead of us. The board is currently researching the subject of diversity in community living in preparation for the winter board meeting. We have entitled this board meeting "Diving into Diversity" and our goal is to create a diversity action plan that pertains to, and helps guide, cooperatives in the area of diversity.

As always, the staff is hard at work preparing for member visits, institute, and general NASCO programs. They are also occupied with the opening of the NASCO Canada office which should happen early next year and training two new employees. We are happy to have two new staff members on board: Megan Case, from Qumbya co-op in Chicago, as our new NASCO Properties General Manager, and Eric Guetschoff our new West Coast Co-op Developer.

Please note that there will be positions open for the NASCO board of directors in late spring. All it takes is a desire to see the cooperative movement grow and a belief using NASCO as a tool to do so.

Thank you for your time,

Tyra Robertson
NASCO President



North American Students of Cooperation

BALANCE SHEET June 30, 1997

	June 30	
	1997	1996
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	5,137	28,526
Imprest Accounts	2,716	680
Accounts Receivable	8,827	8,212
Inventory	2,259	1,861
Prepaid Expenses	210	0
Total Current Assets	19,149	39,278
FIXED ASSETS, less accum. depreciation	1,687	3,513
TOTAL ASSETS	20,836	42,791

Liabilities & Net Assets

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	1,997	5,948
Accrued/Withheld Payroll & Sales Tax	14	0
Current Maturities of Long Term Debt	0	1,227
Deferred Income	0	10,000
Total Current Liabilities	2,011	17,174
 LONG TERM DEBT, less current maturities	 0	 0
 NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	14,824	21,617
Scholarship Fund	4,000	4,000
Total Net Assets	18,824	25,617
 TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	 20,836	 42,791

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

	June 30	
	1997	1996
NET ASSETS, start of year	25,617	6,871
Net Income, Current Year	1,671	18,746
Other Changes in Net Assets	(8,090)	0
NET ASSETS, end of year	19,198	25,617

* Note: Change in net assets reflects a (\$8090)
allocation of retained earnings to the Cooperative
Development Foundation for the Kagawa Fund.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

June 30, 1997

REVENUE	June 30	
	1997	1996
NASCO Institute	36,468	37,770
Manager's Retreat	4,832	6,240
Publications	2,078	1,562
Career Development	465	275
Alumni Project	0	390
	43,737	49,072
Membership Fees	62,932	65,730
CCDC Mgmt. Contract	35,253	38,571
NP Management Contract	26,235	17,315
SBSHC Mgmt. Contract	14,345	14,289
Financial Svcs Income	0	0
Insurance Settlement	0	0
Other		174
	143,021	136,079
INTEREST	320	31
GRANTS & CONTR.	10	4,045
TOTAL REVENUE	187,176	186,392
EXPENSES		
NASCO Institute	(22,114)	(19,056)
Publications	(1,801)	(2,201)
Career Development	(745)	(308)
Alumni Project	0	(15)
Member Service	(6,320)	(4,665)
Managers Retreat	(4,641)	(5,801)
	(35,604)	(44,480)
Salaries	(116,964)	(109,063)
Employee Benefits	(9,270)	(9,528)
Professional Fees	0	0
Telephone	(3,679)	(3,410)
Postage	(1,262)	(1,568)
Printing & Office Exp.	(628)	(1,116)
Travel	(5,435)	(1,683)
Insurance	(200)	(200)
Equipment Rental	(628)	(489)
Dues and Subscriptions	(965)	(643)
Fines	0	0
Supplies	(1,223)	(1,650)
Conferences	(580)	(928)
Interest	(30)	(118)
Depreciation	(1,826)	(1,092)
Bad Debt	(314)	0
Other	(2,720)	(2,384)
	(149,901)	(135,600)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(185,505)	(167,646)
NET INCOME	1,671	18,746

