

Annual Report on the Cooperative Voices Newsletter/Magazine 2022

By Ann Ferguson

1. The Coop Magazine is run by a volunteer committee of Ellen Edge, Ann Ferguson and Kari Ridge that are editors and writers for this publication, as well as with Lori Lynn Hoffer who has recently produced each edition, including layout and graphics.
2. The publication was created in its first edition as the Cooperative Voices Newsletter in Jan. 2020, and we published 8 issues in all of it with this name in 2020 and 2021 (through issue no. 8 in Feb. 2021). We then decided that we should rename it the Cooperative Voices Magazine in order not to confuse it with our online weekly Coop news notices to members. To date we have published 10 issues in all, with the last one being the November issue. They are all available at the LVC website at this link: <https://leverettcoop.com/documents/>
3. Our Magazine came about in a turbulent time when the Coop was facing a difficult economic crisis and members were divided about what could be done to solve it. We hoped to provide a forum on the various issues before us, for example, how to get the Coop out of debt, how to renovate the infrastructure, how to widen grocery options and also try to have more affordable items available, what role expanding restaurant and take out services should play, and also how to transition to a new General Manager. We also wanted to offer a venue for community news and culture that would inform the community about local artists, craftspeople, vendors that do business with the Coop and community events of interest.
4. We hope to continue providing this service by publishing this Coop magazine 4 times a year into the future. Our next issue is planned for sometime in April, when we hope to be able to provide some previews of Spring events to come, such as a Spring Fling and the summer Artisan Market series.
5. We welcome input from community members, and are open to new volunteers to join our editorial committee. Please let us know if you have an idea for an article and/or you would like an assignment to write an article for the Magazine. Also, if you have a letter you would like to publish or other input. For all of these options, please contact one of us by email. You can contact me at this email address: ferguson3638@gmail.com