



West Chester  
COOPERATIVE

# The Local Beet

2023 | VOLUME 1



## Spring News

Spring has officially sprung and with a current member owner count of 517, the West Chester Cooperative is well positioned for a steady increase in new member ownership and engagement. The Spring calendar is full of exciting community events, including West Chester's annual Porch Festival, the

West Chester Green Team's Earth Day Rally, and Levante's Helping Other People (HOP) Party. These events continue to foster conversation around our mission of opening a community owned grocery store in the borough. We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events!

## Upcoming Events

---

LEVANTE BREWERY-  
HELPING OTHER  
PEOPLE PARTY  
MAY 6TH

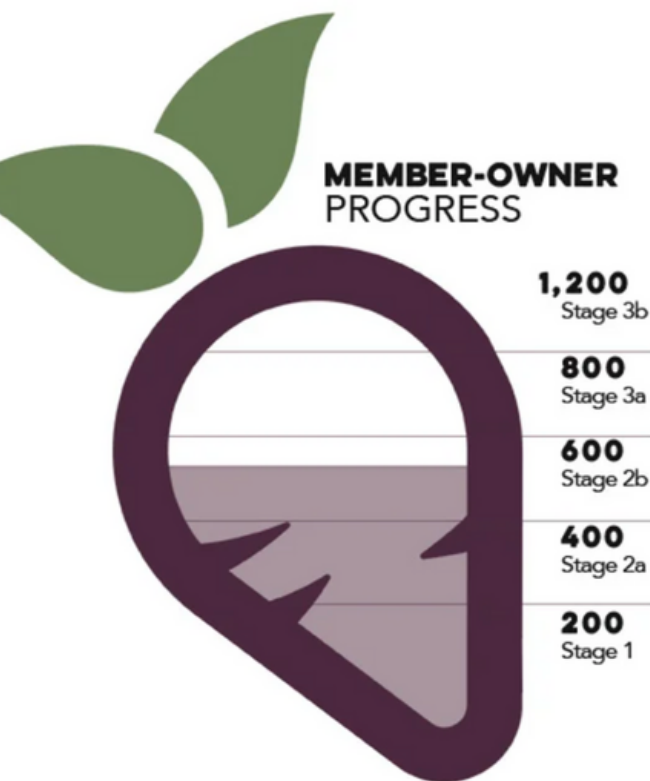
---

2ND ANNUAL WC  
PORCH FEST  
MAY 20TH

---

CO-OP ANNUAL  
MEETING  
JUNE 8TH

---



## Annual Meeting

Save the date for June 8th at 6pm for our Annual meeting. Owners, your vote is needed to welcome in our newest board members. All are encouraged to join. We are expecting two open board seats. If you, or someone you know is interested in running, please reach out to Renee Ryan or Judy Carrino. More details regarding the annual meeting to follow in the coming weeks!

# Recent Wins

**Bar Avalon fundraiser-** The Co-op partnered with local restaurant, Bar Avalon, to host a fundraiser on March 14th. Bar Avalon generously donated 25% of all dine-in sales. The event was extremely successful and a great evening for members to come together and support the West Chester community.

**Jon Steinman event-** The Member Owner Recruitment and Engagement (MORE) committee brought in known co-op guru, Jon Steinman, for a night of learning and discussion about cooperative grocery stores. Members learned how to be an ambassador for the co-op and how to tell the story of building a community owned store in West Chester.

**101 E Chestnut St-** In February, the board identified a potential location for the co-op's first fully operational storefront. Board members worked hard to develop a Proforma that indicated favorable operating financials. Unfortunately, the landlord moved forward in a different direction, continuing to lease the space as a commercial office, rather than retail. Although disappointing, this was an excellent learning opportunity, and we are now prepared to evaluate future locations efficiently. The Board is keeping communications and eyes open for future locations.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Bethlehem Co-op received a federal grant in 2021 for \$2.9 million dollars. This government funding allowed their 10 years of hard work to become a reality. The grant money will be used to open a 4500 sqft store in downtown Bethlehem. The West Chester Co-op is actively seeking support for funding opportunities like this.

## A Message from the Board

Hello Friends,

When I imagine the West Chester Cooperative opening its doors, I imagine a hub for folks to gather. The Co-op will be a place where neighbors come together and know each other's name. It will be a place where all are welcomed and embraced, a place in which a sense of community will be fostered daily, through educational programming, giving back to those in need and investing in our mutual future.

Before I immersed in the efforts of the West Chester Cooperative, I witnessed these realities in my visits to Co-ops across the Philadelphia region and across the country, from Vermont to Asheville, DC to Portland.

We are on our way there. Our Cooperative has seen some tremendous progress and growth so far this year.

- Our MORE and Fundraising Committees have created a series of outstanding and educational events this year.
- Our Grants and Legislature Committee is actively building relationships with our local government leaders and members of the business community. The committee then uses that public support as it develops our grant process to seek additional funding.
- And we are actively seeking a location and exploring options through our contacts in the local real estate community.

We look forward to what the remainder of the year has in store and are grateful to have you with us on this journey as we embark on the next steps toward opening our doors.

Renee Ryan  
President