



## Application for Board of Directors

Due: September 15<sup>th</sup> by 9 PM

*A great opportunity to be an active participant in your Co-op's future  
& the future of our community!*



### What is the Board of Directors? What do we do?

The Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors is the elected body that represents the Membership by establishing policies, overseeing the operating and capital budgets, approving plans and recommendations, and setting general guidelines for Staff and Working Members. The Board holds ultimate legal responsibility for the operations and actions of the Co-op.

The board meets once a month, and each board member serves on at least two board committees.

**Board Responsibilities are outlined in Section III.12 of the Bylaws which can be found on our website at: <http://www.olympiafood.coop/join-us/about-ofc/bylaws/>**

**More about board committees can be found on our website:**

**<http://www.olympiafood.coop/join-us/board-of-directors/committees-of-the-board/>**

### Who Should Apply to be on the Board?

Many Members wonder if they should join the Board, but are worried they don't have prior experience. The truth is that **we need people with passion, commitment and time.**

*People who want to enthusiastically engage in board meetings and committee work.*

People including but not limited to:

People who want to learn about our co-op, or consensus decision making...

People who have experience with co-ops and consensus...

People who love food, cooperatives, volunteering, democratic process...

People 18 years of age and older, of any economic status, race, gender, religion, ability, orientation...

### What are the requirements for being on the Board?

- Attend Board meetings from 6:30-9:30p.m. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.
- Join 2-3 Committees which also meet 1-2 times per month (varies Committee to Committee.)
- Read and respond to emails regularly/in a timely manner.
- A minimum commitment of 10 hours a month.

### What do I need to know about this election?

- This year the Board of Directors has 5 vacant seats.
- The lengths of the Board Terms are staggered again this year.
  - 3 Three Year Terms
  - 1 Two Year Term
  - 1 One Year Term
- The top 5 candidates will be asked their preference on term length in order of votes received and terms will be assigned accordingly.

### What are the benefits of being on the Board?

- Board Members receive Volunteer Working Member credit for their time spent in Board and Committee meetings, and working on projects. Working member credit can be traded for a discount on purchases at the Co-op
- Board Members receive training on Consensus decision-making, Anti-oppression, Co-op's finances, policies and general procedures, and the history of the organization.



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**What's the Process?**

- Get to know the Board! Board meetings are open to the public, if you're interested in joining the Board, sit in on a meeting and see if you're interested (this is not required).
- Apply – The Application period is August 15th thru 9p.m. on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - To be eligible to run for the Board you must:
    - Be a member of the Co-op with a current address on file.
    - Be willing to make a 3 year commitment.
    - Be available for training in December/early January.
- Attend the Annual Meeting November 12th 11-230 pm
  - All candidates will be given time to speak to the Membership. It is also a great opportunity to mingle with the voters!
- The Member Election takes place October 15th - November 15th @ 9p.m. Ballots can be cast at any location of the Olympia Food Co-op or via post.
- Election Results will be posted November 16th. Candidates will be contacted directly with the results. At which time you will accept your position.
- Training begins!
  - You will attend 3 trainings in December and early January
- The January Meeting you begin your official service on the Board.
  - Officers of the Board are selected.
  - Committee membership also selected.

**The Olympia Food Co-op Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the Cooperative is to contribute to the health and well-being of people by providing wholesome foods and other goods and services, accessible to all, through a locally-oriented, collectively managed, not-for-profit cooperative organization that relies on consensus decision making. We strive to make human effects on the earth and its inhabitants positive and renewing and to encourage economic and social justice. Our goals are to:

- A. Provide information about food;
- B. Make good food accessible to more people;
- C. Support efforts to increase democratic process;
- D. Support efforts to foster a socially and economically egalitarian society;
- E. Provide information about collective process and consensus decision making;
- F. Support local production;
- G. See to the long term health of the business;
- H. Assist in the development of local community resources.

**If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors**

**You must complete the application process**

**No later than 9pm on September 15th.**

*For more information contact Fern or Laura  
At [boardapplication@olympiafood.coop](mailto:boardapplication@olympiafood.coop)*



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## **Board of Directors Application**

To apply for a Board of Director position  
Email: [boardapplication@olympiafood.coop](mailto:boardapplication@olympiafood.coop)  
Subject Line: (Your Name) Board Application

Include in the email:

- Your Name & Phone Number.**
- A current digital photograph of yourself.**
- Answers to the following questions:**
  - **Why do you want to be on the Co-op Board of Directors?**
  - **What general abilities and skills would you bring to the Board?**
  - **What vision do you have for the Co-op?**
  - **What else would you like to share?**
    - Strict 500 word combined limit to your responses.
    - Applications will only be accepted by email at [boardapplication@olympiafood.coop](mailto:boardapplication@olympiafood.coop).
    - Please let us know if you need a reasonable accommodation.