

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR

2016 Annual Meeting



Sunday, October 16, 2016

The Afternoon's Schedule...

at Canterbury Shaker Village • 288 Shaker Road • Canterbury, NH

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1:00 pm | Gates Open |
| 1:15 pm | Welcome & Business Meeting Begins
Chris Gilbert, General Manager
David Marshall, Board President
Peter Delault, Finance Manager |
| 1:30 pm | Balloting Closes |
| 1:30 pm | Light Refreshments Provided by the Co-op |
| 3:00 pm | Ballot Results are Announced
Event Ends |

BALLOT ENCLOSED

Candidates

The Questions:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?
2. What experience and expertise would you bring to the Board?
3. Please describe skills you have that would directly contribute to achieving the overall vision of the Co-op.
4. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?
5. What do you see as the most important issues facing the Co-op in the coming five to ten years?
6. Why do you believe Member-Owners should choose you to represent them?

Four directors are to be elected by our Member-Owners in 2016. Please choose up to four of the following:

KRISTA HELMBOLDT

*Current Profession: Environmental
Lives in Hopkinton, NH*

We have a great staff and a great cooperative community. I am interested in continuing my service to the Board of Directors because I care deeply about ensuring that our Co-op: maintains its vitality and importance in the Concord Community and is a successful business; is a great place for our staff to work; is an economic conduit for our local farmers and producers; and is a nourishing place for members and others to find healthy, tasty, and local foods, to learn, and to build community. I have been a member of the Co-op since the first week I moved to the area 29 years ago; I served on the Board for 7 years early in our history and 5 years recently; I am interested in continuing my service for another term because I wish to help maintain the momentum and progress we are making on several important issues and opportunities that have a strong impact on our Co-op and community.

My relevant experience includes long-term service on 3 other volunteer Boards, and 11-year residence in a housing cooperative. For my career, I have worked for

an environmental non-profit organization for 31 years, and I am fortunate to work with a team of colleagues in a collaborative work environment. What I bring to these team efforts is direct communication, hard work, dedication, integrity, and a desire to solve problems. I value and strive for understanding the views of an array of individuals in an attempt to broaden my perspective and to find thoughtful solutions that reflect the wisdom of many minds working together on a challenge to achieve a common goal.

The Board & Staff have done a lot of good work in this past year, and we have our sights set on some important goals in the coming year. I appreciate your support and vote. I welcome the opportunity to continue the progress the Staff and Board have made; my particular priorities are: 1) strengthen human resource processes for our staff; 2) update our Governance Policies and monitoring processes to reflect current best practices in the Co-op industry; 3) seek open input from all aspects of our cooperative community to hear opinions and synthesize suggestions on how our Co-operative mission can be best achieved at this particular time in our organizational growth; and 4) build the vitality of our Co-op.

“We are much more than just a grocery store.”

Candidates

TRACIE SPONENBERG

*Current Profession: Senior Vice President, HR at The Granite Group
Lives in Concord, NH*

We had been members of the Co-op years ago, but gave up the membership as life and family events got in the way. About three years ago, my husband and I made a commitment to get healthy for ourselves, and for our family. We changed the way we ate, started exercising and consequently lost a lot of weight. About a year later, we decided to start to eat more organically and naturally, and started shopping at the Co-op regularly. Though we went on occasion, we made a commitment to eat as locally as we could, and purchased a membership to the Co-op again. We live in Concord, I shop regularly at the Co-op, and would like to be more involved in my community, and truly believe in what the Co-op represents.

As a Human Resources professional with over 20 years of experience in HR, I will bring strong knowledge of HR issues. As a strategic business professional, I have worked in various companies alongside the CEO, CFO and other senior professionals to drive the business forward, and connect the people to the mission, vision and values of the company. I understand the importance of health and wellness not only in my companies (in my past two companies, we have undergone major transformations in the wellness programs), but also in families. As a mom of three, my husband and I try to ensure our kids eat as locally as possible, and as healthy as possible. Often an

uphill battle, but we keep trying!

Although I personally connect to all aspects of the Co-op's mission and offer the skills mentioned above, I can most contribute to the portion of the mission that mentions "act as a supporting and caring employer." Through my experience in HR, I have gained knowledge on best practices in employee engagement.

At my last employer, I was a member of the Senior Strategic Team. As the HR Director, and only member without direct responsibility for a portion of the initiative, I offered an outside perspective on creating new areas of the business. I attempted to include an HR-focused portion in the strategic plan but in the end, compromised in removing it, for the sake of driving the initiative forward. As HR Director at The Concord Monitor, I worked as part of a team to overhaul the Customer Service function, and bring four distinct areas together into one. Ultimately, I compromised on my vision for the project, after much discussion with the team.

