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Haven't voted yet? There's still time! Now is your annual opportunity to share your voice and help shape the future of your co-op! Voting is open now until the beginning of our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 9. Owner-members can vote in-store during business hours or online at www.votebloomingfoods.com. This year's ballot includes voting on:

- Bylaws updates
- Positive Change organizations for our 2019 roster
- 3 new directors for our Board

Click the link below to read candidate statements, dive deeper into the bylaw changes, learn about the great work our Positive Change organizations do for our community, and **VOTE!**



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. 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've asked attendees to RSVP by Tuesday, October 2, but if you haven't yet, please still feel free to submit your RSVP now!



Board Update

Bloomington is home to a robust local food system and a wide network of social services, yet 24% of the Monroe County population struggles with food insecurity. Hoosier Hills Food Bank is distributing over 4 million pounds of

food every year, so why do 1 in 4 people in our county still struggle to access healthy food? What can the co-op do to build community food security, and what can individual owner-members do?

These were questions raised last month at the event: *Big Hunger, Real Change: A Conversation with Andy Fisher*. This event started a pertinent discussion of food insecurity in Bloomington and the ways in which people end up needing food assistance. Andy Fisher visited from Oregon to share his [recent book](#) on the entrenchment of hunger across the U.S. and the institutionalization of the anti-hunger network. While the number of food banks, pantries and soup kitchens has increased exponentially, food insecurity rates have stayed close to 15% for the last 40 years. According to Fisher, this reveals the shortcomings of anti-hunger strategies and programs, namely the inattention to root causes of hunger. Handing out free meals and canned goods does not change the economic system and social institutions that perpetuate poverty, discrimination and social inequality. Moreover, the industrial food system benefits from hunger via tax credits and the cheap disposal of processed foods into poor communities. Walmart is a particularly salient example: they pay minimal wages, have the highest number of employees enrolled in SNAP (aka food stamps) and are the largest recipient of food stamp purchases. They also hold a record number of seats on food bank boards of directors.

Local experts from Volunteers in Medicine, Middle Way House, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and South Central Indiana Housing Opportunities joined Fisher for a panel discussion on the relationships between food insecurity and housing, healthcare and domestic abuse. These issues are interrelated so mitigating them requires political collaboration and community action. Improving food security requires we mitigate poverty and systemic discrimination, which means fighting for living wages and affordable housing and healthcare. Though it's much more difficult than donating canned goods, this root cause work is necessary if we're serious about ending hunger. This is not to discourage donations of food and other resources. We are saying to think carefully about what's being donated and to realize that anti-hunger groups can alleviate hunger but they can't solve poverty, at least not on their own. That requires us to work collectively on political advocacy and policy change.

The event was co-hosted by Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Bloomington Food Policy Council and the Bloomington Trustee and co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods, IU Food Institute and Building a Thriving and Compassionate Community. We are looking forward to continuing this collaboration and building a community of practice to make real change here in Bloomington. We pay living wages at Bloomingfoods, and last year we started the Bloomingfoods for All program to make owner-membership and good food more accessible; still, the board continues to discuss how we can further help with these systemic issues. Some ways that owner-members can get involved:

- Volunteer on a [city commission](#) (e.g. Bloomington Human Rights Commission)
- Join the [Bloomington Food Policy Council](#)
- Talk/write to [our representatives](#) about living wages and affordable healthcare and housing

In September, Bloomingfoods shoppers raised \$9,108.28 for Hoosier Hills Food Bank! Thanks so much to everyone for rounding up to the nearest dollar (or more!) for our monthly Positive Change recipients. "HHFB counts on the support of local businesses. We are so happy that Bloomingfoods customers thought to round up. This will help us provide more food to our agencies and through our programs!" says Jake Bruner, Director of Development and Administration of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Be sure to check out the HHFB Book Fair Oct 4 - 9 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds!



In October, shoppers can round up for the [Interfaith Winter Shelter](#)! We love the winter shelter because of their mission to provide a low-barrier winter shelter for homeless individuals in Monroe County.



Join us in the East patio room at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays this fall for **FREE** Wellness Wednesday Workshops provided by some fantastic local businesses and service providers! Here's the lineup:

- 10/10 – Standing Yoga – Karen Rogers
- 10/17 – Introduction to Fermenting – Jon Kulow of [Seven Ridges Farm](#)
- 10/24 – Slowing Down in a Busy World – Maggie Sullivan
- 10/31 – No class – Happy Halloween!
- 11/7 – Healthy Eating for New & Expecting Parents – [Bloomington Family Wellness](#)
- 11/14 – Eat MORE red meat for health? – [Maple Valley Farm](#)
- 11/21 – No Class – Enjoy Thanksgiving!
- 11/28 – The Benefits of Halotherapy – [Bloomington Salt Cave](#)
- 12/5 – Vegan for the Holidays – [BloomingVeg](#)

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



Join us in celebrating [Musgrave Orchard](#) from Bloomington, IN, our October Local Focus vendor. Enjoy 30% off their highly-anticipated, delicious, and seasonal local apple ciders that are now in stock in multiple sizes!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Don't forget about this really great benefit to being an owner-member at the co-op: our [Community Partners Program](#)! All Bloomingfoods owner-members have access to some really wonderful exclusive discounts at participating local businesses around Bloomington and Monroe County. Just show your owner-member card to receive perks. Need a new card? Stop in at any of our locations and we'll make you a new one!

[Learn More!](#)

If you're a local business interested in extending an exclusive discount to Bfoods owner-members, [click here to learn more](#) and fill out the participation form!

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, unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, October 25th

Thursday, November 3rd (retreat - location TBA)

Thursday, December 27th



Indiana Co-op Week! The State of Indiana has officially declared October 14-18 as Co-op Week whereas cooperatives reaffirm their member-service mission, commitment to community, and active involvement in their communities. Be sure to celebrate by shopping your favorite co-op!

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

Parks & Recreation Gardening Classes



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