

# Suggestion for the Co-op: contract out core functions

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[Bethlehem Food Co-op](#)

Gadfly:

Have you been to Weaver's Way Co-op in Philadelphia (two locations with a couple of stores per location) and Ambler (big, bright store)? It's a great operation with member-owners.

More importantly, they have the systems experience in place to manage the back office needs of our co-op. I'm talking about inventory, payroll, cash registers, cash management, and so on. Why do our members and board need to take on these tasks if we can enter into a good working relationship with a similar and far larger organization?



Cooperative organizations do far better when they stick together. I note that many credit unions allow members of other credit unions to use tellers, ATMs, and other functions. It's because they work together and share what's important.

It would be reasonable someday to take over our own operations, but if contracting out core functions to another organization with common cause, it would mean having the physical store open sooner.

I'm member #17.

- John

*Gadfly doesn't know much about the Co-op and hopes to learn more soon.*