

# 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**  
July 2023



*From the Board President*

## Jasmin Woodside

Hello Co-op Community! This month we had the opportunity to attend the Consumer Cooperative

Management Association Conference in Sacramento, California. This conference is put on every year by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives. Representatives from food cooperatives all over the United States were there. The theme for this year was Reconnection and Resilience.

The conference is where cooperative “celebrities” come to share knowledge, educate the next generation, provide inspiration and make connections. It was inspiring indeed! The conference began with chosen tours. I chose to tour the brand new Briar Patch Cooperative building.

Briar Patch opened a second store 25 miles away from their original store. It was very neat to see a brand new, open floor concept co-op. One of the coolest choices they made was to use CO2 systems for all refrigeration. These systems use less hydrogen, fluorine and carbon refrigerants greatly reducing the risks of leaks harmful to the environment.

The next two days were filled with keynote speakers and breakout sessions. One keynote speaker was

Errol Schwiezer who was very knowledgeable on all things Co-op. He gave a presentation called “*The Future of Grocery: How Co-ops can Adapt and Compete.*” The presentation was filled with information from how modern grocery stores were created, to monopolization, to worker unions, principles of degrowth and more. He was an excellent presenter and worth checking out online. He has articles in Forbes and a podcast called “The Checkout Podcast.”

One of my favorite parts of the conference was attending a roundtable discussion of Board Presidents. There were twelve Board Presidents from Atlanta, Montana, California, and more. Being President of the Board is a unique position. As written in our policies, “the president’s job is to ensure the integrity of its process, so that the Board behaves consistently with its own rules, the bylaws, and legal requirements.” It was comforting to hear from others about their challenges and have the opportunity to share information.

I went to very interesting breakout sessions. I heard from a group of general managers and what it was like to go through the hiring process with a Board of Directors.

I learned about an expansion project and capital campaign from a Co-op in Maine that raised \$1.5 million in loans from its owners. I learned about how communities are using the cooperative model to bring food to their communities that have

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## July Board of Directors Committee Meetings

Owners interested in virtually attending meetings should contact [BREC@firstalt.coop](mailto:BREC@firstalt.coop) for details.

### Owner Relations Committee:

The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.

**Wednesday, July 10, 6pm**

### Board Recruitment & Elections Committee:

Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.

**Tuesday, July 11, 6pm**

### Finance Committee:

Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.

**Wednesday, July 12, 4:30pm**

### Board of Directors:

Elected Owners putting our principles into action. **Tuesday, July 25, 6pm**

**ANYONE  
CAN SHOP**

**Two locations**

**Open daily**

**7 am - 9 pm**

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been historically economically marginalized. This brings exciting potential and an area of growth for cooperative businesses. Gem City Market in Dayton, Ohio chose to offer conventional groceries in addition to natural and organic selections. They have had a huge impact on their community that traditionally didn't have access to fresh vegetables.

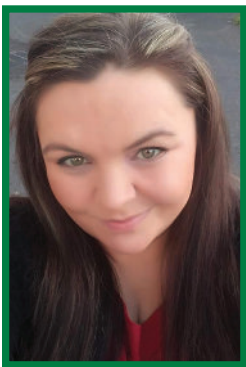
I was very inspired by CCMA and want to bring that enthusiasm to all the work we do on the Board. I am always looking at what makes a cooperative

business unique from other models. The difference lies in the cooperative principles that include:  
Voluntary and open membership • democratic member control • member economic participation • autonomy and independence • education, training and information • cooperation among cooperatives • concern for community • diversity, equity, and inclusion.  
Our commitment to these cooperative principles are what make me excited to be a part of this community! Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay kind.

Co-op Board of Directors Election Results ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Meet your new Board members!



**Dana Monroe**  
Re-elected incumbent!



**Kate Woods**  
New to the Board!



**Jeremy Northway**  
New to the Board!



**Kestrel Bailey**  
New to the Board!

The Co-op Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers elected by Co-op Owners to guide the store through Policy Governance. This means that although they are not involved in day-to-day store decisions, they shape these decisions through the development of Co-op policy and vision.

**BOARD MEETINGS**  
Last Tuesday of each month at 6 pm

Each meeting begins with a ten-minute period for Owner comments. Email is also welcome: [FABoard@firstalt.coop](mailto:FABoard@firstalt.coop).



**Patronage Dividend Donation  
Recipient Voting Results**

The voting Owners have spoken and after six rounds of Ranked Choice Voting, the following three organizations have been elected to receive your donated patronage dividends. Thanks for voting and donating, Owners!

<b>Unity Shelter</b>	..... 333 votes
<b>Ten Rivers Food Web</b>	..... 226 votes
<b>Corvallis Sustainability Coalition</b>	... 216 votes

The total donation amount will be split among the organizations in proportion to the votes each received.



# BEANS 4 BAGS

## Cut Waste & Support Community Organizations While You Shop!

First Alternative's Beans for Bags program supports sixteen different community organizations by splitting an annual donation of \$4,000 between them, in a proportion determined by you—our shoppers!

**How does it work?** At checkout, you're entitled to one Bean token for every reusable bag or box used to pack-up your groceries. Grab your tokens from the cup kept at every register and use them to vote at the Bean Towers next to each exit on your way out.

Each quarter, we update these towers to highlight the current quartet of non-profit organizations. Below the name of each organization—and some info about them—is a jar for collecting your Bean tokens. Drop your tokens into the jar (or jars) of your choosing. At the end of each quarter, we count-up all the tokens and use them to determine the proportion of the quarterly \$1,000 donation each organization receives.



**July, August, and  
September Recipients:**

**Casa Latinos Unidos**

**Old Mill Center**

**Senior Dog Rescue**

**Unity Shelter**



**Bring your reusable bags to cut  
waste and support local charities!**

## Follow First Alternative

*For up-to-the-minute news,  
giveaways, recipes, special offers,  
and tons of cooperative fun.*

**@firstaltcoop**     

**Facebook • Instagram • TikTok • Twitter • YouTube**

## The Co-op welcomed



## new Owners in May!



# Corvallis Environmental Center **SAGE SUMMER Concerts**

at Starker Arts Garden Park in Corvallis

Corvallis  
Environmental  
Center



*Come to the park on July 20 for music by Sin Documentos and  
Pa'lante and concessions by First Alternative Co-op!*

For a full schedule of concerts, artists, and more visit:  
[corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org/concerts](http://corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org/concerts)

## **Owner Rendezvous 2023** Food & Drinks • Games • Live Music



Owners and their families are invited to this free event  
**July 30 at Willamette Park Rotary Shelter, Corvallis**

Look for more details in-store and online soon