

Letter from the Board President

Dear Potential Board Members,

Thank you for taking time to increase your involvement at the North Coast Co-op!

Cooperative businesses like ours have been providing food producers with the positive financial reward for good stewardship of our planet and humanity since the early 19th century.

Understanding that you are part of something larger than one person allows you to work for a movement that has made a major positive impact in the way business is conducted around the world and right here in our back yard.

As you enter the process of running for a seat on the board of directors and possibly being elected, there will be challenges and learning opportunities and you will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of what it takes to work cooperatively.

In pursuit of becoming a member of the North Coast Co-op's Board of Directors, questions may arise. Feel free to contact me. You can also contact Vice Chair Sarah Mora.

Cooperatively yours,



Dave Feral

Call Valerie Davis, Administrative Assistant to the Board, to set up a phone or face-to-face meeting. (707) 822-5947 ext. 135

Message from the Board of Directors

Thank you for your willingness to run for the North Coast Co-op Board of Directors.

Member involvement in a member owned co-op is important, and we all appreciate your interest and willingness to serve.

We realize that running for the board can seem like a daunting task.

This guide is intended to outline what can be expected when running for the board, as well as lay out some of what you can expect as a board member.

On behalf of the entire 2010 Board of Directors we wish you good luck!

Dave Feral

Sarah Mora

Cynthia Coronado-Brown

Wayne Hawkins

Nate Wiesner

Steve Suttel

Austin Beadle

Election Timeline

June 1	Candidate Application Packets available at Customer Service and at www.northcoastco-op.com
August 1	Candidate Applications due
August 6	Candidate Statements due
August (TBD)	Shoot 3-minute videos of candidates
Sept (TBD)	Candidate Statements posted Advertise candidate forums
Sept 15	Election Begins
Sept-Oct	Member Campaigning
October (TBD)	Candidate Forums
October 13	"Get Out the Vote" event
October 15	Voting Ends
October 24	Winners announced at Annual Membership Meeting
November 1	New Directors become official
(TBD) = To Be Determined	



Board of Directors Election

2010

Guidelines for Candidates

WE OWN IT!

www.northcoastco-op.com/about.htm#board

Cooperative Principles

Voluntary and Open Membership

Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social racial, political, or religious discrimination.

Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and co-operatives at other levels are also organized in a democratic manner.

Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any of the following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and Independence

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations, controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

Education, Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of the co-operative. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

Co-operation Among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, regional, national, and international structures.

Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities, through policies approved by their members.

Board of Directors Responsibilities

Duty of Care

A board member has the duty to exercise reasonable care when making decisions for the organization. Reasonable care is what an "ordinarily prudent" person in a similar situation would do.

Duty of Loyalty

A board member must never use information gained through his/her position for personal gain and must always act in the best interest of the organization.

Duty of Obedience

A board member must be faithful to the organization's mission. He or she cannot act in a way that is inconsistent with the organization's goals.

Board of Directors Job Description

Regularly attend board meetings and important related meetings (Board meetings are usually the fourth Thursday of the month).

Serve on at least one board committee.

Stay informed about committee matters, prepares themselves well for meetings, reviews comments on minutes and reports.

Build a working relationship with fellow board members.

Actively participate in the committee's annual evaluation and planning efforts.

Campaigning

Members are encouraged to campaign as little or as much as they feel is appropriate. The purpose of campaigning is to help the members get to know you and why you are choosing to run for the board of directors. Listed below are some guidelines for campaigning:

Candidate Statement

Each candidate will be asked to write a 250 word statement outlining why they wish to run for the board. All candidate statements will be featured in the September issue of the Co-op News and posted on our website. Statements are due to Melanie Bettenhausen by August 6.

Video Statement

Candidates will have the opportunity to shoot a short 3-minute statement about their candidacy that will play on YouTube.

Candidate Forums

The Co-op will conduct two candidate forums, one at the Eureka store and one at the Arcata store. These forums are an opportunity for members to get to know the candidates and ask questions. Forums will be videotaped to play on YouTube.

Tabling

Candidates can table in front of both stores in the free speech area. If interested in tabling, candidates must contact each store individually and set up dates and times.

Arcata (707) 822-5947

Eureka (707) 443-6027

Note: Candidates cannot campaign within 10 feet of the ballot box, or during our "Get Out the Vote" event on October 13.