**Sample Newsletter Story for Food Co-op Newsletters**

**Neighboring Food Co-ops Celebrate 13th Annual Meeting**

*Please edit this article as you see fit for use in your co-op or organization’s newsletters, e-newsletters, or website — and* ***include a quote from your attendees****! Remember to link up with photos from the Annual Meeting on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Neighboring), as well as workshops and presentations posted at* [*http://nfca.coop/membergatherings*](http://nfca.coop/membergatherings)*.*

*For more resources or images, please e-mail* [*suzette@nfca.coop*](mailto:suzette@nfca.coop) *or visit* [*https://nfca.coop*](https://nfca.coop)*.*

**Co-operation: Our Foundation**

On March 16, 2024, co-operators from across the Northeast U.S. gathered in Greenfield, MA, for the 13th Annual Meeting of the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA). The event brought together more than 85 representatives from over 30 food co-ops, start-ups, and partner organizations including [*add your co-op, start up or organization name.*].

"The theme for this year’s meeting is ‘Co-operation Our Foundation,’” said John Crane, General Manager of Portland Food Co-op (ME) and NFCA President. “And I want to remind everyone that what we are doing here is unique… groups of people getting together, getting their co-ops together and try to have a larger voice and a larger impact in not just their community but in their region. I appreciate all of you for coming and continuing to be involved, because the NFCA is us."

A central topic of the day was the declaration of 2025 as the Second International Year of Co-ops and the contribution of food co-ops to the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development and efforts to address food security, climate change, and more inclusive economy.

“The theme of our gathering this year not only highlights the shared Values and Principles at the heart of our business model,” said Erbin Crowell, Executive Director. “But also, our impact on global efforts to address food security, climate change, and economic inclusion. Our co-ops have been leaders in these efforts, and this International Year of Co-ops offers a unique opportunity to tell our stories better — and challenge ourselves to do more, together."

In addition to reports from the NFCA Board of Directors and Staff, peer-to-peer dialogues provided an opportunity for exchanges on issues including food security, climate action, and supporting start-up food co-ops. Afternoon workshops offered deeper dives into topics such the NFCA's expanded collaboration with the New England Farmers Union on policy advocacy, efforts to bring small and rural food co-ops together for shared success, and their partnership with the Northeast Organic Family Partnership to support our region’s dairy farmers.

[*Use this space for a quote from one of your attendees on what they valued from the day or any key takeaways or actions for your co-op coming out of the gathering.]*

The NFCA is a co-operative federation of food co-ops from across the Northeast, and the Annual Meeting included the announcement of Board of Directors elections. NFCA President John Crane announced the reelection of Chris Whiton (Operations Director, Littleton Food Co-op, NH) and welcomed newly elected directors to three-year terms: Philip Trevvett (Board of Directors, Urban Greens Co-op Market, RI) and George Touloumtzis (Board of Directors, Franklin Community Co-op, MA). Continuing on the Board are Katharine Arnold (Buffalo Mountain Co-op, VT), John Crane (Portland Food Co-op, ME), Lucy Georgeff (High Falls Food Co-op, NY), Mary Mullally (Hunger Mountain Co-op, VT), and Michael Wells (Putney Food Co-op, VT). Outgoing Directors Kathleen Krider (Willimantic Food Co-op, CT) and Rachel Watrous (Fiddleheads Food Co-op, CT) were also thanked for their service on the NFCA Board.

Alice Rubin was honored with the NFCA's annual “Neighboring Co-operator” award as she retires from her service as general manager of Willimantic Food Co-op after 40 years, acknowledging her special contribution to her co-op and to the advancement of the NFCA’s vision for a co-operative economy, rooted in a healthy, just, and sustainable food system and a vibrant community of co-operative enterprise. Members of our community are invited to make a tax-deductible contribution in honor of Alice to the Cooperative Development Foundation, which supports training and education for food co-op staff, managers, and board members. To learn more and make a donation, visit [www.cdf.coop/nfca](http://www.cdf.coop/nfca).

***The Neighboring Food Co-op Association includes more than 30 Member Food Co-ops across New England and New York State, locally owned by over 185,000 people like you! For more information, please visit***[*www.nfca.coop*](http://www.nfca.coop)*.*

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**[See other side for photos to use with article.]**

*Please credit all photos to Justin Jankus.*

A person standing at a podium giving a presentation

Description automatically generated A person standing at a podium with a large screen behind him

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A group of people sitting at tables

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