CCDC President's Letter

Co-op development reaches for the next level! The Kagawa Fund - a loan fund controlled by CCDC to assist with the financing of new development projects - has just received a major tune-up, and the alterations will (hopefully) allow the fund to grow by leaps and bounds. And this will result in a much larger pool of money available to assist with CCDC development projects! Until now, the Fund has slowly grown in size (it currently sits at \$125,000) primarily through donations from generous individuals and organizations in the co-op movement. Almost all of this \$125,000 is currently loaned out to new development projects which have sprung up during the past ten years. Recently, we have reshaped its parameters to allow the fund to receive investment as well as donations. Now, entities who wish to support the concept of financial assistance for new co-op development may provide interest-bearing investments into the fund. CCDC is asking the large, healthy, established co-op systems (you know who you are!) to consider investing a portion of their cash reserves into the Kagawa Fund.

On a sad note, our West Coast developer for the past two years, Ben Phillips, recently decided to end his employment with CCDC. On a happier note, we have hired Eric Guetschoff to fill this position. Eric - a dedicated mover & shaker who is *already* in the Co-op Hall of Fame - was President of NASCO Properties when he was a member of Chavez Co-op in Santa Cruz. During the past year he has served co-op internships with CCDC in the home office of Ann Arbor and with Qumbya Co-op in Chicago. And he's an all-around good guy.

Eric shouldn't spend too much time settling in to his new position, because CCDC has decided to move its west coast office. We're taking the whole operation out of Santa Barbara and setting up shop five hundred miles north, in Berkeley. Eric will be a half-time employee of CCDC and a half-time employee of NASCO. The Santa Barbara Student Housing Co-op (SBSHC) has hired a full-time general manager to replace the half-time support Ben had been providing to the co-op system.

Why is SBSHC now in a position to hire a full-time GM? Because CCDC just developed a new co-op in Santa Barbara, thus providing the operational capacity for the co-op system to employ a full-time staffer! Biko Co-op, a fifteen-person house which opened this fall, is CCDC's most recent success story. It was developed with financial assistance from ICC-Ann Arbor, College Houses, and (probably) Madison Community Cooperative. And the project also received a loan from the Kagawa Fund - the last such loan before Kagawa makes its grand jump to a new, more powerful era.

In Cooperation,

Brian Dahlk
President



CCD C Campus Cooperative Development Corporation

creating student-owned, student-controlled cooperative housing

BALANCE SHEET

	June 30	
	1997	1996
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	5,949	5,985
Accounts Receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts	2,040	4,155
Prepaid Expenses	1,989	0
Total Current Assets	9,978	10,140
FIXED ASSETS , less accumulated depreciation	0	0
	9,978	10,140
Liabilities & Retained Earnings		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	338	0
Accrued Federal Income Tax	409	0
Income designated for future period	2,805	5,633
Total Current Liabilities	3,552	5,633
RETAINED EARNINGS	6,426	4,507
	9,978	10,140

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & RETAINED EARNINGS

	June 30	
	1997	1996
REVENUE		
Contributing Income		
Established Cooperatives	46,211	45,333
New Cooperatives	2,769	2,435
Success Fees		0
Contributions		0
Other	669	1,297
Total Revenue:	49,649	49,266
EXPENSES		
Staff Contract Services	31,942	36,471
Financial Services	2,100	2,100
Risk Costs	3,260	4,221
Administrative Costs	7,598	6,212
Depreciation	0	0
Bad Debts	0	0
Interest Expense	0	0
Misc. Expense	2,261	1,611
Total Expenses:	47,321	50,952
INCOME before Income Tax	2,328	(1,687)
Income taxes	409	0
NET INCOME (LOSS)	1,919	(1,348)
RETAINED EARNINGS, beginning of year	4,507	5,855
RETAINED EARNINGS, end of year	6,426	4,507

NASCO Individual Members & Donors

NASCO wishes to thank the generous support of the following individuals:

Sponsoring Members

Luther & Joan Buchele
John & Sally Cox
Dave Rugg

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St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives
University of Michigan Credit Union
East Lansing Food Co-op
Chico Natural Foods
Co-opportunity Food Co-op
Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada

** NASCO wishes to thank these donors for their generous support of the Institute Low Income Scholarship Fund.*

NASCO Active Members

Brown Association for Cooperative Housing (Providence, RI). 71 members in three houses at Brown University. Two houses are owned and renovated by the members of BACH. The other house is leased from the University and is slated to be demolished in 1998, so members are now searching for more property to replace the spaces that may be lost.

