Spring 2014

Volume 7, Issue 2





The Co-op is our pot of gold..

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Special points of interest:

- Annual Member party Celebration this Sunday 16th March
- Thank you to all who have helped us get stock whilst the van is
- Thank you to Dixie for her presentation skills! Go Unique Junque! Happy vacation Dixie! Welcome back Judy and Thu.

Sunsets West Co-op



Leadership

- Taking control when and where it is necessary to achieve a goal, either for safety, progress or comfort.
- The action of beginning a new idea that has not yet been understood as possible.
- The excitement of change.

Again I have asked many folk to supply me with the ideas they own on leadership. What I found was that most folk have this one off the top of their heads. They have thought it through and have an answer at the ready.

I understand they want equality, fairness, a say, and most of all they like to quote the masters who have gone before us.

I personally didn't have leadership in mind when I started the Co-op, I simply followed the dream that I had had the night before and started talking about the potential and purpose of that dream. It started attracting followers and at every point along the way I expected to stand aside and allow the interest to develop into action. I thought I would gift the community that adopted me with a fresh and new idea that would surely work in this area. I expected adoption of the enterprise to take place quickly.

Here we all are six and half years later. I have nurtured this project with loving attention and diligence, I have learned you and your likes and dislikes, we have developed friendships

and partnerships at many levels and I love what I do and do it with love.

When I say love, I mean the unconditional love of understanding. It is really different to the lust that is most often mistaken for love.

I appreciate your honesty and friendship. Thank you all for your support.

PS. I have never run a business before, I learned on the job, you are all good teachers. Jane

"Team Players

A Co-op is a team effort.

Learning to work together and Create Common goals that are worthwhile and meaningful is our goal. Happiness is also our goal. If we are all equal in this adventure then we are all leaders." Spring 2011 Newsletter.

Your Co-op ~ your Refrigeration

The 'State of the Onion' is moving slowly forward. The total at this point is \$650.50, the original starting point was \$1920 from our Catering Event on Fun Days for the Horseless Carriage Car Club, along with a promise of \$1200 from the Garden Group if the members can match that amount. This brings us up to Drum roll

... \$3,770.50.. We need \$5,300 for our one open produce merchandiser.

Our event at the Annual Member Celebration and Party will be a live-loud auction of goodies. We look forward to your participation and interest in some unique items being auctioned. There is still the opportunity for donations to the



auction table. Let's make this a fun event.

Wait till you see what up for bids!!!

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Wavy and 'Davy' ...



Mr. President ~ Jerry George

LEADERSHIP

One of my all time favorite leaders and people is a clown who stood on a stage one bleary morning in 1969 in upstate New York and announced a free breakfast to 400,000. All served by volunteers he had organized into food, security, medical, sanitation and general help – all while following a stuffed fish on a leash called Wanda, and

wearing a very bedraggled, multi-pointed and belled pixy cap. The New York Times called him Mr. Gravy. His friends and the world call him Wavy.

If you ask Mr. Gravy about leadership, he'd say, "Not much to it, really. Have a clear objective and trust the people around you to get you there using the skills, experiences each individual brings to the table."

I am repeatedly amazed and awed by what randomly assembled people of distinctly different interests can do when you make it possible for them to work together.

I've heard Wavy say it many times, "Never doubt what you or we can do together."

That's why I serve Sunsets West Co-Op.

I have known David longer than Wavy. We went to high school together. We performed together while juniors (year 11) for a couple of weeks in the Santa Barbara coffee house, him playing guitar and humming beautifully ,while I read poetry. He was sooooo much better than the venture or me. It didn't last, but we have remained in widely spaced contact.



Karin Ashton Secretary

Leadership's gotten a bad rap in history...Jesus Christ was crucified for his leadership ability, as was John F. Kennedy. Something to think about..

Terry Hielman Vice President

True leadership is by example, and by the ability to delegate, according to ability. If this is carried out, there is no need for control, which is always resented. Terry

Jack, my dog

"I will lead you to the frig and you will get me a bone. Now repeat this each day and we have a deal! I don't ask much of you, do I?"

"Good Mum!" Woof

"Now repeat after me, Jack gets a bone everyday!"

Leadership??

"Wow you have some great stuff in here. What an interesting store." said one man this week.

"Great soup too!"

"What's it doing all the way out here?" His unanswered questions start me thinking of more service.





Creativity is in the Air

I am enjoying the faces of folk coming in with big smiles because of the wonderful spring feeling in the air. They are talking of salads and fruit and BBQ's and the delightful chill that still accompanies the feeling of the winters end weather.

Keeping the fingers busy the

Co-op is now open to **Monday night crafters**. Join us with any craft you have on your mind.

Thursday night music is still the go for Jam nights. Audience or players of any or all abilities are welcome.

This Sundays Annual Member

Meeting Dance is hosting the first of a planned regular dance night. The first one is free and will be held on Sunday night this week after the AMM. In future it is planned to take on a regular Saturday night once a month at the Community Center in Rice Street, Sekiu. Probably will become weekly in summer.

Play takes on all forms.

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Its Party time.. Annual celebration of growth, success and gifting

Each year we celebrate our Coop. This year it is on the 16th March coinciding with St Patricks' Day. Thus the theme for this newsletter and the party.

We are planning to have fun for all.

