



Ashland Food Co-op  
Board of Directors

**Ashland Food Cooperative  
Board of Directors Annual Meeting  
June 22, 2014  
APPROVED**

**Board members present:** Gwyneth Bowman, Joanie Kintscher, Ed Claassen, Phil Johnson, Gary Einhorn, Sheila Carder.  
**Employees present:** Emile Amarotico, General Manager; Annie Hoy, Outreach Manager. **Others:** Abby Lazerow, Board Administrator. **Absent:** Charlie Douglass.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Annie Hoy.

**DISCUSSION POINTS**

- Outreach Manager Annie Hoy opened the 2014 Annual Meeting and thanked owners for attending. Annie informed owners this was a zero-waste event.
- Annie recently attended a meeting in Madison, WI to discuss how to move food co-ops forward. In 1972 our Co-op started as a buying club to obtain healthier food at better prices. This movement of buying clubs is called the second wave of Co-ops. There will be 150 startup coops in 2015, which are part of the third wave of coops. Established co-ops are now helping new co-ops open in a timely fashion and with solid funding. Cooperatives are democratically owned businesses and are acknowledged leaders for economic and environmental sustainability. The growth of cooperatives is part of the United Nations global vision for 2020. Our owners' participation in our Co-op is important and appreciated. Children who are participating in this event are the next generation of cooperators.
- Annie recognized the volunteers and members of the Outreach team and others who helped set up this event, including the Lions Club who provided the barbeque, ScienceWorks Museum for providing the venue, and the event caterer.
- Annie introduced Joanie Kintscher, Board Vice President.
- Joanie introduced the Board of Directors individually. She recognized Phil, Ed and Sheila as retiring outgoing directors and thanked them for their contributions to our Co-op.
- Joanie introduced 2014 Board candidates Julie O'Dwyer, Jeff Golden and Ian Crosby. Joanie encouraged owners to vote.
- Joanie introduced General Manager Emile Amarotico.
- Emile welcomed our owners and acknowledged the volunteers from the Lions Club.
- Emile thanked the Board for their coaching and support. Emile thanked the MT and Co-op employees for sharing their insights with him over the past year.
- Emile discussed the 2013 Annual Report. The Annual Report is posted on the Co-op website along with the minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting.

- Sales have increased only about 4% this year. There are now other shopping opportunities to the north. The Co-op is at capacity and parking is difficult.
- Emile shared three major highlights from the past year:
  - 1) The Employee Alliance was created to assist with employee matters and to create a bargaining unit agreement that establishes employee benefits, rights, and policies. The agreement has been drafted over the last nine months and should soon go to employees for review and a vote in the middle of July.
  - 2) Our Deli will close its doors on June 22 and over eight days will be remodeled and improved. The remodel will give Deli employees much better working conditions. Concrete floors will be resurfaced and work areas reorganized.
  - 3) The Co-op strives to not be involved in political issues and ballot measures, but this year took a different stand to support measure 15-119, GMO-Free Jackson County. Owners were pleased with our support of this measure.
- Emile also announced employee Chessley Sexton recently went to Salem to represent the Co-op at the Association of Recyclers and to accept an award on behalf of the Co-op as the outstanding recycling company in Oregon. The award statue was made of recycled bicycle materials. Emile also thanked employee Stuart Green for his fine work as the store Sustainability Coordinator.
- Owners asked Emile several questions.
  - 1) Q: How much do we recycle? A: 79% by weight and 82% by volume.
  - 2) Q: How does measure 15-119 affect our sourcing of products? A: We source from many suppliers outside this region, but also work with local farmers. If this measure hadn't passed, there was the possibility many local products could not be considered organic and sold by the Co-op. Owners care deeply about the sources and quality of our foods.
  - 3) Q: Where does the Co-op stand on the Oregon labeling initiative? A: We have given carte blanche for signature gathers and have great confidence there will be enough signatures to place the initiative on the November ballot. If labeling is required, the Co-op will no longer have to conduct all-store audits, calling each and every manufacturer. If a product has an organic seal, it is non-GMO.
  - 4) Q: Is there any chance the Co-op could provide outdoor tables where dogs could sit with their owners?  
A: Emile will look into it.
- Emile introduced outgoing Board Director Sheila Carder who is also Development Director of ScienceWorks.
- There is a strong affiliation between ScienceWorks and the Co-op.
- Sheila encouraged our owners to have fun exploring the museum exhibits.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.