Boulder Housing Coalition (Boulder, CO). 12 members and a bunch of animals occupy one rented house.

Campus Cooperative Residences Inc. (Toronto, Ontario). 320 members in 31 Victorian houses. The co-op began in 1936 and is the oldest continuing housing co-op in Canada.

Chateau & Marcy Park Student Housing Co-op (Minneapolis, MN). 325 members in a mid-rise building. Founded in 1939 as a dining co-op, the current building, built in 1972, houses all members in apartments.

Cleveland Student Association (Cleveland, OH). 21 members in a single house (Steiner House) between the campuses of Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve. Steiner House is the oldest international cooperative in the United States.

College Houses (Austin, TX). 450 resident members in three small dorms, two large rooming houses, and an apartment building. The Co-op began in 1965 as a cooperative "residential college" at the University of Texas, and purchased its first property in that year.

Common Ground Food Co-op (Champaign, IL). Common Ground is a small, local, whole and natural foods store, owned and run by its members to meet their needs and promote a socially just, economically viable and environmentally sustainable food system.

Coop d'habitation étudiante Triangle Rose (Montréal, Québec). 30 members live in an ex-convent purchased in July, 1994. Triangle Rose is NASCO's only officially bilingual cooperative, operating in French and English.

Davis Campus Cooperative (Davis, CA). 56 members in four adjacent group houses. The DCC opened its doors in the Fall of 1988 as the first project of the Campus Cooperative Development Corporation.

Dayfoot Family Co-op (Toronto, Ontario). A mixed c-op of students and families started in 1996 with the assistance of Campus Co-op.

Green Mountain Student Cooperative (Burlington, VT). 22 members in two houses, purchased with the aid of the Burlington Community Land Trust and a CCDC-arranged loan from the Campus Cooperative Development Corporation.

Guelph Campus Cooperative (Guelph, Ontario). Begun in 1913 to sell books and supplies, the Co-op now includes a food division and housing. GCC now counts 150 resident members and 1700 retail members. The Co-op opened the first ever Canadian bookstore competing with a University-owned operation.

Inter-Cooperative Council at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI). Begun in 1932, the ICC now counts 600 members in 20 older houses and a large, HUD-financed building.

Kent Housing Cooperative (Kent, OH). Begun in 1983, the cooperatives at Kent State have 12 members in three houses.

Kresge Co-op (Santa Cruz, CA). A retail co-op selling organic food and produce to students at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Madison Community Cooperative (Madison, WI). 200 members in 8 large houses, MCC is an association of cooperatives which has its roots in the late 1960s. MCC is the most recent student cooperative to be recognized as a charitable, tax-exempt organization by the IRS.

Oberlin Consumers Cooperative (Oberlin, OH). The OCC is a bookstore cooperative serving the college and community of Oberlin. OCC has sales of over \$2 million each year. OCC recently created a charitable foundation for purposes of supporting the community.

Oberlin Student Cooperative Association (Oberlin, OH). 547 members in six housing and dining co-ops leased from Oberlin College and two small residences owned by OSCA. OSCA was founded in 1950.

Peace House/Web House (Bowling Green, OH). Two small houses housing 8 people at Bowling Green State University, the co-ops are home to

Qumbya, Inc. (Chicago, IL). 30 members in two houses owned through NASCO Properties at

the campus of the University of Chicago.

River City Housing Collective (Iowa City, IA). 41 members in three houses. Begun in 1977, RCHC members recently voted to sell one of their houses, the proceeds of which will be used to expand the Collective further.

Santa Barbara Student Housing Corporation (Isla Vista, CA). 40 members in an apartment building and two group houses. This Co-op started in 1976 and now houses NASCO's west coast office.

Santa Cruz Bike Co-op (Santa Cruz, CA). A bicycle repair co-op serving the students at the University of California at Santa Cruz. The co-op was started with assistance of members of Santa Cruz Student Housing.