- All members and locals are welcome to set up stalls of their commerce, hobbies or support businesses. Interactive ideas are welcome
- All Music Jammers are welcome to come and play with the crowd.

- There will be a presentation of the garden project.
- There will be very little formality.
- There will be a pot luck lunch.
- There will be live and loud auction of fun things.
- There will be community dinner at 5.30pm.
- Irish/folk Sing-along.
- Dance till midnight to DJ, all ages, no alcohol.

- Donations to the auction are welcome
- Donations to the frig fund are welcome
- Spread the word, everyone welcome

16th March 2014
1pm to midnight
Something for
everyone!

This Sunday



In-House comments on Leadership

We learn many things from leadership. Not only personally but in general as well. Mostly we learn to do things—take charge, move through fear, choose priorities, review behaviors, patterns and choices. It is not always fun and games but necessary. Frances Buck

Leading by example—is often taken as 'laziness', non-compliance or defiance. When in fact it is inner wisdom standing against the status quo or the 'norm'. Leadership means breaching change fearlessly. Jane

Salvation lies within. Be yourself to make good things happen. Be good to yourself to make things happen for others. Good attitude makes it happen. Rick Hernandez

Being fair to everyone involved. Lori

They look to you especially when the 'sh.. hits the fan', to make good decisions. A lot of folk get muddled and want direction from the leader. This can happen at work, play and adventure and usually comes out when there is chaos. They want someone to take charge like the EMT's, it's the same with parenting! Spider Wright

Leaders are born, not made. Good leaders enjoy it! You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. Same with leadership. You can't make someone lead if they don't want to or if they can't see how. Trish Hutson-English

Empathy with attitude. Sandy A leader is one whose followers say of themselves, "Look what we have accomplished." Lao Tzu Jackie

Leadership is about letting go of the need to lead and creat-

ing equality. Julie

Following the dream that is given to the dreamer. Fearlessly actualizing the dream with a commitment to conquering the challenge. It can be lonely at the top, you lose the choice of self sabotage and take on modelling the goal. Jane

I try to avoid leadership— too much responsibility. Patti

Leadership is similar to a moral conscience, you do what you know is right and lead by example. Anthony Szabo

A great leader can instruct by experience and is willing to get in and work as hard as the people they are leading. Josh Goakey

"I avoid leadership at all costs", said one lady in town. But she is the one who started the Pet Food Bank!

Leadership is only enthusiasm

Making your way through the maze with a little help from your friends!

Shared Leadership..



in action. When we are faced with enthusiastic action we are unguarded.

We appreciate everyone who has put a foot forward, asked a question, responded or just been there for us.

Friendship is leadership.

Trust is a big part of a successful life.

Working together is awesome.

Co-operation is it!

Joint leadership.

Sunsets West Co-op

16795 Hwy 112 Clallam Bay WA 98326

Phone: (360) 963 2189 Fax: (360) 963 3114

E-mail: sunsetswestcoop@yahoo.com

W

www.sunsetswestcoop.com

The Place with Great Tastes



Mission Statement

Our Co-op aims to inspire and encourage creative energy within the community.

We aim to engage people in living their dreams.

Sunsets West Co-op is organized to produce, purchase and distribute goods and services for the mutual benefit of its members and patrons,

offering a variety of healthy goods for patrons' choice.

FUNDS RAISED ARE RE-INVESTED IN THE CO-OP FOR GROWTH

We aim to encourage community members to co-operate with one another and nourish their community and its improvement; we aim to involve members in community garden and cottage industries

A Co-op is a member (worker and customer owned) retail business that provides high quality grocery and retail items at the lowest prices to their customers.

Co-operatives strive to enrich their communities through consumer

education, member/owner rebate programs, member ownership, and the creation of livable wage jobs.

Co-operatives integrate their communities by selling locally grown and produced goods from small family farms and businesses as much as possible.

The Co-operative Identity

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self responsibility,

democracy, equality, and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders,

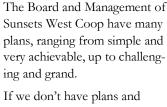
co-operative members are best to believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for and about others.

So—Happy people for a happy venture ... Working together for the greater good of their own combined communities.

You are welcome to make membership for \$40. Then \$20 per calendar year upgrade. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO SHOP HERE!



Board's Plans for the Future



If we don't have plans and direction we will not have growth.

The first step as we see it is to expand the Board of Directors to encompass the spread in the communities. With this tool in place we will be able to work more closely with needs and wants for our folk.

Secondly, we wish to establish a vehicle to move us forward on the infrastructure. Repair replacement and acquisition of equipment needed to better serve the organization.

Thirdly. we wish to continue addressing the actions needed to provide a banking service and alternate power, hopeful for the community.

This doesn't happen without considerable thought and action. So the dreams that we have ,take shape through cooperation and planning .. keeping the open goal structure in mind so as to follow the bouncing ball.

I keep Wavy and Anthony Szabo in mind as the magic does its work through patience, balance and confidence. Presenting that which seems too difficult in a simple and easy manner.

I am looking forward to

following the bouncing ball into the next level of our Cooperative experience.

Making things work!

Thank you to several folk who have offered themselves for a Board position. You are appreciated, we still wish for more folk to make a wonderful mix of talents and abilities.

Your names will be given to the meeting next month and then we will let you know from there. Thank you ...



