**UNIONCO-OPS COUNCIL**

**of the U. S. FEDERATION of WORKER CO-OPS**

**Annual Report 2011**

In July 2007, the UnionCo-ops Committee was conceptualized at the Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy (ECWD) in Asheville, North Carolina. Later in 2007, the committee began meeting monthly by conference call, reporting back to the Eastern Coordinating Council (the board of the ECWD).

In 2008, the committee moved from under the umbrella of the ECWD to the U. S. Federation of Worker Co-ops, since committee members were spread across the country.

Since its founding the committee has:

1. expanded its listserve to interested parties from twenty-three states and Canada;
2. set committee goals and tasks;
3. set up a wiki website for document sharing;
4. established a four-member steering committee for the group;
5. collected articles on union/co-ops collaboration and history;
6. sponsored a series of conference calls with Frank Adams, using his book, *Putting Democracy to Work: A Practical Guide for Starting Worker-Owned Businesses,* as a guide;
7. begun compiling on on-line Outreach Toolkit that local activists and cooperators can use to present worker co-op information at labor and community economic development conferences;
8. begun composing case studies of worker co-op/union collaborations;
9. shared a labor resolution for presentation to unions and labor agencies to initiate research into worker cooperatives as a strategy for job creation and union membership;
10. researched health, pension, and other benefits for worker co-ops;
11. planned and facilitated yearly union/co-op workshops at the U.S. Federation of Worker Co-ops and ECWD conferences;
12. explored workshop presentations at union conferences;
13. provided support to an emerging incubator of worker co-ops in Oklahoma;
14. established a relationship with Rob Witherell, principal in the United Steel Workers collaboration with Mondragon;
15. reported annually to ECWD, then USFWC. In October 2011, we reported to CICOPA North America in Quebec City.

The UnionCo-ops Council is currently helping to plan a series of workshops about worker co-ops at the BlueGreen Alliance’s Good Jobs, Green Jobs regional conferences in Los Angeles, Detroit, Atlanta, and Philadelphia in 2012.