Santa Cruz Student Housing Cooperative (Santa Cruz, CA). 48 members in two houses purchased through NASCO Properties. Members of the co-op have been active in the community starting retail and worker co-ops.

Student Cooperative Organization (Athens, OH). 8 members live in one house (ACME House), which is a part of the network of NASCO Properties co-ops.

Students' Cooperative Association (Eugene, OR). 81 members in three large houses. Founded in 1935.

Sunflower House (Austin, TX). 10 members live in a beautiful house in south Austin. Sunflower was one of the first co-op houses to receive a loan from the National Cooperative Bank.

University of California San Diego Co-ops (San Diego, CA). A series of student-controlled, worker and consumer-run businesses, including Groundwork Books (a political

collective) and the UCSD Food Co-op.

University Cooperative Housing Project (Tucson, AZ). Also known as Spadefoot Co-op, this is one of the newest NASCO-member co-ops.

University of Connecticut Cooperative Corp. (Storrs, CT, with other branches). The "UCONN Co-op" supplies retail books, school supplies, sportswear, art materials, and other goods. It has approximately 20,000 members.

University of Kansas Student Housing Association (Lawrence, KS). Currently owns Sunflower House, a cooperative of about 30 members. The Co-op is developing working models to assist operations in other small groups.

University of Massachusetts Economic Development Office (Amherst, MA). The EDO, created by the student government, provides support and resources for establishing and maintaining student-controlled businesses.

University Students Cooperative Association (Berkeley, CA). The USCA is the largest campus housing cooperative in North America, housing over 1200 members in 16 co-op apartment complexes and large dormitory/boarder houses.

UT- Inter-Cooperative Council (Austin, TX). Over 150 members in 7 large rooming houses. The ICC began in the 1930's as a social organization, but in 1969 incorporated and began to purchase property.

University of Texas Women's Cooperative (Austin, TX). The Women's Co-ops provide 212 members with housing on the campus of the University of Texas.

Von Cramm Co-op (Ithaca, NY). 33 members in one house at Cornell University.

Waterloo Cooperative Residences, Inc. (Waterloo, Ontario). Over 900 members in dormitory-style and apartment buildings. Waterloo was started in 1964 and constructed most of its buildings with assistance from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Watermargin Co-op (Ithaca, NY). Originally founded as a multi-racial fraternity, Watermargin has continued a strong educational program and socially activist community. Watermargin now operates as an independent cooperative leasing its house from Cornell University.

Whitehall Educational Coop (Austin, TX). 11 members in a 19th century frame house. The Co-op was formed in the early 1950s and is the oldest property-holding housing co-op in Texas.

NASCO's Strategic Plan: A Summary

The 1990s have seen NASCO focus on refining a model of service provision and movement-building. While there is no reason to question the primary directives which have guided NASCO's development over the past 10 years, NASCO's mission of building the student cooperative movement is challenged by a number of factors relating to the sophistication of student co-op models. On top of this, NASCO needs to continue to perform a sort of reality check for its members in order to help student cooperatives define their role as educational and economic innovators in campus communities.

This Strategic Plan, which will guide NASCO's activities through the 5-year period 1997-2002, proposes initiatives which can be grouped under the following broad directions:

- Developing and delivering more relevant and challenging services to NASCO's members as well as to the student cooperative movement as a whole, including anticipating and reaching out to those whose needs have not been met;
- Consolidating and expanding NASCO's mission as the organized voice of the student cooperative movement;
- Re-establish NASCO's status as a player in communities which support the building of economic and educational alternatives in campus communities;

These directions are further elaborated by proposed activities under 6 Strategic Initiatives:

Keeping Membership Relevant looks to increase the quality of NASCO's services and their delivery, and to reach out to groups not currently served under the NASCO umbrella.

Democracy & Participation aims to develop tangible structures for member control and involvement in NASCO to justify membership as an investment in a movement of cooperatives.

