

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 2023



From the Board of Directors

Dana Monroe

I think it's a safe assumption that we are all excited and grateful to see the trees blooming and the flowers popping up. This is a hopeful time of year as we start to see

neighbors in their yards and kids playing outside.

The First Alternative Board is riding the coattails of spring's energy with our work at our mini-retreat in April. This month's Scoop article will focus on the board's dedication to making an expansion plan for when the Co-op is in a sound financial position to take advantage of opportunities that would allow us to expand.

The First Alternative Co-op's management team, along with the Board, have been evaluating how to

utilize our resources and best serve our Owners and community. We have identified opportunities and challenges and realize we are in a position where we may be able to grow and maintain a strong financial position with the help of our community.

We have been collecting information through professional market studies and will continue to forecast through additional market studies and community conversations.

Our General Manager, Cindee, will update the Board monthly with new components of the plan. We plan to conduct a market study from a specialist who will tour our facility and speak with management and the Board. A separate feasibility study will be done by NCG.

Results are expected over the summer, thus our summer work will be to complete the first draft of a plan. Part of our plan will also include a 5-year proforma for strategic planning.

We are excited, and acting with caution, but looking forward to sharing more with Owners as we move through this process. You can look for monthly updates in the stores and the Scoop.

Additionally, Board elections will take place from June 1-15. Ballots will be emailed to you, Owners. And you can view the profile of candidates, right here in the June Scoop.



June Board of Directors Committee Meetings

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

Owner Relations Committee:

The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.

Wednesday, June 12, 6pm

Board Recruitment & Elections Committee:

Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.

Tuesday, June 13, 6pm

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

Wednesday, June 14, 4:30pm

Board of Directors: Elected Owners putting our principles into action. **Tuesday, June 27, 6pm**



**ELECTION
SPECIAL**

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS



**Open daily
7am - 9pm**



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OMGA™
THE OREGON MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Two days of research-based classes
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For new and experienced gardeners!

Bookstore Awards Silent Auction

FRIDAY, JULY 7
SATURDAY, JULY 8

CH2MHILL ALUMNI CENTER
725 SW 26TH ST.
OSU CAMPUS, CORVALLIS, OR

In cooperation with
and support of
Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

<https://omga.org/mini-college-2023/>
REGISTRATION OPENS ON MAY 15

Questions? Contact us at 2023joyofgardening@gmail.com

Become a Co-op Owner today!



Save • Earn • Support • Vote

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



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.

**You must cast your ballot online 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

Dana Monroe

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

My interest in serving on the First Alternative Co-op Board of Directors lies in equity and accessibility for all people in our community who wish to access fresh, 'clean' food. As a mother, teacher, and community member, I believe that all members of our community should feel that the Co-op is available to them as a source of nourishment and education.

As Southtown develops, the Co-op will need to adapt to a more competitive market that offers safe routes for cars, bikes, and pedestrians. I would like to help both the North and South Co-op serve all of our community. Additionally, I am committed to public service and believe that one must give back and work together with neighbors to achieve what is best for all.

I feel that serving on this Board is a great place to do that.

Education and Certification

- AA: Documentary Photography; Endicott College, Mass., 1996
- BA: Art Education, Colorado State University, 2006
- Oregon Teacher Certification, Visual Arts, K-12, 2006
- MS Ed.: K-12 Reading Endorsement; Western Oregon University, 2011

Present Occupation: Elementary Art Teacher, Lincoln Elementary

Business Experience: I currently manage a large classroom budget. Previously, I worked as a graphic artist and helped start a large online marketplace. I've started several small businesses ranging from hospitality to independent artist shops

Community Involvement: I have just completed my first three-year term on the Board of Directors for First Alternative, most recently as Vice-President. I also serve on an advisory committee for the National Art Education Association. As a teacher at Lincoln Elementary, it has been an honor to work within a community that is so rooted in caring for one another and understanding the value of the investment of our youth. I also coach girls soccer at Corvallis High School which offers another rich sense of community. Additionally, I served on the Education Committee for the NAACP and was part of S.H.A.R.E., Southtown Harvest and Resource Exchange. I currently head the Sustainability Team at Lincoln where I facilitate student engagement in sustainability efforts for our school and the local community. I was part of an artists team that helped paint two south town street murals, one for Open Streets 2019 and one with the Community Empowerment Grant. I was also part of Envision Corvallis 2063 to help promote ideas and concepts through art. Our little nook of the world holds value in treating humans well, caring for the earth, and being humbled by the trials of our modern day. I am proud to be a part of that.



