Hello Member-Owners,

I hope this letter finds you all well! It’s that time again where I ask you to vote for your board of directors. We have an impressive group running this year and I hope you all take the time to read about them and cast your votes for them. As your board president I want to thank you for the continued trust you put in us to be your voice and to always have your best interest at heart.

Hopefully, you have all seen the beauty that the co-op is as a community owned grocery store as well as a safe place to shop. Covid really showed us the degree that the staff of the co-op will go to insuring that the community they serve, as well as themselves are protected. By now, I hope you have come in and seen the improvements that have been in the works for a while and how incredible the expansion has turned out! As the president of this board, I have to say, I am proud of all of us that love and value the Ypsilanti food co-op!

Please stay safe, please vote, and please come visit your locally owned grocery store!

Cooperatively, Susan Carter, your board president

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**New Bylaws**

We are an organization that relies on support from member owners who patronize the business as well as invest through the process of buying member shares, which have capitalized our co-op, allowing us to provide a grocery store in Ypsilanti since 1975. A part of our cooperative values are the ability to govern our business democratically, and to do that we have created articles of incorporation and bylaws. We are incorporated as a Cooperative, non-profit Corporation in the State of Michigan and have used our bylaws as the way to allow us to all be on the same page about our mission and policies. Over the past 47 years, we have made various changes to our bylaws to be help us be a more cooperative organization. Some of the changes have been to align with changes to the State of Michigan laws that were updated to have a separate section for cooperative corporations. Some of our changes were made to better align with how we would like to function, and the most recent changes were approved by you last December! Those changes came about through extensive work by a committee of board-members, member-owners, and the GM, along with legal and financial advice from lawyers, and Columinate, a consulting group we work with.

The purposes for the revisions were to:

- Assure that we are in agreement with the laws we are incorporated under;
- Have a legal mechanism for doing patronage dividends;
- Have a legal mechanism for doing capital fund raising;
- To have bylaws that we can understand!

The restated bylaws are included in this newsletter, so that each member-owner will have a copy! If you would like a larger print version, please let us know, and they are posted on our website: ypsifoodcoop.org, under governance!
2022 Voting Information

The democratic principle of cooperatives includes one member, one vote, and how we follow this is regulated by our bylaws. To elect our board of directors, we look to our bylaws, which includes that our board will consist of 7 board members. Every even year, like 2022, 4 of the seats are up for election. This year we have 4 candidates for those seats.

The board’s job is to understand the co-op’s role in the community and how to help keep the Co-op relevant as the world changes. As the keepers of the mission and ends of our cooperative, they assure that we continue to reflect the needs of our member-owners, while staying financially viable. They hire a General Manager and hold them accountable through Policy Governance. The board of directors make the big decisions on changes that keep us moving forward.

Voting for people you think will bring about the best positive changes while maintaining a strong, sustainable business, is one of the powers of our member-owners. The statements and answers to questions posed to each candidate are available on our website and printed for review in the store.

How to Vote

1. Please complete the ballot to vote for up to Four [4] candidates.
   If you lose this ballot, you can get a blank one at the store.

2. **Put your ballot in an envelope with your name on the front (to verify membership).**
   If an envelope is received without a member’s name on it, the vote will not be counted.

3. Place envelopes in the collection box in the store beginning **May 19th through May 26, 2022**
   Or, Mail your ballot to 312 N. River Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

Board election committee members will verify membership on each envelope, then in a separate transaction will remove the ballots from the envelope, and count the votes after they’re separated from the names so that the names are not connected with specific ballots.

You must be an active member by **May 19th** in order to vote.

**The results will be announced at the Annual meeting on May 26th**

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**2022 Board of Directors**
(Vote for up to 4)

- Rudy Alvarado
- Anna Caduff
- Alison Foreman
- Tessa Sarapo

Learn about the candidates! Info is in the store and on the website!
Another Great Year at Ypsi Food Co-op!

- We are celebrating 47 years in Ypsilanti as a community owned grocery store!
- We have grown steadily and in 2021 saw 10% growth to $2,196,000.00 in sales of good and products to our community.
- We currently have 28 great staff.
- We continued the renovations and additions to our space, while making our way through another year with Covid, safely!

Our Deli, Bakery and Café Space are open!

Over the past several months, beginning with the store closure in January, we are pleased to finally have completed this project!

We are located in a historic building, which as is typical with historic buildings, featured plenty of unexpected twists. Demolition began last spring, and as many of you were able to follow, construction went into this winter.

With a plan to expand our food service to our community, along with shopper access from the store into the bakery which features a wood-fired brick oven, we had to bust through the brick walls that separated the three separate spaces of our building! The kitchen/bakery prep space was relocated to the back of the building and the new retail space features the co-op’s prepared foods. The new café area will be getting chairs and tables soon! Shoppers can now find expanded prepared foods offerings including a range of artisan sourdough breads, bakery items, grab and go selections, specialty cheeses, hot and soup bar items, and drip coffee. The total renovated space was 1,800 SF, with about half retail and half as the prep area, resulting in 6,700 SF total in the building for the co-op, including our offices which are upstairs, and now accessible through the store. After years of planning, construction began in the spring of 2021 and was financed with equity from refinancing the co-op’s building, a commercial construction loan with Bank of Ann Arbor, a state of Michigan Department of Agriculture grant and member investments. We have been slowly opening the spaces as our final licenses have been permitted and sales continue to grow.

We are so proud to welcome our community to the co-op’s new “third space”…

And, in the words of former employee Clay, its “Outrageous! ... like being in Paris, right here in Ypsilanti!”
Thursday, May 26th 2022
Annual General Membership Meeting
@ 7 pm at the Co-op

- Review highlights of 2021
- Meet your 2022 Current and Elected Board of Directors
- Learn about the New Deli and Bakery and how we got here
- Hear about *How you can participate in growing the Ypsi Food Co-op!*

We will provide coffee and tea and an assortment of after dinner snacks. We will forego our traditional potluck as we continue to make our way through Covid safely.

May 19th through 26th
Vote for the 2022 Board of Directors
Your ballot on page 2

FROM:
The Ypsi Food Co-op
312 North River Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
www.ypsifoodcoop.org

FROM:
Ypsilanti Food Co-op
312 N River, Ypsilanti MI 48198
734-483-1520

Current Store Hours
Sunday to Saturday
9 am to 8 pm

Masks may be worn but are not required to shop.

General Manager:
Corinne Sikorski
Corinne@ypsifoodcoop.org

Curbside pickup service:
Pickup@ypsifoodcoop.org

Our website:
Ypsifoodcoop.org