I believe that consumers will want to shop locally, even more than they do today, but cost will be a major factor. Many people know the right thing to do, and the right way to eat, but feel they cannot afford to. Those who can, should, and eventually may drive down the cost to an affordable level for everyone.

As an HR professional, I offer a unique employee-focused perspective. The Co-op can best grow and thrive if its employees are engaged and connected to the business. I can help drive that connection, and offer best practices in the HR arena. I can also offer the perspective of a consumer, and a consumer with children of varying ages.

JIM McCONAHA

*Current Profession: Retired
Lives in Concord, NH*

I live in Concord and have been a customer and member of the Concord Food Co-op for a long time. Since we gave up cooking several years ago, we shop at the Co-op daily.

One year ago, the Concord Food Co-op was confronted with some of the most challenging decisions in its life, and a financial and management crisis that demanded new leadership. The members responded, electing an outstanding board of directors, who brought to the Co-op a new general manager and a new focus on the mission and operation of the Co-op.

We still have work to do. Many people regard the Co-op as a fancy, high-priced gourmet shop. We deserve more of what we really need: high-quality natural and organic foods, environmentally sound products, reasonable prices, and careful stewardship of the money we spend.

It has been a pleasure to serve with my colleagues on the board and if I am elected for another term I will continue to work for:

- transparency in financial management and employee relations
- active board communication with member-owners
- a productive and rewarding work environment

My life to date:

I grew up on a farm and served in the U.S. Air Force. I taught political and environmental science at the University of Maine and New England College, owned and operated my own building business, directed the USDA Farm Service Agency and served as the N.H. State Historic Preservation Officer. I've been a member of the Concord Heritage Commission, active in community development issues, and long time treasurer of the N.H. Future Farmers of America Foundation.

I offer decades of experience as a board and commission member, trustee, and treasurer of local, state, and national organizations. I currently serve as Secretary of the Co-op Board of Directors.

I ask for your vote and will fulfill my duties with integrity. Please contact me at 491-5574, or by email at jmconaha@aol.com.

“A co-op is as strong as the members who own and participate in it.”

DAVID MARSHALL

*Current Profession: Environmental Consultant, Semi-retired
Lives in Henniker, NH*

I am seeking to serve an additional term on the Co-op's Board of Directors and ask your support. I have served on the Board for about 4 years, and am currently President.

My goal has been—and will continue to be—to help the Co-op make a healthy transition to new management, with a renewed focus on cooperative values and attention to the needs of both employees and customers. I am also strongly committed to the Co-op's efforts to provide organic and locally grown food to our community. I believe that our present industrial corporate system of “food” production does not serve either our citizens or our environment well—the Co-op serves a great purpose in providing people with another, more healthy and sustainable choice.

My training is in the law, and I have served in various legal roles, from NH Assistant Attorney General, to private practice, and finally as an advocate with an environmental nonprofit group working primarily to reduce air pollution and climate change. My passion is working to reclaim our natural environment—the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. My continued service on the Co-op's Board is a good way to help fulfill that passion.

The Co-op has faced significant challenges over the past year, and I think will finish the year—post-Main Street construction, guided by new and reinvigorated management—stronger than ever. We will need that strength as we face the longer term issue of increased competition in the natural and organic foods markets. And we must address that issue in a way that does not sacrifice the cooperative values and spirit that have been, and remain, central to our mission. I would like to do my part to help the Co-op maintain that balance.

DEREK OWEN

*Current Profession: Farmer
Lives in Hopkinton, NH*

I am interested in the Co-op's growth and especially its increased activities in community service with the connection of health and good food. I have served as a Representative to the General Court of NH (i.e., a State Rep) sitting on the Environment and Agriculture

Committee for nearly 19 years, taking part in deliberations concerned with the raising and processing of food among other things.

I also have chaired the Hopkinton Conservation Commission for nearly 20 years. Some of its duties include looking after wetlands and current use designation. These activities do require working with others and arriving at a consensual agreement. I find the promotion of good healthy food and involvement in the community a very noble cause.



Voting Instructions

WHO MAY VOTE

Any individual who is a member. A member is an individual who owns at least one "A share" and three "B shares" in his or her own name, as shown on the records of the Concord Food Co-op, Inc. at the close of business on September 19, 2016. If your spouse/partner owns the shares, your spouse/partner may vote, but you may not, even if you have a scan tag that you show at the store register when you make a purchase. If you want to know whether or not you are an eligible voting member, call Finance Manager Pete Deleault at 603-227-9696.

HOW DO I VOTE?

Ballots may be downloaded and printed from our website and will be available for pick-up at all Co-op store locations beginning September 19, 2016.

