

The good things that come from being a member of the Coop board

(from the *Coop Scoop*, Dec. 2008)

First, good news-- this month we've achieved another record: our membership has surpassed 140. Each year almost two-thirds of our members take part in at least one Coop event. We see this as an unequivocal vote of confidence in the Coop's mission, and in our goal to become a trusted voice on behalf of Saskatoon's writing community.

And then more good news: we also see this as an unparalleled opportunity to recruit new members to the Coop's board of directors. The board currently consists of eight dedicated and hardworking members, down from ten last year due to conflicting schedules. Two more have given notice of their intent to leave the board in March, for similar reasons.

Your board has room for fifteen members, and invites your participation. Not only do many hands make a light load, but by joining the board you will have several uniquely valuable opportunities. First, you will have an unparalleled opportunity to influence Coop programming. Second, you will enjoy the company and conviviality of a fine group of writers and community leaders who work to keep the Saskatoon writing community growing and thriving. Third, you will have a chance to develop and apply the skills involved in maintaining a volunteer organization—skills that you can use either as a community volunteer or in any number of careers: how to plan and organize, how to lead, how to chair a meeting, how to keep records, how to manage finances and keep financial accounts, how to develop and maintain a website, how to produce and distribute an e-newsletter, how to plan and conduct a public event—skills you'd pay good money to develop in other circumstances. On the Coop board these opportunities can be yours, free, with an experienced personal tutor by your side and with no obligation beyond volunteering to participate to the extent you are willing and able.

If this piques your interest, talk to any board member, or come to a board meeting and see for yourself (first Wed., 6:30 p.m., Tastebuds Cafe). What you get out of any organization, the Coop included, depends very much on what you are willing to put into it. Join the board at our March AGM, and see what you've been missing. Email writerscoop@writerscoop.org.