



Greetings Co-op Members –

We hope that your year is off to a good start! We are writing with some updates from the Co-op board:

- ❖ **Holiday Sales:** The holiday shopping season at the Co-op was a great success with sales at their highest level in many years. Our thanks to all employees of the Co-op for their good work. This kind of success builds our organizational strength and enables us to achieve our mission in the community.
- ❖ **Grocer of the Year:** Concord Food Co-op is the NH Grocers Association “Grocer of the Year!” This award is given on the basis of store visits and outstanding contributions to the community. Mention was also made of the Co-op’s catering service called *The Jury Box* at UNH Law.
- ❖ **Energy Efficiency:** Part of our mission is to operate in a way that is environmentally sound. Last May, we switched all the lighting in the Concord store over to LED lighting. From July 2018 to February 2019, we have reduced our energy consumption by 28,359 KWH, achieving an 8% savings for the 8-month period. This means over \$4,000 in reduced energy costs so far.
- ❖ **Local Farmers:** Another part of our mission is to provide local and regional products. In January, our produce department held their annual meetings with local farmers to see what products we can offer this growing season (in addition to the non-seasonal items offered). In addition, the Co-op’s strategic partnership with Canterbury Shaker Village allows us to offer organic produce grown at Shaker Village.
- ❖ **Possible Ban on Plastic Bags:** NH lawmakers are considering a proposal for a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags and plastic straws. The Co-op board supports efforts to minimize the production of any waste that is damaging to the environment. If a statewide ban is passed, Chris Gilbert, General Manager, is developing a potential plan for the Co-op and our customers.
- ❖ **Customer Survey:** We want to hear from you! The Co-op will be holding our annual Customer Satisfaction survey beginning the week of March 17. This is a great opportunity to let us know how we are doing and to share your feedback and ideas. Your voice is important to help us do our best to serve our members and customers. Those who complete the survey will be rewarded with a new Co-op re-usable cotton shopping bag.
- ❖ **Board Positions:** Enthusiastic Co-op members are encouraged to consider running for the board of directors. Serving on the board is both fun and rewarding. As the Co-op has staggered terms for board members, we expect to have openings for the board election coming up in September. To learn more about the opportunities for serving on the board, please send an email to nominating@concordfoodcoop.coop with your contact information and a board member will be in touch with you.

Thank you for shopping at the Co-op. Your support of the Co-op is what makes all our success possible.

Concord Food Co-op
Board of Directors