**Jeremy
Northway**

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

First Alternative is a special organization and its community shows this every day. In my 13 years living, studying, and working in Corvallis, I have seen the Co-op operate in a way that improves the livability of the people it represents. I am fortunate to have been able to spend the last seven years very close to the Co-op, as a shopper, employee, and Owner.

As a Board Director I look forward to seeing the Co-op, its Owners, and the community engage in healthy growth that measures up to the shared principles of our organization. It is common to hear that the Co-op is 'more than a grocery store.' I want to help in maintaining the vision behind that statement for our community.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? In my working career I have experienced many levels of the food supply chain and care deeply about the processes and challenges involved in getting food onto the table. I intend to be an advocate for Co-op ownership as we navigate the mission and values of our organization.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? I see the challenges currently facing the Co-op as opportunities for growth. The current environment of operating a grocery store in Corvallis is a highly competitive one; our partnerships in the community and relationships with other co-ops help to set us apart. As the only locally-owned grocery store in Corvallis, we have the ability to elevate voices in our community through events, donations, and direct customer feedback. Our biggest opportunity is our ownership and staff.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? In addition to being a grocery cooperative with abundant options of quality products, we provide so much more. The learning and service our organization has the capacity to provide is incredible! The Co-op provides a way for owners to engage in the decision-making of the organization, and a platform for service by connecting community members with diverse ideas and backgrounds.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? Store remodels to add space, services, and accessibility. Increased partnership with a local grower or growers to enhance stability and growth for all parties while ensuring the community access to affordable products. Renewed sustainability initiative to reduce our impact on the environment and provide opportunities for community members to participate in this action.

Education and Certification

- Oregon State University, B.S. Microbiology; 2014
- Clackamas Community College; Associate of Arts; 2010

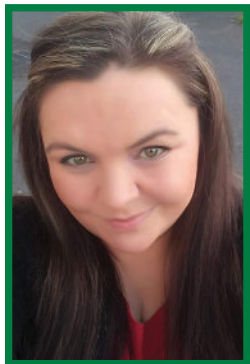
Present Occupation: Stahlbush Island Farms, Inc., Microbiologist, Quality Assurance Department; 2021-Present

Business Experience:

- First Alternative Coop, Deli Stocker (North Store), Assistant Deli Manager (North Store), Deli Manager (South Store); 2017-2021
- Robata Grill & Ramen, founding co-manager; 2016

Community Involvement:

- First Alternative Co-op, Aided in planning and implementation of in-store events and annual Wine Soiree; 2017-2019
- Oregon State University, Housing & Dining Services, events organizer, Hall Council president; 2010;
- McNary Hall resident assistant; 2011



**Kate
Woods**

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

If elected to First Alternative's Board of Directors, I would work tirelessly to ensure that the Co-op continues to offer high-quality, affordable, and sustainable products. I believe my background in organic farming, business experiences and community involvement have prepared me well to serve our Co-op. Furthermore, I bring a unique skill set that combines my passion for communication and technology. I understand the importance of effective communication and collaboration in achieving the Co-op's goals, and would use my experience to help build a stronger community. I believe in the power of community-led initiatives and look forward to working with you to shape our Co-op's future.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? I am passionate about food security and systems. I moved to Corvallis, where I spent a lot of my childhood, because of opportunities to get involved and put my education and experience to good use.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? I see both, especially in our Southtown store. With big decisions come opportunities for innovation and growth, along with the challenges of implementing them in a sustainable and manageable way. I believe the Board will find the delicate balance between financial and logistical challenges while supporting both stores sustainably for the next 50 years.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? In addition to being a grocery cooperative with abundant options of quality products, we provide so much more. The learning and service our organization has the capacity to provide is incredible! The Co-op provides a way for owners to engage in the decision-making of the organization, and a platform for service by connecting community members with diverse ideas and backgrounds.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? Ultimately, I envision First Alternative continuing our goal of providing healthful foods at affordable prices to maintain healthy lifestyles. Focusing on our roots will allow us to grow member ownership, community education and giving, and innovation in the products and services we provide. A good example is the recent adoption of Kuto, which offers shoppers convenient paying while lowering costs to the Co-op.

