



August Board Report

The August board meeting took place on August 3 and got going with member comments. On behalf of member Michael Fennel, who could not be in attendance, Cheri asked the board to consider posting “Justice for Josiah Lawson” posters inside windows at both stores. After much thoughtful discussion between the board, with input from members and staff in attendance, the Board decided to put up the posters in stores.

The board reviewed member correspondence received via email. One member wrote the board requesting the Co-op consider changing its policy by offering discounts to co-op members from outside of the area. Roger agrees with this request and shared with the board that he recently visited a co-op in Oregon that honored his North Coast Co-op membership. Discussion ensued and revealed that the Co-op has offered member discounts to outside co-op members in the past, but a new member discount system made it logistically difficult. Staff were directed to research the best way to restart discounts to members of other food co-ops.

Another member who corresponded via email was upset that the Eureka store hosted a “Coffee with the Captains” event in July, where the Eureka Police Department (EPD) met with the public for casual conversation. The board and staff discussed the importance of striving for a healthy relationship and open dialogue with the EPD, as they are relied upon for help at the store when the need arises. It was noted that hosting this event does not endorse all actions of the EPD.

Mary Ella requested the board write Assemblyman Wood in support of Universal healthcare in California because it effects the health of individuals as well as the financial health of businesses like the Co-op. The board agreed to compose a letter on behalf of the Board of Directors.

The nominating committee chair, Ed Strong, reported that Cheri Strong is the only employee to apply for the open employee director position. Cheri’s application was approved and is on the employee election ballot along with two lines for write-in candidates. Employee elections take place August 1 – August 23. The elected employee will then go on the general election ballot.

New guidelines for best practices for board members requesting information from staff were reviewed and discussed. The guidelines are very general and meant to help board and staff ask themselves questions about what are appropriate conversations and requests from each other. The guidelines were adopted by the board with one amendment.

Melanie had a lot to share in her General Managers report. Exciting news is that the Co-op won “Best Grocery Store” once again. Part of what makes the Co-op so great is the staff, and thus, both stores are closing early on August 27 for a Summer Employee Appreciation Party. It was reported that the Eureka remodel continues to move forward, including fine-tuning of plans. Financials were reviewed and showed that cash flow is doing well. Staff are working hard to transition fully into a new accounting system and hope to be producing more robust financial reports soon.

Members are encouraged to attend Board meetings which are held the first Thursday of every month at 6pm, at the Ten Pin building on the south corner of K and 8th Street in Arcata. The next meeting will take place Thursday, September 7 at 6pm.