

Why cooperatives?

Cannabis cooperatives offer communities that have been harmed by the War on Drugs **the opportunity to build equity and ownership in this new industry.**

Without ownership and equity provisions, including a union contract, **cannabis workers are at the will of major cannabis companies that prioritize profits over building sustainable communities.**

UFCW is a member of the **Rhode Island Cannabis Justice Coalition**, fighting for worker power and racial equity in RI's cannabis industry. Other members include ReclaimRI, Formerly-Incarcerated Union, DARE, Fuerza Laboral, Commonplace Cooperative, PVD Flowers, and the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives.



Cooperative Ownership for Worker Power

UFCW Local 328's Organizing Strategy in the Cannabis Industry



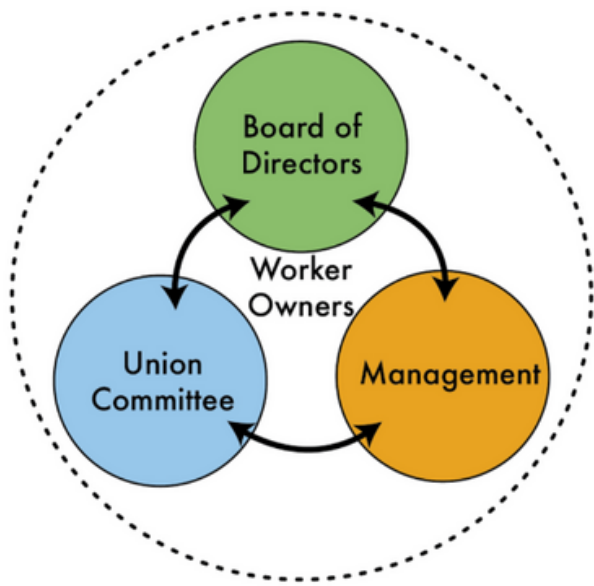
Photo credit: Uprise RI

Questions?

Emma Karnes
ekarnes@ufcw328.org

Sam Marvin
sam@ufcw328.org

MAY 2023



THE UNION CO-OP MODEL

A union co-op is a worker-owned business with a union contract.

It combines the best elements of cooperative ownership, including democratic governance and financial ownership for workers, with the strong labor protections guaranteed by union membership.

PVD Flowers

THE FIRST UNIONIZED
WORKER-OWNED CANNABIS
DISPENSARY

PVD Flowers is a worker-owned start-up that will apply for a recreational retail license reserved for worker-owned dispensaries in Rhode Island. They're currently working to write Bylaws, develop a business plan, and secure funding.

UFCW Local 328 is supporting PVD Flowers through incubation, and will represent its workers with a union contract when the dispensary is up and running.



BENEFITS OF UNION CO-OPS

ADVOCATE FOR WORKER-OWNERS AS WORKERS

And allow them to negotiate an enforceable collective bargaining agreement to protect worker rights.

CREATE A MORE HARMONIOUS WORK-PLACE

Through day to day dispute resolution through due process for both workers and management provided by a union contract.

ACCESS TO IMPROVED BENEFITS

Including access to health and welfare, retirement funds and apprenticeship programs.

DEMOCRATIC WORK ENVIRONMENT

That empowers workers to govern the important decisions that will impact their own lives.

BUILD A MOVEMENT FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE

Via solidarity and collaboration with other unionized workers and co-ops to fight for family-sustaining jobs and strong communities.