

First Alternative NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Fresh, local, organic groceries for everyone

North Store: 2855 NW Grant Ave • South Store: 1007 SE 3rd St

The 
SCOOP
May 2022



From the Board of Directors

Jim Mitchell

Hello, fellow Owners.

Happy Spring! The return of the newborn lambs; the ospreys, rufous hummingbirds, and vultures from their winter vacations in Mexico; the blooming of spring flowers; the flowering trees and bushes; and planting early vegetables in my garden always lift my spirits and renew my hopes for the future.

The March Board meeting was conducted using Zoom, but we are anticipating meeting in-person again for the first time in quite a while. Since Fireworks closed, First Alternative (FA) has decided not to lease the building to another business and, at least in the near term, use it as a meeting room. The Corvallis Chamber of Commerce generously donated their large conference room table to FA and the room is large enough to provide a safe meeting space for the Board and board committees. We are looking forward to being together in-person again.

During the March meeting, our insurance broker attended as a special guest. We had a very productive discussion on what changes, if any, we need to make to ensure our assets are protected as best as is

reasonable. Much of the discussion was about the loss we incurred from the fire in our commissary building and the related replacement cost, which has been affected by increased material costs, supply issues, and other factors we've all seen as a result of the pandemic and other economic disruptions. Also related to the commissary building, we accepted the final cost proposal from our construction contractor and approved a resolution to our bank committing funds for the construction of the replacement facility.

Dana Monroe, Chair of the Owner Relations Committee (ORC), announced a new program that will spotlight Owners who are bringing our community together. The first spotlight, featuring Co-op Owners Cheryl Good and Michael Viliardos, recently premiered on our YouTube page and social media profiles. Visit youtu.be/xOyejbGw4NU or scan the QR code on the next page with your smartphone to watch the video.

ORC will publish Owner spotlight videos through First Alternative's social media and to our listserve. Owners can nominate Owners to be considered for this program by emailing ORC@firstalt.coop or by contacting any of the Committee or Board members. Stay tuned for more news on this fun program.

The Board also approved the new Ranked Choice

Continued on the next page...

May Board Committee Meetings

Owners interested in virtually attending meetings should contact BREC@firstalt.coop for details.

Owner Relations Committee & Strategic Planning Committee:

The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board and the committee that develops strategic plans consistent with Board's vision and direction are having a joint meeting.

Monday, May 9, 5pm

Board Recruitment & Elections Committee:

Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.

Tuesday, May 17, 6pm

Finance Committee: Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.

Wednesday, May 18, 4:30pm

Board of Directors: Elected Owners putting our principles into action. **Tuesday, May 31, 6pm**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

**Open daily
7 am - 9 pm**

Continued from previous page...

Voting Election Guide that will be used in future Board of Director elections when we have more candidates than open positions. The Guide establishes the policies, practices, and procedures used by the Board Recruitment and Election Committee (BREC) to conduct the election.

We will not be using a ranked choice voting election this year since, at this time, we do not have more candidates on the ballot than open positions. Applications from Owners interested in being on the ballot and desiring Board endorsement were due March 31st. BREC did not receive any applications and only one incumbent has decided to run for reelection. We will have 4 open positions: three 3-year term positions and one 2-year position. The election period is June 1-15. You can look forward to either getting an email giving you access to your ballot or, if you opted out of receiving electronic correspondence from First Alternative, a paper ballot in the mail. The Board is discussing including some survey/advisory questions on the electronic ballot, so please vote to help the Board better represent you.

Owners who are interested in being on the Board still have an opportunity to be on the ballot by submitting a petition with at least 20 other Owner signatures by May 6th. Petitions can be picked up at either store at the customer service counter or by contacting me at BREC@firstalt.coop. Participating

in our elections is another important way you can support your co-op through involvement in our democratic process in addition to running for the Board or serving on one of our committees.

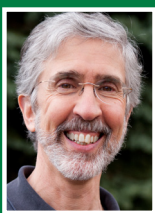
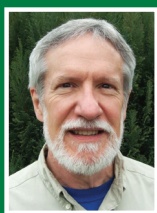
Now that I have encouraged you to get involved by being on the Board, I can report that I have decided to step down and this is my last Scoop article. I have served our co-op by being on the Board for three terms (9 years), serving as an officer (Treasurer, Vice President, and President) and as a committee member on the Executive, Finance, Four-Pillars, Strategic Planning, and BREC committees. I have enjoyed my involvement with the Board and Management and am grateful to the Owners for trusting me to represent them by electing and then re-electing me to the Board. Although I am stepping down from the Board, I plan to continue to be around and involved as a non-Board Owner. I look forward to seeing you in the stores and at future First Alternative events.

