

Western Wisconsin Organizing Co-op Steering Committee Meeting
July 6, 2016
Menomonie Food Co-op, Menomonie, WI

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:10 pm. **Attendance:** Joe Plouff (Chair), Terry Meyer (Vice Chair), Craig Brooks, Myron Buchholz, Steve Hanson, Rev. David Huber, Judith S. Hull, Joan Pougiales, Karli Wallace Thompson, Elaine Wendt, Barbara Wise, Jeff Smith (ex-officio) **Absent:** Paul Miller, Nick Smiar, Kelly Holzer, Caryn Treiber
2. **Presentation by Steve Hanson:** Steve offered a presentation of the WisCommunity website/communications system. Terry offered to set up a small task project using the system for us to get used to using it.
3. **Organizer Update:**
 - a. Living Wage Ordinance progress: Jeff reported that the ordinance was passed through Human Services last week in a 6-2 vote. This Friday (July 8) Human Resources is taking their vote, and we are hoping for a 3-2 vote. Finance Committee is considering re-voting, and we are working to get them to go with their previous vote, so that the ordinance can go to the full board on July 19 (otherwise it will go to August or later, and that's too late because it will miss the budget formation time). Joe suggested that the Communications/Media team help in getting information out about this. Jeff reported that a number of LTTEs have already been written.
 - b. Payday lending comment period - Shark week: we are doing very well in collecting public comment (on the website Jeff sent to us) in support of reining in the payday lenders. Jeff has assigned an intern to work exclusively on this for the next month, with an aggressive social media plan.
 - c. Issue teams:
 - i. Environment:
 - ii. Election Fairness: RAVE (Register And Vote Eau Claire) are working aggressively on registering people. We have about six people on this group.
 - iii. Communication/media and local control: Jeff encouraged this group to get organized quickly, since they are so essential
 - iv. Education/Healthcare: They offered the candidate survey that didn't go over very well. Education is working on vouchers. Jeff and others are working to get some public forums on the voucher issue.
 - v. New possibility? Economic Fairness: Much of what we do is related to economic fairness, and Jeff would like to create a group related to it. Milwaukee Co-op is also starting a group related to this.
4. **WiLD training opportunity:** We have three members signed up for this, including Elaine.

5. **Membership recruitment plan:** Joan offered a membership plan that she came up with. We need at least 210 paying members to keep a full-time organizer, and we have around 160 - need to have 50+ new members by end of October. They are organizing to get current members to recruit and help us bring in more members. We did some brainstorming, and Joan will take ideas back to her group. Joan will send Terry the materials she presented tonight, and Terry will turn it into our WisCommunity project/task list. Terry phone is: 715-514-9964, email: tmeyer6@gmail.com
6. **Connecting with Milwaukee Co-op:** Kevin sent out a survey to the Steering Committee members. Please respond to him if you have not already.
7. **Member phone tree?:** Jeff suggested that we create a phone tree or some other quick method of making sure that all the co-op members are contacted personally about upcoming events, or actions to be taken, etc. Our communications team will come up with a plan for having each steering committee member be in charge of an equal number of our membership to contact by phone and build relationships.
8. **Other business:** Joe brought up the issue of outsourcing as an item that Citizen Action WI is taking on this election cycle (local to presidential) to also help get word out about our other issues.
9. **Next meeting:** our next meeting will be August 3, 2016, 6 pm. Jeff will see if we can meet at the Thomas' in Downsville (Simply Dunn Pottery)
10. **Adjourned** at 8:28 pm.