

2015 Board Member Election Packet

Why Should You Vote?

One of our most important rights as a member-owner is voting. Cooperative Principle #2-- Democratic Member Control: ensures that you have a real voice in the governance and direction of your Co-op. Participating in the election process is a tangible reminder that DNF is more than just a great place to shop. Let your voice be heard!



Vote now through May 5

Go to: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015dnfco-opboard

2015 Board Candidates

This year there are 5 seats open for the board of directors.

Candidates were asked to list their occupation and education, and to write a short essay in which they were to answer the following questions:

1.

Why do you believe members should choose you to represent them?

2.

In what areas should the board be putting its attention in the next 5 years?

3.

What else, if anything would you like to share with the members?

Rachel Bennett

Self - Employed

BS in Sustainable Development



In my time as a DNF employee, including produce manager, I was involved in a great store-wide transition and debate. It offered great insight into board, member and employee interaction while exposing me to the struggles within DNF for survival in our economy, a heavily saturated natural food market. However, the cooperative model

is a passionate belief of mine. I would bring to the board my employment experience with DNF, my background and experience in sustainable development implementation, and also my passion toward engaging members. My intentions are to be in function of the members for the greatest good of the cooperative. I look forward to growing with board experience, but also facilitating collective involvements.

At this time I would like to see the board put it's attention into a community outreach initiative to build education and awareness, coordinating with members and employees. There should be exploration into NCGA cooperatives of similar size/demographics for broadening options toward financial improvement/community impact. A review and update of the current by-laws may be necessary as it has been a few years already. The board should be also exploring investment or donation opportunities for store updates. Also more attention on membership engagement and coordination with other local businesses.

I sincerely trust in the capability of our local food cooperative to thrive in the Durango community. However, I do also feel it needs a board, but also an engaged membership, to be successful. It requires shifting paradigms in thought and relating to be a part of greater dialogue in our local community with the cooperative on developing creative/innovative and abundant models to be of service through DNF and to be actively involved in positive change.

Dr. Judith “Joy” Driver

Holistic Psychologist
BA, MS, PhD



I believe in a self-determined, member run Co-op which concentrates on obtaining local, organic, sustainably produced products both agricultural, grocery and natural nontoxic household products. I am currently writing a book on Nutrition and Mental Health.

In the next five years the board should be

putting its attention to areas of education concerning food and nutrition, organic and sustainable agriculture, management of operations, employees and volunteers to develop an effective team sharing the goals and values of the Co-op.

I am a founding member of Kokua Market Natural Foods, the only natural foods Co-op in Hawaii since 1976. We started out in a small shop and are grossing now right under (close to) 4 million while maintaining local control and involvement. We have many programs that enrich our Co-op without selling out to a mainland company. I believe in the lateral vs hierarchical model of management which is consistent with a democratic organization stressing integrative & functional health & wellness.

Board and other Experience: Optimum Health Management, Inc. in Honolulu, President of Board

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Jules Masterjohn

Owner, Spiralbound Studio Creative Services
BA, MFA Fine Art



I have been a DNF member-owner for 15 years, and during this time, have spent nearly 100% of my food and supplements dollars at DNF. I have worked at DNF as the Marketing & Outreach Coordinator so I understand how the co-op works. I want to see DNF not only survive but thrive and be the best business it can be. I believe

in co-ops as an alternative economic form.

The board must play an integral role in helping DNF find its place in the changing local climate where the availability of organic food has grown over the last 6 years. This is essential for the financial viability of the co-op. I believe that the board must champion the concept of co-ops and the cooperative principles and why they are important to our community.

I have been a member of 5 food co-operatives in my life, and have witnessed the difficulties of democratic ownership. I was very disheartened to see the outcome of the DNF board's initiative to bring a discussion to DNF owners about a possible merger with La Montanita Co-op. I did not feel that the membership got an opportunity to hear about and explore this option. I would like to see an open forum amongst members about the realities facing DNF – and suggestions addressing the issues.

Board and other Experience: I have been an employee at 3 not-for-profit organizations over the last 15 years where I have had extensive interactions with the board of directors. For three years, as the executive director of the Rogue Gallery & Art Center in Medford, Oregon, I worked closely with the board and the board president to recruit board members, create monthly meeting agendas, work on board campaigns, writing bylaws, running annual meetings, hiring staff, and representing the organization in the community. I also have attended numerous seminars and trainings on boards and their roles in NP organizations. My only direct experience with Policy Governance was while I was working at the Durango Arts Center: the board operated using this form of board governance. I do know it is highly regarded as a best practice for boards that are not tasked as working boards. I look forward to expanding my knowledge of Policy Governance and how it best serves DNF.

Patricia O’Kane Ey
Early Childhood Consultant/Care Director



I strongly believe in the values and principles of DNF. I feel it is important to educate and provide tools to help people adopt a healthy lifestyle. I like buying local and support local farmers.

Supporting DNF staff, local growers and continuing to educate the consumer on how food is our medicine or the

way to wellness, and how healthy choices help the planet.

I have been shopping at DNF since I moved here in 1975. I have been a vegetarian my whole adult life and vegan for the past 10 years..

Rene Nash
Consultant
Associates, 2 Certificates in Fashion Design



I am deeply invested in our town with both of my children at the high school; property owner and small time farmer of goats, geese and hens. I have just completed the Master Gardener’s Program at Colorado State Extension Office, taught by Darrin Parmenter; County Extension Director, and have worked as a business to business consultant

for seven years building alliances with many local organizations. Personally, I have always had a passion to support and be involved on local levels and have shared this with my family. I believe co-ops can be the cornerstone of actively driving an impact within the community and leave a positive footprint for the next generation. I am an advocate of co-ops and throughout my life I’ve been a supporter of local companies. I believe that this opportunity would not only enhance my experience but I could bring enthusiasm and local family perspective to the board.

