

**Medford Food Co-op
Annual Owner Meeting
October 4, 2020**

Note: Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held online via Zoom. The recording may be accessed here using this Passcode: JrY+s0&R

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/q0lmsihgKBXCU9IDAITCbHJKdoANUGoImNdYXOuapvW5KYFszHujj5ZBnRhQUVDz.DdEvOKYomZKRV3ot>

Kellie Hill, Board of Directors President, opened the meeting by thanking those in attendance. There were 16 people present by video or phone (7 directors, 4 staff members, and 5 owners). She introduced the board members, announcing that the ownership had elected her, Barry Robino, and Matt Dorris to serve as directors for the next 3-year term.

President Hill acknowledged former board member and long-term Secretary Debi Boen, noting that Debi was instrumental in the development of the Co-op and recognizing her guidance and many years of service.

Election Results: 300 owners voted in this year's election (299 electronic ballots, 1 paper ballot). In addition to the board members elected above, the revisions to the bylaws were passed. The organizations voted in as the 2021 Positive Change recipients include:

- ACCESS Food Share Garden Program
- Medford Food Project
- CASA of Jackson County
- Maslow Project
- Family Nurturing Center's Farm & Food Program
- Southern Oregon Humane Society
- Pollinator Project Rogue Valley
- Rogue Valley Food System Network
- Center for Nonprofit Legal Services
- Rogue Valley SMART Reading
- Phoenix Counseling Center

President Hill noted that the board continued to work hard together during these challenging times. Some highlights of the board's work include:

- Making needed bylaw revision suggestions, a detailed and difficult process which took many hours. Kellie gave special thanks to directors Patty Casebolt and Verne Underwood, and General Manager Anne Carter for their time and efforts.
- The Café remodel: This project is currently underway, with special thanks going to director Fran Batzer for her work on the redesign. Enhancements will address acoustics along with other desires identified by owners.
- Focusing on expansion will be one of the board's priorities in the coming year. The Co-op has grown faster than expected and finding a suitable location will enable the Co-op to improve even greater in its next iteration.

Owners were encouraged to become involved in guiding the future of the Co-op by volunteering to work on board committees or running for a seat on the board.

Anne Carter, General Manager, gave her report, highlighting Co-op accomplishments from 2019. The full 2019 Annual Report may be viewed at <https://medfordfood.coop/owner-resources>

- The Co-op provides a market for local food products. Co-op shoppers purchased \$648,000 worth of local products, a 19% increase over last year.
- The Co-op helps promote local goods to the larger community and collaborated again with the Ashland Food Co-op to offer the Rogue Valley Farm Tour.
- The Café offers customers a convenient way to participate in the local food economy.
- The Co-op strives to promote the health and sustainability of our community through several donations programs. New in 2019 was the Positive Change program, which raised \$23,280 for 12 local nonprofit organizations.
- The Sustainable Silverware Project was implemented to reduce single use plastic utensils by replacing them with reusable metal utensils. (Currently suspended due to COVID-19.)
- Co-op staff offered educational demonstrations to various groups, sharing their knowledge and love of healthy food.
- The Co-op invited author Jon Steinman to stop in Medford on his tour to promote his book, *Grocery Story*.
- The ownership elects the Board of Directors to carry out the mission and vision of the Co-op. The Board meets monthly to ensure that the Co-op produces benefit and value for all owners.
- Co-op profits are invested back into the business and/or shared with owners and employees. In 2019 the Co-op returned \$105,680 to owners and employees in the form of discounts and coupons.
- Other ways the Co-op is improving the economy and community:
 - 113 local producers supported
 - 153 staff volunteer hours recorded
 - 28,386 pounds of food donated
 - \$25,000 given in donations
 - 308 new Co-op owners added
- Anne's report included several video interviews including Positive Change recipients, staff members, and Board members sharing what they value about the Co-op.
- The Co-op's 2019 Balance Sheet shows a stable financial situation with steady growth of assets and equity and decreasing liabilities. In 2019 the Co-op paid off one of the lump-sum owner loans. Total sales were \$5,260,807.

Anne closed her report by thanking the larger Co-op community, the Board of Directors who volunteer their time to help lead the Co-op, for the staff who are dedicated to serving our customers daily, and especially the management team who not only help run the store but who help make the Co-op vision a reality.

Hearing no questions, Kellie closed the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Damas

Board Administrative Assistant