Regionalization - looks in two directions. First, it proposes to use regional staffing and administrative structures to better implement NASCO's programs and services to geographical concentrations of cooperatives. Second, it aims to develop forums for communications among members of those cooperatives so as to better co-ordinate NASCO's services in a region.

Innovation aims to re-establish NASCO as the focus point for new ideas about how to engage with the cooperative mission of social responsibility. As well, it proposes to have NASCO learn how to better serve the needs of different cooperative constituencies (namely, large housing co-ops and non-housing cooperatives).

Public Education - increases NASCO's connections to communities of interest which support the building of cooperative alternatives in campus communities, namely the cooperative movement, progressive student organizations, and University policy communities.

Partnerships & Coalition-Building - proposes to selectively develop NASCO's working relationship with organizations that directly support the creation and expansion of economic and educational alternatives in campus communities. The focus will be on developing and administering shared programs, identifying areas for joint *research*, or collaborative advocacy.

Executive Director's Report

This year has been a pivotal year for NASCO and its partner organizations, the Campus Cooperative Development Corporation (CCDC) and NASCO Properties. In February, the NASCO Board brought closure to an 18-month planning process through the adoption of a 5-year Strategic Plan (see above). However, a legislative initiative in California, the completion of a major development project in Santa Barbara, and the expansion of our staffing have helped round out one of the most active years in recent memory.

Cooperative Outreach

As this year's NASCO Institute explores co-ops and educational accessibility, it is appropriate that NASCO has just finished work on a campaign which focused on these same issues. In California, as with many other areas of the continent, rising enrollments and declining public funding for University facilities have increased the need for affordable housing and services to help reduce the costs of post-secondary education. A group of student co-ops there, working with NASCO, argued to law-makers that student co-ops were a logical approach to meeting these needs, and successfully introduced the California Student Cooperative Housing Act, which would provide low-interest financing for student housing co-op projects. While the Act was vetoed by Governor Wilson at the eleventh hour, it received significant bi-partisan support in both the Assembly and the State Senate. The campaign organizers are making plans for the next legislative session, and NASCO and CCDC is hoping to publicize this approach to cooperative development and public education.

Beyond special campaigns such as these, NASCO also represented the interests of student co-ops to the broader cooperative and student movements. Staff and Board members participated in meetings of the United States Student Association, the National Cooperative Business Association, the National Association of Housing Cooperatives, the Democratic Socialists of America, and the Association of Cooperative Educators.

1997 also saw an increase in international campus cooperative activity. For the last three years, NASCO has received a delegation from the National Federation of University Cooperative Associations, NASCO's sister organization in Japan. This year, we are pleased to welcome Yuri Igarashi and Sayaka Fukasawa of NFUCA. We are also currently planning for a series of international events, including a student co-op delegation to the International Cooperative Alliance regional meeting in Mexico City in November, and a meeting of international student co-op organizations in Québec.

Staffing & Administration

Beginning in November, NASCO's West Coast Co-op Developer will focus full-time on cooperative development and member services in the west from a new office in the Bay

area. The purchase of a fourth house for the Santa Barbara Student Housing Co-op and the hiring of their own full-time Executive Director will allow NASCO to wind down its management relationship with the co-op. NASCO is excited to welcome Eric Guetschoff, formerly of the NASCO Board and the Santa Cruz Student Housing Co-op, as the new West Coast Co-op Developer.

We also welcome Megan Lindsay Case as the new NASCO Properties General Manager. Megan is formerly of Qumbya Co-op (a NASCO Properties member cooperative) in Chicago. She is the first alumnus to move on to NP management.

NASCO is also gearing up for the opening of its Canadian office in Toronto this January, and the hiring of a Canadian staff person. The new Canadian Co-op Developer will work on expanding our Internship Network and co-op development activities in central Canada as well as on providing services to NASCO's Canadian members.

Finally, NASCO thanks long-time staff members Ben Phillips and James Canup, both of whom moved on to new challenges at the end of the summer (Ben with Habitat for Humanity in Los Angeles, James with the University of Texas Women's' Co-ops). Good luck!