The Board is losing two valuable members this year: Demain Hommel and Elizabeth Sonstegaard. Demain was first elected to the Board in 2018 and re-elected in 2021. He served as vice president and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Elizabeth was elected in 2019 and served as the Chair of the Owner Relations Committee, and more recently, the Strategic Planning Committee. Both have been great members of the Board and will be missed.

Another long-term member of the Board announced his retirement during our meeting. Dan Shapiro has served the Board for a total of twelve years as a Director and, recently, as the Board Advisor and our meeting facilitator. Dan has been an invaluable part of the Board and leaves big shoes to fill. The Board expressed gratitude for his many years of service.

As always, if you would like to address the Board or any of the committees, please email us at FABoard@firstalt.coop or through the FA website using Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Another way is by attending our meetings. You can find our meeting schedule on the last page of the Scoop. 🐸

Thanks for your service to the Board and the Co-op Community!



Jim Mitchell, Elizabeth Sonstegaard, Demian Hommel, & Dan Shapiro

Owners, Join the Strategic Planning Committee

Help the Co-op Board and management guide our future

The Strategic Planning Committee is tasked with developing strategic plans consistent with the Board's vision and direction. In addition to Board members, the committee is also staffed by Owners. Are you an Owner interested in guiding the future of your cooperative? If so, the Strategic Planning Committee is a great way to take part. The Co-op Board wants you! 🐸



Interested? Contact Strategic Planning Committee Chair: elizabeth.sonstegaard.board@firstalt.coop



Owner Spotlight

Cheryl Good & Michael Viliardos

Co-op Owners are an interesting, community-focused lot. Take Cheryl and Michael, both longtime Owners and former employees at the Co-op. We caught up with them at the Tuesday Market they've organized at the end of Alexander Street in South Town. Visit our YouTube page to hear Cheryl and Micheal talk about the market, their time at the Co-op, and more.

Presented by the Co-op Board of Directors
Owner Relations Committee.



Visit youtu.be/xOyejbGw4NU
or scan this this QR code. 🥬

Community Happenings

OSU Repair Fair

Wednesday, May 11, 4-6 pm at OSU Student
Experience Center Plaza, 2251 SW Jefferson Way

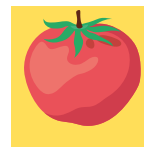
Bring broken items and learn how to fix them for free;
attend demos to learn more DIY skills. See website for
a list of skills and demos. For more info, contact: OSU
Waste Watchers, <http://tiny.cc/repair-fair>, email andrea.norris@oregonstate.edu, or call (541) 737-5398. 🥬



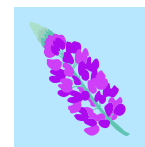
Master Gardener Plant Sale & Clinic Great Plants at Great Prices



Perennials



Edibles



Natives



Trees & Shrubs

Over 8,000 Plants

**May 7 9am-3pm
Benton County Fairgrounds**

**Two Venues: Solar Barn and Floral Courtyard
Entry numbers will be monitored for safe capacity**

More info at:
bentonmg.org/plant-sale





Conundrum House presents *Spectres of Benton County Past: Season Two*

This fun, educational opportunity begins on Saturday, May 7. The adventure takes players to five historic locations with spectral residents who have interesting stories to tell, and dilemmas they need you to help them solve! This family adventure is played offline or online. Learn more and register at: spectres.conundrumhouse.com.

Thanks for your support, Cooperators!

You donated **\$3,853** for the Corvallis Sister Cities Association's Ukrainian Refugee Fund! Combined with the Co-op's donation, that equals a...

\$5,000 donation

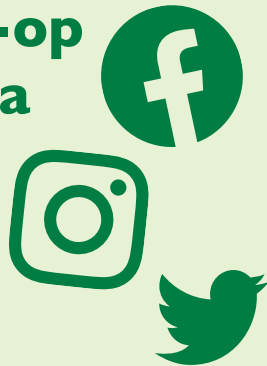
Donations to The Corvallis Sister Cities Association's Ukrainian Refugee Fund are being used to purchase microwaves and refrigerators, irons, kettles, mattresses, bedding, and more for refugee centers in Uzhhorod where thousands are gathering as the war in Ukraine continues.

Follow the Co-op on social media

For up-to-the-minute news, giveaways, recipes, special offers, and more.

@firstaltcoop

Facebook • Instagram • Twitter



Subscribe to our Email Newsletter



Scan this QR Code with your smart phone to join our email list. *Subscribers receive twice-monthly emails plus occasional special offers, coupons & announcements.*



**It's your Co-op.
Own it.**



Save • Earn • Support • Vote

To get all the details and become an Owner visit
firstalt.coop/ownership

The Co-op welcomed

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**new Owners
in March!**

