



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CO-OP | Cooperative Production, Inc.  
August 11, 2022

### **John McCaul, Patsy Peterson, and Leah Smith Elected to the Cooperative Production, Inc. Board of Directors**

**North Dighton** – Cooperative Production Inc., also known as CO-OP, is pleased to announce the appointment of John McCaul, Patsy Peterson, and Leah Smith to the board of directors.

**John McCaul** is a well-known advocate and community leader who has served as a Taunton City Councilor since 2011 and is an Emergency Response Coordinator for ServiceMaster by Gilmore. In addition, for more than 18 years, he has hosted a one-hour program on Taunton Community Access and Media, "F.Y.I. with John McCaul," that interviews guests from various nonprofits and charitable organizations. He is a Massachusetts National Guard Veteran and a member of the Kiwanis Club, Taunton Lodge of Elks #150, Son's of Italy, Taunton Vietnam Veterans Association, American Legion Post 500, and the P.A.C.C. He attended Northshore Community College and Salem State College. In 2019, John received the CO-OP Community Award, given to outstanding people and organizations who contribute to CO-OP's mission of providing integrated, community services to people with intellectual and other disabilities.

**Patsy Peterson** has years of experience in compliance, sales and marketing, and strategic planning. She serves as the D.B.E. Diversity and Compliance Manager for the MBTA Green Line Extension Project, managing all aspects of the program at the state and federal levels. Before that, she served as the Government Compliance Officer-DBE for the State of Massachusetts MBTA, held a similar role for the State of Rhode Island Department of Administration, and previously held numerous leadership positions in government, for-profit and nonprofit work. Patsy has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management from Johnson & Wales University and a M.A.T.C.P. through the University of Rhode Island.

**Leah Smith** brings a wealth of banking and non-profit experience, including 25 years in various roles serving clients in the Massachusetts and Rhode Island market. Since 2021 she has served as the Vice President, Business Development Officer for BankFive, providing personalized banking for business owners and organizations. Before her current position, Leah served as Assistant Vice President, Small Business Relationship Manager at Santander Bank. She holds a bachelor's degree from Bryant University. She is an active community member, volunteering with Mentor Rhode Island and Kent County Y.M.C.A., and is a former board member and board chair of the Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce.



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"As we embark on our new strategic plan, it is imperative that we gather diverse leadership and perspectives to guide our way," said CO-OP President & C.E.O. Michael Cancilliere. "I am thrilled to welcome these three professionals to the CO-OP board. We are all excited to work with them and benefit from their expertise and insight into our work."

### **About CO-OP**

CO-OP | Cooperative Production, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting local citizens with intellectual and other disabilities and brain injuries in a variety of residential and day programs, employment supports, and clinical services. Founded in 1972, CO-OP serves approximately 450 individuals and family members in Southeastern Massachusetts through person-centered services that maximize community participation. For more information, go to [www.cooperativeproduction.org](http://www.cooperativeproduction.org).

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