In addition to what the DNF is currently providing, engaging the community and making education a priority. Focusing advocacy and outreach efforts with the collaboration of other like-minded businesses to provide education to our members and our town’s youth. Appealing the importance of reducing carbon footprints, and the value of supporting local food. Bringing this knowledge on these sustainable principals and highlighting the partnerships DNF has developed will strengthen our image and market to the community.

I am passionate about what I do. Whether it is award-winning work in my business profession, volunteering at the La Plata Humane Society with my daughter for seven years, being an active member of my son’s school board to create the still running music program or devoting myself to my small farm of heritage breed animals. With these components I believe I could contribute a family based perspective, a deep understanding of business, with knowledge of agriculture and farming. A big thank you for this opportunity and let’s make DNF an action verb!

Board and other Experience: Previous Board of Directors or other related experience: Volunteer LaPlata County Humane Society, Hope School Board for Arts

**Meet the Candidates
at the
ANNUAL MEETING
April 25 4-8pm
at the Powerhouse
Science Museum**

**Great Food
Live Music**

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Dan Randolph

Student
BA Biology, MS in Soils



I have a demonstrated passion and commitment to DNF and it's Values and Principles, as well as a lot of practical experience in non-profit organizations. I have been a member of DNF since 1993 when I moved here. I have worked almost exclusively for small non-profit organizations that, like DNF, are based on

strong principles. I studied and practiced mountain agriculture for over 10 years, with a complete focus on sustainability and organic practices. All of this illustrates my strong and consistent belief in the importance of organizations such as DNF, and in DNF's Values and Principles. In addition, I have over 20 years experience in the Durango area non-profit world. I have been on local Boards and have been an Executive Director. I understand a lot of the issues such as budgeting, fund-raising, staff management, and the principles of non-profit management.

The primary issue for DNF, as I understand it, is financial stability and sustainability. Ensuring the Co-op's ability to continue to exist is the key issue. Within this there are several significant questions, such as fund-raising in ways beyond store sales and membership due, and partnering with other organizations. Another area to explore is how to balance the non-store related components of our Values and Principles with the core component of our entity, which is the store. How important are the related issues, such as supporting local farmers, educate the public on food and sustainability issues, etc..? What is Local? How can we better partner with other non-profits or co-ops to meet our common community values?

I firmly believe the actions taken by various people, the Board of Directors, and members during the past year were driven by care and concern for DNF. A lot of accusations have been leveled, which I strongly disagree with. I hope to help create a space for strong dialogue and discussion, but one in which the attacks on people's motivation and even personal character, are absent.

Board and other Experience: Board of Directors: San Juan Citizens Alliance: 1997-2003 • Oil and Gas Accountability Project: 2000-2003 • Exec. Director Great Basin Resource Watch: 2006-2014 • San Juan Citizens Alliance: 2011-2014

Kim Randazzo

Accountant
Master Gardener, Facilitator



Because I am fair and concise, promote the food for people. Not for profit since 1972. Years of community network. Promote local farm to school and farm to restaurant. Trained in active listening.

I believe in community solidarity, sustainability, member outreach, local producers outreach, and to survive and fulfill its

objectives Things I will do if elected: study the bylaws to see if they can be improved to find solutions that give us the most potential. Promote fundraisers

Board and other Experience: Bliss Fest music organization, Not For Profit, Trained Food Safety

Root Routledge

Industrial Business Management Consultant



I represent a new vision for DNF. That vision is to redefine DNF's management structure with a modern more effective management approach and a complete rewrite of the DNF Bylaws that will ensure our security as a locally owned food cooperative and democratically empower the general membership and member-employees for a healthy future.

Organizational health with a well-functioning management structure; operate under an entirely new set of Bylaws; grow membership; establish solid outreach programs with excellent relations with our suppliers and among our members and customers, and the local community.

Kim Wiggins

Accountant

BA Accounting, BS Business Management, Assoc. Photography



I worked at the Co-op from the winter of 2011 to the fall of 2014. I was hired as the bookkeeper and trained to be the general manager. At my leaving DNF I was the Finance and HR manager as well as a Co-Interim General Manager. I have a great knowledge of cooperatives as well as the inner workings of DNF. I believe whole heartedly in the cooperative principles and stand for every membership equaling a vote and every vote being heard.

I have a strong understanding of the natural foods market as well as the cooperative market. DNF is in one of the most saturated grocery marketplaces in the nation, it is essential that the Board be very strategic with its plan for growth and longevity with the Co-op. As DNF was created to meet the needs of the community in 1973 it is important that the Board continues to reach out to the community and see what the current needs are. The community in Durango has changed significantly in the last 40 years and so has the natural food marketplace. I believe the coop will need to consider its grocer model as well as its strengths: bringing local, sustainable, organic

food to the community, and its weaknesses: being one of six grocers in Durango providing organic and natural food options and how it can differentiate itself enough to remain competitive and continue providing to Durango.

I want the membership to know that I will work hard to support the staff of DNF and its membership. A cooperative is more than a business; a cooperative is a place where your voice is heard and every member has a vote. I intend to hear all the voices and help guide DNF to meet the needs of the membership and the community.

Board and other Experience: Previous Board of Directors or other related experience: I have experience reporting on the financial health of the co-op as well as weekly and monthly store monitoring reports to the DNF Board of Directors. I am also familiar with the Co-ops policy governance.

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