Education and Certification

- Organic Farming; Clackamas Community College; 2016-2018
 - Apprenticeship at Flying Onion Farm
 - Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship
- Beginning Urban Farming Apprenticeship, Oregon State University; 2015

Present Occupation: Duerksen and Associates, Inc., Executive Assistant; 2019 - present

Business Experience:

- Elwood Staffing, business development manager, Albany; 2018-2019
- Brand Ambassador: Scratch & Peck Feeds (2018), Farmina (2017)
- Personal Beast (pet food store), manager, Portland; 2016-2018
- Yurz (marketing), senior account manager, Beaverton; 2014-2016

Community Involvement:

- United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, fundraising; 2006 - present
- Coordinate assistance for wildfire victims; 2020 - present
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon, fundraiser; 2022 - present
- Heart 2 Heart Farm/Good Neighbor, pantry volunteer; 2016-2018
- Rebuilding Together Washington County, Board secretary; 2013-2014
- Oregon Food Bank, garden and Food Bank volunteer, Portland
- Friends of Family Farmers, advocate; 2016



**Kestrel
Bailey**

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

You might recognize me as a customer service agent at the Co-op's North Store. First hired in 2017, I left when I graduated in 2020. I returned to Corvallis to finish my master's degree and was invited to return to the Co-op during this past holiday season. I accepted and have happily been back in my second home. The Co-op has had a significant impact on my life and I am grateful for the opportunities it has given me. Representing Owners on the Board would allow me to give back to a place that has given me so much. If elected, I would offer unique insight into worker and Owner perspectives, environmental planning skills, and data analysis and management skills.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

Why do you think Owners should select you to represent them on the Board? I have experienced our Co-op as both an Owner and an employee. Also, I'm passionate about the Co-op. Anyone who knows me will tell you I talk about this "grocery store" a lot. But, the Co-op has always been much more than a simple grocery store to me. The Co-op helped me through my university degrees, not just through employment, but with its community of support. It introduced me to the wonderful people living in Corvallis, and is a model for the world I want to see built.

What opportunities and challenges do you see ahead for the Co-op? We face both. More people seek a local market focus and the Co-op provides that. As Corvallis and the surrounding areas grow, we have a larger potential customer base, and a chance to source more local produce and products from the greater community. As events return after COVID shutdowns, I believe the Co-op can expand community involvement as a sponsor, vendor, or educational resource. Potential challenges include parking concerns, managing price points with inflation, and expanding our marketing.

What is the role of First Alternative Cooperative in the community? Besides offering excellent local and bulk products, our larger role is to connect members to each other and to new and existing local businesses through events such as our Co-op Community days, and to serve as a resource and meeting place for community members.

What long-term goals do you envision for First Alternative? A few are: 1) Find solutions to increase parking, particularly at our South Store. 2) Expand our Co-op Community events and community involvement. 3) Increase Co-op accessibility to community members who are currently under-served.

Education and Certification

- M.S. Environmental Engineering, Oregon State University; 2023
- B.S., Environmental Engineering, Oregon State University; 2020

Present Occupation: Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant at Oregon State University Customer Service, First Alternative Co-op

Business Experience:

- First Alternative Co-op, Customer Service; 2017- present
- Oregon State University, Coding languages/ data analytics; 2021-present
- The Boeing Company, Environmental Stability; 2019

Community Involvement:

- Middle School Science Fair Judge; 2016-2019
- OSU's School of Chemical, Biological, and Environmental Engineering's Graduate Student Association, Seminar chair; 2023

First Alternative Co-op Announces Upcoming Solarize Corvallis Project

The Co-op has been a leader in sustainability since it was founded in 1970. You may have noticed the solar panels on both of our stores, which have been generating clean, renewable electricity for almost fifteen years.

