

Meet Our Speakers



Courtney Berner is a cooperative development specialist at the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives where she provides technical assistance and counsel to existing and start-up cooperatives and to business owners interested in exploring conversion to cooperative ownership. Courtney writes and speaks frequently on the co-op business model and recently co-authored *Successful Cooperative Ownership Transitions: Case Studies and Key Factors for Success in the Conversion of Privately Held Businesses to Worker Cooperatives* with the Democracy At Work Institute.

Courtney has research, development, and outreach experience in a range of issues related to food systems, community economic development, and the cooperative business model. Prior to earning an M.S. in agroecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she spent five years at the Worldwatch Institute, an independent research institute devoted to global environmental concerns. Courtney is currently on the Willy Street Grocery Cooperative's Board of Directors. She can be reached at cberner@wisc.edu.



Karl Cumblad is the Chief Financial Officer at Diversified Insurance Solutions which follows his previous 15-year tenure as the Chief Operating Officer. Prior to joining Diversified Karl spent 25 years with John Deere, where he was senior vice president of transportation insurance unit.

As Diversified's COO Karl's responsibilities included overseeing finance, accounting, IT, facilities, administration, contracts and operations. Karl takes pride in mentoring young, new leaders and developing them into key components of Diversified's management team. Diversified's singular value of "Respect", is evident in the way Karl treats every associate, client and vendor.

In his free time, Karl enjoys golf, riding Harleys, stunt kites, aviation and spending time with his wife and two children. Karl can be reached at KCumblad@div-ins.com.



Mark Fick is the Director of Lending with Shared Capital Cooperative where he leads the business development, loan underwriting and portfolio management functions of the organization. As a cooperatively owned loan fund, Shared Capital works to build economic democracy by providing financing throughout the United States to cooperatively owned enterprises including consumer, worker, and producer owned cooperatives. Prior to joining Shared Capital, Mark was the Director of Lending Operations with the Chicago Community Loan Fund where he was responsible for providing financing and technical assistance to affordable housing, social enterprises and community-based organizations in the Chicagoland area.

Over the past 25 years Mark has been an active leader with a variety of community-based and cooperative development organizations including the Chicago Mutual Housing Network, NASCO Development Services, Housing Action Illinois, Organization of the Northeast, Stone Soup Cooperative and the Northside Community Federal Credit Union. Mark can be reached at mark@sharedcapital.coop.



Paul Karch is a member of Husch Blackwell's Food & Agribusiness industry team. He has led legal project teams in transactions creating and winding up research and marketing joint ventures and in sales of seed and other agricultural input companies. He is an experienced corporate lawyer and community leader, with success in designing and completing innovative complex transactions, developing and implementing strategic plans, creating effective governance structures, and building and leading teams and organizations. His recent cooperative and agribusiness projects have included:

- Handled sale of mycorrhizal applications to Valent BioSciences Corp., a Sumitomo Chemical company.
- Negotiated supply agreements for the 3,000 members of an independent pharmacy cooperative.
- Advised members and board on the winding down and dissolution of a research and development cooperative.

While he worked at a large paper company in Appleton, WI, he led the project team that created and funded an employee stock ownership plan and acquired the company from its European parent. Paul can be reached at paul.karch@huschblackwell.com.



Margaret Lund is an independent consultant specializing in the areas of community development finance and shared ownership strategies. Throughout her career, Margaret has worked across cooperative sectors including credit unions, consumer, housing, worker co-ops, healthcare and sustainable food systems.

Before launching her consulting practice in 2008, Ms. Lund spent 16 years as a small business lender to cooperatives. Ms. Lund is a past member of the board of the U.S. National Cooperative Business Association where she chaired both the Cooperative Development and International Development committees as well as a national task force on cooperative capital formation. She also served three terms on the board of Health Partners, the largest consumer-governed healthcare organization in the United States and a leader in healthcare quality measures. Past awards include the Howard Bowers Cooperative Service Award from the Consumer Cooperative Managers Association and the 2014 John Logue Award for "acting as a catalyst for innovation and change" from the Association of Cooperative Educators. She can be reached at mlund95@gmail.com.



Dirk Maroske is President and CEO of Aztalan Engineering, Inc. since 2013. He has a B.Sc and M.Sc in Mechanical Engineering from the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany. After starting his career in product development with Schenck Pegasus (automotive industry), he moved into operations and engineering management and moved to the USA with Schenck AccuRate in 2000.

Dirk has worked in leadership roles at Schenck AccuRate including Director of Heavy Industry for North America and Director of R&D. He managed the integration of Stock Equipment Company (Cleveland, OH) into the Schenck Process Group from 2006 through 2007 before returning as president and CEO of Schenck AccuRate and moving forward with Schenck Process North America. In 2013 he took on a new responsibility with Aztalan Engineering (Precision Machining & Engineering) to manage the transition from a 49% Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) company to an 100% ESOP company in December 2014. Dirk has an extensive background in international business and has lived and worked or led teams in Brazil, China, India, Europe and the United States. Dirk and his wife Susanne

reside with their teenage children, Jan and Milena, in Whitewater, WI. Dirk can be reached at dmaroske@aztalan.com.



Anne Reynolds is the Executive Director of the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives. She develops courses, conferences and educational programs at the Center, and has led numerous workshops on board leadership, board roles and responsibilities and strategic planning. Her areas of interest include governance, member loyalty, business structure and innovative uses of the cooperative model.

She has worked with cooperatives in all sectors, including agriculture, food, energy, purchasing and worker-owned. Anne serves on several boards, including The Cooperative Foundation and Shared Capital Cooperative. Before joining the Center for Cooperatives, she worked at the Credit Union National Association (CUNA). She can be reached at anne.reynolds@wisc.edu.