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Fall is here, which means it is time for our Annual Meeting and Election! I know they are not the sexiest of subjects but remember that Bloomingfoods is democratically controlled by YOU, the owner-members. This is your prime opportunity to guide the future of the co-op by voting for three new directors, voting for the recipients of our Positive Change program in 2019, and voting whether or not to adopt bylaws revisions proposed by the board.

Yes, more bylaws revisions, which are even sexier and more exciting than meetings and elections! Bear with me, because these revisions will affect you and your cooperative. The big change being proposed is adding two new clauses to allow the Board to offer Non-Patronage Certificates. These are essentially non-voting shares in Bloomingfoods that can be purchased by owner-members to raise capital for us to do things like expand or relocate stores. The Board would like to create an offering and invite our current member lenders to convert their loans to Non-Patronage Certificates. This switch would be a huge

benefit to the cooperative because it moves money from the liability side of our balance sheet to the equity side, meaning it counts as money in our pocket rather than debt. Shifting our balance sheet would allow us more flexibility in growing the cooperative and ultimately increase our ability to pay back our investors.

Our legal team made a few other bylaws suggestions. One is to introduce a clause addressing “Net Allocation of Losses.” This clause clarifies that the cooperative may pull money from owner-member’s capital accounts (retained patronage and membership equity) to cover losses in a bad year. Theoretically, without this clause the cooperative could hold member capital accounts apart and never touch the money. However, that could lead to the cooperative going out of business even with money in the bank and at that point it is unlikely that anyone besides creditors would get repaid. So the Board felt it was an important addition to make. We also acknowledge that a lot of institutional knowledge about retained patronage has been lost during the turmoil of the last six years. One of the goals of the Board is to rebuild those procedures and clearly communicate them moving forward.

Along those same lines, there is one other proposed new bylaws clause, which essentially states that the Board can not approve paying out patronage if it would hurt the cooperative financially. This has always been the intention but putting it in the bylaws makes it crystal clear and is considered best practice for cooperatives. Additional edits are mostly grammatical in nature, with a few minor changes for clarification.

Whew! That’s it for the bylaws proposal overview. Want to read about it in detail? You can find the bylaws proposal with a full summary [here](#) and if you’re really curious, you can compare it to our current bylaws, which are posted [here](#). The election officially starts September 17th and runs up through the very beginning of the Annual Meeting on October 9. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns – we will also have board members present to answer questions at Co-op Day on September 22nd and our Meet the Candidates event on September 29th.

We hope you will join us for some fun at the Annual Meeting! Our theme is “Share Your Story” and we will have photo booths and video booths to record your stories about how Bloomingfoods has impacted your life and why you chose to become an owner-member. We will also be celebrating the tremendous financial improvements we have seen this fiscal year. There are still challenges ahead but it’s important to stop and celebrate the progress that has been made. As always, thank you so much for your ongoing support! Please join us for the Annual Meeting and please be sure to vote in the Bloomingfoods election.

Thank you,
Maggie Sullivan
Bloomingfoods Board President

POSITIVE CHANGE

\$9967.94 RAISED



In the month of August, we returned to our [Positive Change](#) program starting with [Community Kitchen of Monroe County](#). Bloomingfoods shoppers showed their support for providing nutrition to our community by raising an awesome \$9,967.94. That's a Positive Change record! Thanks to all our shoppers for helping us support this worthy organization.



In September, shoppers can round up to the nearest dollar (or more if you wish!) for [Hoosier Hills Food Bank](#). We love the food bank because they provide

over three million pounds of food annually to over 100 non-profits serving people with low incomes and personal challenges, children, and seniors!



Save the Date: Bloomingfoods Co-op Day!

We're blocking off North Madison Street for a fun Market Saturday to celebrate our beloved co-op community!

Join us on Saturday, September 22 from 10am to 1pm to enjoy grilling, giveaways, live music, and more. Meet your favorite local vendors and sample beer, baked goods, coffee, pesto, and wellness items from all over Monroe County!