Now we're excited to be partnering with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative to increase our clean energy generation more than ten times, by adding new solar panels at both stores. We are also adding batteries for emergency power at both stores, thanks to a generous grant from Pacific Power.

This installation is the 10th project for Solarize Corvallis, a joint partnership of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative. Solarize Corvallis is a grassroots initiative to put large solar arrays on as many buildings in our community as possible by the year 2025. Previous installations in our community have included four Corvallis School District projects, Benton County's Kalapuya Building, two nonprofits, a business, and a church.



Our current solar panel arrays being installed at South Store (left) and North Store locations between 2008-2009



Bifacial solar panels over the South Store bike parking collect light reflected back from the concrete in addition to the direct sun light

The final design may change before construction starts, but we expect to install 70 kW of roof-top solar panels at the North Store and 80 kW of solar at the South Store.

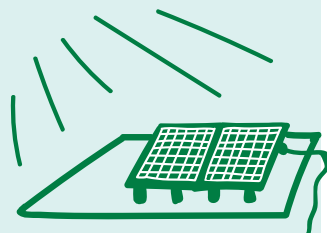
Community members will be able to participate in financing the project by investing and earning a return from that investment. Additional funding will come from Energy Trust of Oregon, the federal tax credit for solar, and First Alternative.

Community members who are interested in investing in First Alternative Co-op's solar projects are invited to purchase one or more shares at \$1,000 per share through the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative.

Visit oregancleanpower.coop/projects to learn more. Community investment is a win for First Alternative Co-op—and for you!

The Oregon Clean Power Cooperative is the only state-wide renewable energy cooperative in the U.S. Founded in 2015, its unique community-based stock offerings and creative financing approach have enabled more than 30 solar projects around the state. Its new community solar projects are expanding the benefits of solar power to more community members, promoting farming and solar, and helping distribute the benefits of solar to low-income community members.

Cooperatively, they're helping us shift to a more local economy—and a healthier planet.



**A project of
Solarize Corvallis**

**CORVALLIS
sustainability
COALITION**



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offers, coupons & announcements.*



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 3 (three) three-year positions and 1 (one) year position open on the Board.

Owners may vote for up to, but not more than 4 (four) candidates. This total of 4 (four) includes votes for write-in candidates as well. Ballots with votes for more than 4 (four) candidates will be declared invalid.

The 3 (three) candidates receiving the highest vote totals will fill the three-year positions. The candidate with the fourth highest vote total will receive the 1 (one) year position. Candidates must receive a minimum of twenty votes to be elected.

Owners will be able to cast votes at any time up to and including June 15th. Voting will close when the stores close on that day. Each Owner is entitled to cast one ballot and one ballot only with his or her 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 enable you to access your electronic ballot unless you have opted to receive a paper ballot in the mail. You can request to have a paper ballot mailed to you in the future by filling out an "Update Contact Info" form at any register. Extra ballots and envelopes can be obtained from Customer Service in both stores. A plain envelope may be substituted for the preprinted envelope.

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 1558
311 SW 2nd St.
Corvallis, OR 97339**

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



A graphic for the Block Brewing Company Summer Truck Sale. It features a white delivery truck with the Block Brewing Company logo on its side. To the right of the truck, the text "SUMMER TRUCK SALE" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the truck, there is a row of seven cans of Block Brewing Company beer. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a green banner with white text that reads: "Follow @firstaltcoop on Facebook or Instagram for event times, selections, and further details." In the top right corner of the graphic, there is a circular logo for the First Alternative Natural Foods Co-op, which depicts a stylized landscape with a sun, mountains, and a river.

block  **BREWING COMPANY**

SUMMER TRUCK SALE

June 30 in the parking lot at both Co-op Locations

Follow @firstaltcoop on Facebook or Instagram for event times, selections, and further details.

The Co-op welcomed



new Owners in April!