

Hello! It's time for the CGN Annual Board Election

You are receiving this message because you are on record as the CGN account manager for your co-op. This means that we are asking you to vote in the the CGN annual board election, representing your store. We also use this occasion to ask that you update your contact information if it has changed.

CGN's board is made up of up to seven elected directors. Our by-laws require that directors must be affiliated with and authorized by a primary or associate member organization. No CGN member organization can have more than one person serving as a director at a time. Directors are elected by the primary (retail food co-op) members of CGN. Their term is for three years, and it begins at the time of the CGN annual meeting, when results of the election are announced.

The 2016 Annual Meeting will take place via conference call on Wednesday, June 29, at 2:30 EST. This link allows you and other CGN users at your co-op to pre-register: <http://bit.ly/1UhrEre>

As you know, these are challenging times for food co-ops, with more competition than ever in the world of food. We believe that a member organization like CGN is even more valuable under these circumstances, allowing us to share resources more easily and empowering us to build and sustain a broad and diverse community that shares our values, debates our strategies, and defends our cause. I am grateful to you for your participation in CGN, and to our board of directors—who serve with dedication, good humor, optimism, and resolve.

One more note before you vote. The CGN board had two vacancies this past year. We heartily thank Doug Walter for his many years of service to the CGN board, leaving a vacancy we are filling in this election. We also welcome Bella Waters, appointed by the board in May 2016 to fill the vacancy left by Marc BrownGold, until that seat opens during the 2017 election.

Bella writes:

It's with great excitement that I accept the opportunity to join the CGN board this year. Prior to my current position as Membership Coordinator and Board Assistant for the North Coast Co-op I was the Operations Manager of CGN, working with Karen Zimbelman back when it was known as CGIN. I'm looking forward to being on the other side of the organization and helping shape CGN into what we, as busy cooperators, need it to be. CGN has changed in last five years, as has the landscape that co-ops are working in. Together I believe we can support each other, continue strengthening retail food co-ops, and spread the importance of the cooperative business model.



Yes, today we face many challenges, changes, and opportunities. We believe that we can indeed be stronger together, continuing to learn from the best in the field, motivating one another, and building more ease and enjoyment into our daily lives and the lives of food co-op member-owners.

Here's to our mutual success in the service of food co-ops! Thanks for voting, and keep in touch.
Ellen

Ellen Michel, Executive Director
612-260-2287
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www.grocer.coop

CGN Board Election Ballot 2016

Member co-op or associate member organization _____

Account manager or General Manager _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please return your ballot in one of the following ways:

1. Cast your vote by saving this PDF to your desktop, marking the ballot electronically, saving it, and then sending it via email to **admin@grocer.coop**. The deadline for emailed ballots is 3pm Wednesday, June 29, during our Annual Meeting via conference call.
2. Print, vote, and **fax your ballot to: 612-692-8563**, to arrive by Tuesday, June 28, 2016.
3. Print, vote, and **mail your ballot to:**

CGN c/o Triangle Park Creative
2600 E. Franklin Ave., Suite 3
Minneapolis, MN. 55406

The deadline for ballots received by USPS mail is Tuesday, June 28, 2016



Current CGN Board of Directors

Annie Hoy – President, Ashland Food Co-op
Martha Whitman – Treasurer, La Montanita Food Co-op
Dan Gillotte – Wheatsville Food Co-op
Eric Struve – Outpost Natural Foods
Bella Waters – North Coast Co-op
Zafra Whitcomb – Belfast Co-op

The mission of Cooperative Grocer Network is to strengthen all retail food cooperatives by creating community and promoting the sharing and development of resources among members.

www.grocer.coop

CGN Ballot 2016 – Please Vote for Up to Three Candidates (one vote per candidate)

VOTE HERE

_____ **Erika Gavin**

_____ **Annie Hoy**

_____ **Eric Struve**

Erika Gavin – Hanover Co-op Food Stores, New Hampshire and Vermont
Art Director—graphic design, marketing, and social media



I am interested in expanding awareness of all that Cooperative Grocer Network offers. The website has discussion spaces and resources that are beneficial to employees throughout a cooperative, if they know about it. I would like to see the discussion spaces become active platforms, with many voices contributing thoughts and ideas.

I firmly believe in the cooperative business model and want to play a role in expanding and strengthening the collaboration of food cooperatives. From the smallest to the largest, co-ops have had successes and failures that other co-ops can learn from. Having a network to bounce ideas off of can help guide a vision and solidify a plan.

Annie Hoy – Ashland Food Co-op: Ashland, Oregon
Marketing and Outreach Manager



CGN is a one-stop shop for all educational and inspirational materials that co-ops across the country have contributed and continue to contribute. It brings us together virtually and is there whenever we have questions for our peers. Its full potential of becoming “CCMA Every Day” has not yet been met. I'd like to see us get continually closer to that vision.

CGN needs the consistency of having a board with experience with the organization and its special needs. I admire each of my fellow board members for their expertise and contributions to CGN. It takes a dedicated team, and I have always wanted to be on this board since attending my first CGIN Annual Meeting at CCMA in Boston. I can offer this organization my continued leadership and support, a deep understanding of our food cooperative system, and a bottomless well of enthusiasm. It has been a pleasure serving for the past three years. There is still so much more to learn. In many ways, the real fun has just begun.

Eric Struve – Outpost Natural Foods: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Director of Information Technology



CGN has seen many different eras in the co-op world—from the email listserv days, through the advent of social media, into the current environment of constant communication. Now more than ever, cooperators need each other, and CGN is still well situated to be the central hub for collaboration among cooperatives.

My three years on the board have felt like turning a battleship; we launched a new website, transitioned to a new executive director, and focused on the needs of our users in new and exciting ways. In that time, I've been gratified to leverage my technical and management experience, and I'm excited for the opportunity to keep steaming ahead!