

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
June 2022



From the Board of Directors

Tyra Jansson

While I know not everyone enjoys the rain, I hope you're able to also see it as a sign of hope for this year—the fresh air and longer green season than the past few years has

been lifting my spirits, even as my allergies protest.

The First Alternative Board also had its first hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting in April, with most Board members attending in-person and everyone respecting each other's decision regarding wearing a mask.

Another sign of hope is that First Alternative was able to perform well enough last year that the Board has decided to declare a dividend again—for the third year in a row!

This means that Co-op Owners may be eligible to receive a dividend payment. Patronage dividends are distributed in proportion to the amount an Owner spends at the Co-op throughout the year. As in the past few years, the Board selected a minimum payment of \$1.00, which means that if the portion of eligible dividend allocated to an Owner is less than that amount, that Owner will not receive a dividend payment.

By declaring a dividend, approximately \$20,000 total will be distributed to Owners (keeping the money in our community), the tax burden on the Co-op is decreased, and the Co-op's cash position will be improved relative to not declaring a dividend.

There will be upcoming information about how and when Owners who will receive a dividend will be notified. In the past, First Alternative has notified Owners of their dividend using email (to save paper) or physical mail, if there's no email for the Owner account or the Owner has opted out of email correspondence.

Just like last year, there are a few options regarding what Owners receiving a dividend will be able to do with it. The first option is to access it in the form of store credit at the register when making a purchase. Another option will be to donate it to an organization that Owners will vote on in the upcoming Board election.

The organizations that will be on the ballot for potential dividend donations are (in alphabetical order): The Coastal Range Food Bank, Corvallis Sister Cities Association Ukraine Uzhhorod Refugee Fund, Marys River Gleaners, Philomath Community Services, and St. Vincent de Paul Corvallis Food Pantry.

Continued on the next page...

June Board Committee Meetings

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

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

Wednesday, June 8, 4:30 pm

Owner Relations Committee:

The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.

Wednesday, June 8, 6 pm

Board Recruitment & Elections

Committee: Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.

Tuesday, June 14, 6 pm

Strategic Planning Committee:

Develops strategic plans consistent with Board's vision and direction.

Monday, June 20, 5 pm

Board of Directors: Elected

Owners putting our principles into action. **Tuesday, June 28, 6 pm**



**ELECTION
SPECIAL**

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS



**Open daily
7 am - 9 pm**



Continued from previous page...

Last year, Co-op Owners selected the South Corvallis Food Bank as the organization to which Owners could donate their patronage dividends, and you all were generous enough to donate around \$3,000 of dividends to their efforts!

To help you decide which option to select, I would encourage you all to visit their websites and Facebook pages to learn more about each of the organizations, the communities they serve, and the good work they do. They are all fairly long-standing organizations who have made positive impacts in our communities.

If there are any organizations whose work or mission particularly resonates with you, any additional donations of volunteer time or money you could provide would be appreciated. I know many organizations that rely on volunteers are currently facing a number of challenges to keep operating, and are in need of assistance.

I hope you're all able to find things that bring you joy during the upcoming summer—one thing I know I plan on doing is working my way through all the ice cream flavors the Co-op has to offer to see if I can find a new favorite.



Co-op Board Seeks New Facilitator

If you have facilitation experience and are interested in helping the Co-op board, please contact Jasmin at jasmin.woodside.board@firstalt.coop.



A Special Message From the Board of Directors

First Alternative is controlled by you, the Owner. First Alternative Owners are consumers who give input and make decisions about the store, its philosophy, products, and services. One way you can influence decision-making is to elect Board candidates who support your ideas.

The Board Recruitment and Election Committee prepared this Election Special especially for you. This committee endorses, as nominees, interested Owners who have the experience and skills needed to guide our thriving local business.

The First Alternative Board of Directors is responsible for directing the Co-op's affairs.

As representatives of the Owners, the Board:

1. establishes overall policies and objectives
2. sets financial goals and approves major financial transactions
3. selects the General Manager and evaluates their performance
4. reviews and approves budgets
5. guides the long-term vision of the Co-op through its Ends statements.

Presented on the following pages are candidates nominated by the Board Recruitment and Election Committee to run for open Board positions beginning in June. Please read the candidate information carefully before exercising your right as an Owner to elect new Board members.



Jasmin (*candidate profile on the next page*) is the only endorsed candidate for director on this year's ballot. There are four positions one in this election. You may vote for up to four Owners using the write-in spaces. A candidate must receive at least 20 votes.

You must cast your ballot online by midnight or in the store before store closing on June 15th.

The current First Alternative Board of Directors appreciates your participation in this election.

For information on electronic and paper voting, see, "Board Election Voting Procedures" on the back page.