After completing your ballot, you MUST place it into an envelope (whether you are dropping it off or mailing it) and write the following information on the sealed exterior flap:

- Your name as it appears on the Co-op's membership roster
- Your member number*

**See the back of your member card or key tags (the series of five digits beginning with a zero) for your member number or call the Concord store at 603-225-6840 for assistance.*

A ballot without this verifying information will be considered invalid and will not be counted. Duplicates and ballots from members who are not eligible to vote will not be counted.

WHAT ABOUT VOTER ANONYMITY?

Your ballot must be securely sealed inside an envelope. Envelopes with voter identification information will remain sealed until the close of the voting period (1:30 pm Sunday, October 16, 2016). Member names and numbers will be used only to verify the validity of each vote received and to eliminate duplicate ballots. At the close of the voting period, Board-appointed ballot counters working in pairs will separate each folded ballot from its envelope and put it into a collection of folded ballots until all successfully validated envelopes have been emptied. Only after the complete separation of ballots from their identifying envelopes will ballot counters open and count the ballots.

WHEN AND WHERE CAN I VOTE?

Method	Deadline
By ballot, hand-delivered to the Concord Co-op store in Concord	Friday, October 14, 2016 at 8 pm
By ballot, hand-delivered to the Concord Co-op store in New London	Friday, October 14, 2016 at 6 pm
By ballot, sent by mail and received at the Concord Food Co-op. Ballots must be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked: ELECTIONS Concord Food Co-op 24 South Main Street Concord, NH 03301	Ballots must be received before Friday, October 14, 2016 at 6 pm
By ballot cast at the Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 1 pm (balloting open 1 - 1:30 pm) at Canterbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, NH	Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 1:30 pm

Envelope Front

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ELECTIONS
Concord Food Co-op
24 South Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Your Name
Your 5-digit Member #

Envelope Back

2016 OFFICIAL BALLOT

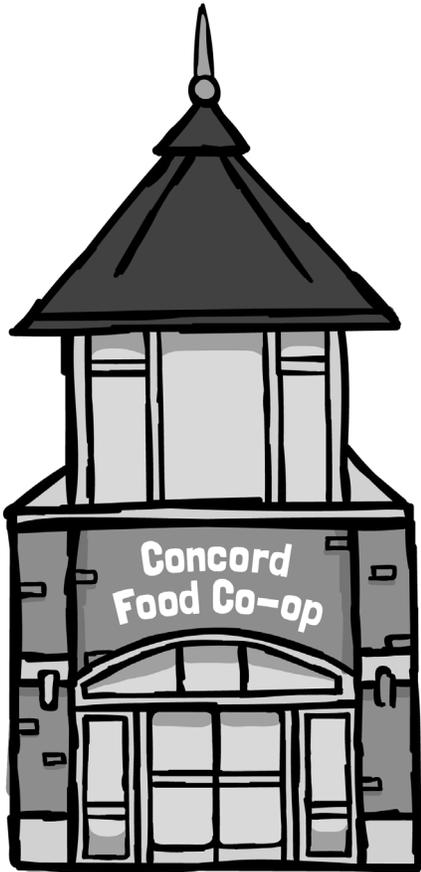
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Four Directors are to be elected in 2016; the three candidates with the most votes will be elected to three-year terms, while the candidate with the fourth highest vote total will be elected to a one-year term.

(See the Annual Meeting/Ballot Brochure for descriptions of each candidate.)

Please place a check mark on the lines next to UP TO FOUR of your chosen candidates.

Candidate's Name (in alphabetical order)	Vote
Krista Helmboldt	
David Marshall	
Jim McConaha	
Derek Owen	
Tracie Spenberg	



COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

Congratulations to our new Community Partners for 2017. We look forward to working with the following community organizations over the next year.

The Concord-Merrimack County SPCA (www.concordspca.org) is dedicated to caring for abandoned and homeless pets, protecting and advocating for pets in need, and promoting the humane treatment of all animals. The shelter strives to place homeless animals in loving homes that are committed to their lifetime care.

The purpose of the **Concord Coalition to End Homelessness** (www.helpendhomelessness.org) is to convene service providers, key partners, and other stakeholders in the work to end homelessness in the greater Concord community.

Crisis Center of Central New Hampshire (www.cccnh.org) serves Merrimack County. We help victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The Friends Emergency Housing Program (www.friendsprogram.org) is a temporary shelter for homeless families staffed 24/7. The program employs a strong community-based case management approach that focuses on financial literacy, education, and day to day life skills.

The Friendly Kitchen (www.thefriendlykitchen.org) feeds the hungry. Volunteers prepare and serve dinner daily, lunch on weekdays, and breakfast on the weekends year round. During the winter months breakfast is served daily. All are welcome.

NOFA-NH - Northeast Organic Farming Association of NH - (www.nofanh.org) supports organic farmers, gardeners, and landcare providers with educational programs to build a thriving organic, ecologically sound, and diverse healthy community.

*Thank You
for Voting!*

2016 OFFICIAL BALLOT