

AGM Networking Luncheon
Friday, June 17, 2005
Realistic and Meaningful Member Involvement

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Who needs to be involved in a co-op to make it successful, and what are their roles?

- Board of directors
- Members – 50% or more of the membership
- Get the members involved with different committees
- Board of directors
 - governance, dissemination of information, educational opportunities
- Members
 - responsible to find out what being in a co-op really means
 - role – 4 hours per month
 - set amount of hours per month
 - committee participation

How would you define meaningful member involvement?

- Co-op comparison to a small town – so every co-op is different
- Roles are varied – can be many types of roles – ie. helping people move in
- Meaningful if member is valued for their participation
 - Exchange of skills
 - Each month thank-you poster
 - Positive reinforcement
 - The community is your home, not your unit
 - Getting to know your community
- Meaningful member involvement can mean keeping your costs down
- Means that you are a better informed membership
- Member recognition awards
- Empowering the membership to choose how they participate so that it matches their interests
- You need to have a catalyst for membership involvement

What can we realistically expect from our co-op members?

- Determine your audience to find out what their skill set is so you can be realistic about their participation
- Every member should attend meetings at the least
- Finding out through membership selection what are their interests and hobbies
- Reach out to membership to find out why members are not participating

- Be flexible regarding monthly volunteer hours, kindness

Is it realistic to think that every member be involved on a committee?

- The number of members is an important factor
- Type of building affects member participation
- How spaced out is your co-op
- How do you define participation in your co-op

How can we deal with decreasing member involvement in a co-op?

- Expectation of the member
- Fine members for not following policies set out in their application
- Educating your membership about their options
- Accommodate the capabilities of your members
- Enforce your policies
- Use incentives to get people participating – door prizes, food
- Clear policy and expectations