Incumbent

**Jasmin B.
Woodside**

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

If elected, this will be my second term on the First Alternative Board. I have enjoyed my time and taken available opportunities to educate myself further. I am quick to volunteer to complete tasks and step up into leadership positions when needed. I love the Co-op and its mission. One of the more enjoyable aspects for me has been to learn more about the Co-op's mission. We are much more than a grocery store and I aim to continue to learn and support the Co-op in the ways needed.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? I try to bring enthusiasm and joy to all my efforts. I enjoy problem solving in a group environment, learning, listening, and being flexible.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? The Co-op has had many challenges over my first term including a pandemic, wildfires, and the commissary burning down. We have weathered the many hardships with grace. I hope the challenges will not be as great, but there will be many opportunities for the Co-op to be an even more integral part of our community. Corvallis is a healthy, growing community and I see the Co-op looking inward to decide how we can serve even more of our community.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? First Alternative serves as a leader in our community as a cooperatively owned business that is a success. We help to define the community that we want to live in by being member-owned and member-governed and focused on a common vision.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? I was involved with the Board in updating and rewriting our Ends Statement, which is the goal and vision of our Co-op. I will state them here as I believe these to also be the long-term goals that I envision for First Alternative: "First Alternative exists to be a successful cooperatively-owned business, ensuring that our community will have a reliable source of healthy food, a stronger local economy and a business with a welcoming atmosphere for everyone."

Education and Certification

- BS, Civil Engineering; Virginia Tech
- MS, Civil Engineering; Oregon State University (expected graduation Summer 2022)

Present Occupation: Master's student

Business Experience: I am a professional engineer and I worked in land development as a civil engineer for nearly 10 years before shifting focus to stay at home with my three children. I have retained my civil engineering license through the years by receiving continuing education credits. In 2019, I decided to pursue my master's degree from Oregon State University in civil engineering with a focus on transportation safety and human factors.

Community Involvement:

- South Corvallis Neighborhood Association, Vice President; 2001-2004
- Big Brother, Big Sister; 2002-2005
- Corvallis Planning Commission; 2009-2018
- Corvallis Planning Commission Chair; 2015-2018
- Living Southtown, Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services; 2015-current
- South Corvallis Urban Renewal District Advisory Board, 2018-2019
- Benton County Skateboarding Alliance (BCSA) board member; current
- First Alternative Co-op Board; 2019-present

BOARD ELECTION VOTING PROCEDURES

Please read completely before completing your ballot

A full First Alternative Board of Directors is composed of ten directors elected to three-year terms, with either 3 (three) or 4 (four) positions coming up for election each year. One-year or two-year positions are sometimes open due to resignations, or because all positions were not filled in a previous year. This year, there are three (3) three-year and one (1) two-year positions open on the Board.

Owners may vote for up to, but not more than 4 (four) candidates including votes for write-in candidates. Write-in candidates must be the owner of their share. Paper ballots with votes for more than four (4) candidates will be declared invalid. The e-voting prevents more than four choices.

The candidates receiving the highest vote totals will fill the three-year positions. Candidates must receive a minimum of twenty votes to be elected.

The electronic ballot includes a survey of the voters' preferences for the recipient of the 2022 donated Owner Patronage Dividends. The winner will be selected using the Single Transferable Vote, ranked choice voting method.

Owners will be able to cast votes at any time from June 1st up to and including June 15th. E-voting closes at mid-night. Voting by paper ballot will close at the close of the stores on that day. Each Owner is entitled to cast one ballot with their individual Owner number. Household members may be listed under an Owner number, but only one person is the Owner for the purposes of voting. This means that each Owner number may be used only once in voting, and it must be used by the Owner of record. This complies with the First Alternative bylaw requirement that each share purchased entitles the Owner to one vote.

Contact Customer Service if you are unsure which family member is the Owner of record.

You will receive an email on June 1st which will give you to access your electronic ballot unless you have chosen to receive a paper ballot in the mail. You can request to have either a paper ballot mailed to you or an electronic ballot in the future by indicating your choice on the "Owner Information Update" form on the First Alternative website at firstalt.coop/owner-information-update. Extra ballots and envelopes can also be obtained from Customer Service in both stores. A plain envelope may be substituted for the preprinted envelope, as long as:

Must have on envelope (not on ballot):

- ✓ **Your Owner number**
- ✓ **Your name, printed clearly**
- ✓ **Your signature**

This information is used to verify your Owner status. If this cannot be verified, your ballot will not be counted. Do not put any of this information on your ballot! Envelopes will be separated from ballots after Owner status is verified.

There will be ballot boxes in both stores where marked ballots may be deposited. Alternatively, you may mail your ballot to:

**Election Committee
PO Box 1981
Corvallis, OR 97339**

For the paper ballots to be counted, ballots must be received by store close on June 15. Totals from electronic and paper ballots will be combined after the close of the e-voting to determine the election winners. Election results will be posted in both stores and in the July issue of the Scoop.

**Become a Co-op
Owner today!**

Save • Earn • Support • Vote

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

The Co-op welcomed
24
new Owners in April!