The 1996 Cooperative Education & Training Institute continued a string of successes for NASCO's most important program. Last year, almost 300 participants from dozens of co-ops across the United States & Canada took part in 40 workshops and caucuses, focused on the theme of "Concern for Community".

Member Services

This year, the NASCO Board has embarked on a restructuring of the Institute to make it more accessible for student co-ops. Early registration fees have been lowered, and delegates to the NASCO Annual General Meeting will have their registration fees waived. We have also continued our commitment to exploring serious themes at Institute as well as learning about co-ops and having fun.

NASCO also continues to be involved in smaller, more focused conferences. Last spring, three regional conferences brought together student co-ops in California, Texas, and the Midwest. In addition, NASCO's Managers' Conference, held in March in Vancouver, offered focused training to student co-op managers and staff. Overall, more than 125 co-ops were able to participate in regional conferences.

One of the major foci of the new Strategic Plan is increasing the quality and availability of NASCO's services to its members. One of the immediate ways to accomplish this is to increase our presence at our member co-ops: NASCO has

now committed to visiting each of its member co-ops at least once a year. We came close to meeting this goal in 1997, as

Career Development

Governance

Cooperative Development

staff and Board members criss-crossed the continent. There are a number of other member services initiatives which we are embarking on:

Training materials.

NASCO is planning to revise and update its training and education to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of campus co-ops. This winter, the NASCO board will consider a Diversity Action Plan, which will include the creation of a comprehensive set of education materials to help co-ops grapple with diversity.

On-line resources.

To increase the availability of our training and educational resources, we have begun a pilot project to integrate our training resources onto our web page to make the more accessible.

Last year, the NASCO Internship Network managed to match 25 qualified student co-op members with short-term and summer jobs with non-profit and cooperative organizations. The network has been growing in recent years, thanks in part to the assistance of the National Cooperative

Business Association and the National Association of Housing Cooperatives. NASCO has also been in discussions with the Canadian Cooperative Association (Ontario Region) about how to develop more internship possibilities among Canadian co-ops.

In June, the NASCO Board enacted a series of measures designed to make the NASCO Annual General Meeting a more vibrant part of the student cooperative community. The Board adopted a set of procedures to make the AGM a more productive meeting, and approved the waiving of Institute registration fees for delegates to make the Annual General Meeting more representative. The next steps are to increase the quality of dialogue at the Annual General Meeting, and for that we have to rely on the energy and ideas of our members.

The Board elections in the spring returned Warren Fincher and Tyra Robertson to the Board for second terms, and elected Brad Karrer (ICC-Ann Arbor) and Jennifer Schneider (USCA) to three year terms.

NASCO's development affiliate, the Campus Cooperative Development Corporation (CCDC), has also spent the last year in a planning process, which it hopes to wrap up at its Board meeting immediately following the NASCO Institute.

One major component of this planning process has focused on availability of financial capital for student cooperative development. To try and make progress on this crucial need, CCDC and the Cooperative Development Foundation in Washington have been carrying out a series of reforms to the Kagawa Fund, a revolving loan fund for student cooperative

development. In late October, the Fund trustees finalized these changes, opening the doors for investments to increase the pool of capital available for loans to cooperative development projects. The first round of investments into the Fund, totaling \$50,000, will be honored at a signing ceremony at the NASCO Institute in November.

Aside from changes to the Kagawa Fund, the biggest project for CCDC this past year has been the purchase of 6612 Sueno (now named Biko House) for the Santa Barbara Student Housing Co-op (SBSHC). The Co-op took occupancy of the building in September, and CCDC co-ordinated the purchase in October, raising over \$90,000 in loans from co-ops and arranging a first mortgage from the National Cooperative Bank. This is a particularly important project for SBSHC, as it gives them the economy of scale to hire their own full-time manager.

There are a number of other projects which are underway. CCDC staff and Board have been assisting Spadefoot Co-op in Tucson, Arizona, as well as organizing groups in St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Ottawa. As well, NASCO and CCDC have been active consulting with existing co-ops in Providence, Iowa City and Lawrence that are interested in expanding.



North American
Students of Cooperation

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