[Learn More](#)



Join us in the East patio room at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays this fall for Wellness Wednesday Workshops! Here's the lineup:

9/5 - No Class - please head to the library for "[Big Hunger, Real Change: A Community Conversation with Andy Fisher](#)" 6-7:30pm at MCPL rooms 1B&C

9/12- Introduction to the Low Waste Lifestyle - Ellen Tamura

9/19 - Why and How to Shop Fair Trade - Gracia Valliant and Dave Debikey of [Global Gifts](#)

9/26 - What is Purdue Extension and What Can They Do For You? - Courtney Stewart, [Purdue Extension](#)

10/17 - Introduction to Fermenting - Jon Kulow of [Seven Ridges Farm](#)

If you're interested in teaching a future workshop or have ideas for workshops you'd like to see, contact Maggie Sullivan at maggie@bloomingfoods.coop.



Bloomingfoods owner-members: Join us for a night of fun to hear about the year in review as well as what lies ahead for your co-op!

Enjoy live music, a free dinner, and cash bar provided by Bloomingfoods. Hear the announcement of our newly revised Ends statement and the winner of our 2018 Bloomingfoods Cooperative Community Fund award. Meet and mingle with your 2018 board candidates. Meet your 2019 Positive Change candidate organizations and learn what great things they do for our community. Share YOUR Bloomingfoods story at our photo booth or video booth. And last but definitely not least, vote for new bylaw updates, the 2019 Positive Change roster, and elect 3 new directors to the Board!

This year, we're asking attendees to RSVP by Tuesday, October 2.





Nominate someone amazing for the 2018 Bill Krejci Memorial Award

The Board of Directors is now accepting nominations for the 2018 annual Bill Krejci Memorial Award. Created in 1999, the award honors a Bloomingfoods owner-member, staff member, or past/present director who exemplifies Bill's spirit of giving of themselves to better Bloomingfoods and the cooperative way.

In addition to being recognized on plaques in our stores alongside the generous people honored in previous years, the award comes with a \$150 donation to a charity chosen by the awardee, and \$100 gift. The award will be given at the Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 9th.

If you would like to nominate an individual for the award, please pick up a form in either of our stores or download it [here](#)

Completed nominations should be returned to Bloomingfoods no later than September 21st, 2018.



Join us in celebrating Twilight Dairy from Rockville, IN, our September Local Focus vendor. If you haven't had a chance to try their grass-fed cheese curds and yogurts, now's a great time! Enjoy 30% off all Twilight yogurts and cheeses on Saturdays in September.



With our election coming up September 17 - October 9, if you plan to vote online, we'll be using your zip code to verify your membership for voting. For this reason, it's important to ensure your contact information is up-to-date in our database. If you've moved or changed your address recently, please take a moment to [update your contact information](#) with the co-op! Contact information can also be updated in-store; just ask a cashier on your next visit!

Upcoming Board of Directors Meetings

Regularly scheduled monthly board meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Board Meetings are open to co-op owner-members and guests of the board. Familiarity with the Bylaws, Policies, and the Policy Governance Method will enhance your understanding of the board meeting process.

Meetings are held at Noodles & Company Conference Room, Eastland Plaza, [2560 E Third St](#)

Thursday, September 27th

Thursday, October 25th

Thursday, November 3rd



Big Hunger, Real Change: A conversation with Andy Fisher, author of Big Hunger and co-founder of the former national Community Food Security Coalition. Wednesday, September 5 at 5:30pm at Monroe County Public Library.

Bloomington Community Farmer's Market: Saturdays at Showers Commons, April - November; Tuesdays on North Madison near Bloomingfoods Near West, June - April

Bean Blossom Farmer's Market: Fridays, May 25 - August 31 in Bean Blossom (north of Nashville, IN)

Parks & Recreation Gardening Classes



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