



Whole Foods.
Community Owned.
Everyone Welcome.

302 Irvine Ave. NW, Bemidji, MN 56601 | 218.751.2009 | www.harmonycoop.com

the Grapevine

Fall 2011



MEMBER-OWNER NEWS

MANAGER'S NOTES

BY GREG GASMAN, GENERAL MANAGER

In my last notes I told you that we were running ahead of our sales projections in our new location. Now, after being in our new location for over 15 weeks, we're still running ahead of projections. I love having our own parking lot. Currently every morning that I work, I sweep and mop the floor. Sorry, but I do love the new floor. I love the new building. I've had a couple of member-owners say that they miss the funkiness of the old building. We have so many new shoppers and downtown residents that never even set foot in our old space. This expansion is what we needed in our mission. I love our new presence. Our board is going to start new strategic planning goals to answer: what's next for Harmony Co-op? What else can we do to make a difference in the community? If you have some ideas, share them with our board members or better yet—come to the General Membership Meeting and we can talk about them.

Last month I made a photo and figure summary presentation of our expansion at the General Assembly for the NCGA (National Cooperative Grocers Association).

Like I've always told you in the past, it's so great to see smiling faces in the store but it's hard to describe how I felt when all of these other General Managers were smiling as big as me. All of them were so proud of us for what we've accomplished in Bemidji. Most of the Co-ops in the NCGA started out in the 70's like we did and most of them also started out as small as we did. Even the GM's from the large food co-operatives in MN like The Wedge, Mississippi Market, and Seward were some of the first to congratulate us. Last newsletter I thought I had thanked everyone who helped in this expansion, but not quite. Our membership in the NCGA was a key factor in receiving a lot of the support to make this move. Also, I'd like to thank the local financial institutions that helped us achieve this new presence: Security Bank USA, Headwaters Regional Finance Corporation, The City of Bemidji, and TruStar Federal Credit Union.

Please continue to help us hold up our end of the financial move-in by upgrading your membership. Even though Harmony is seeing larger sales than we have ever seen before – we still have a couple of bills to pay for this expansion.

Excitedly, Greg

HARMONY UPCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM)

Friday October 28th
Meet & Greet (5:30 pm)
Free! Tex Mex Dinner (6 pm)
Annual Meeting (7 pm)
Adjournment (8 pm)

WINEMAKING CLASS (3-PART SERIES)

Tuesday 6-9pm
10/18, 10/25, 11/15

CANNING CLASS

Wednesday 6-9 pm
10/26

SIMPLE, GOOD & TASTY BOOK CLUB

Monthly on Thursdays 6-8 pm
10/27

SUE DOEDEN'S COOKING CLASS

Wednesday 6-9 pm
11/9

To sign up for any of our classes or find out more information, please visit our customer service desk.



MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

RYAN ZEMEK

I am running for the Harmony Foods Co-op board because I believe the Co-op is vitally important to my family and our community. I often find myself making multiple trips a week to the Co-op. For me it's more than just a place to buy "stuff," I enjoy the local, organic, healthy, and high quality products. I enjoy that the Co-op is a beautiful and pleasant downtown gathering spot and I enjoy the friendly relationship I have with the Co-op staff. As a member-owner serving on the board, I pledge to work hard with my colleagues to retain our competitiveness, profitability and unique services to our members and non-members. As a board member, I will bring leadership, strategic planning, consensus building, integrity, and a fresh perspective to the board. I excel at sizing up opportunities for improvement and making traction on difficult issues. I see the Co-op as vital to happy and healthy living in Northern MN. It is because the Co-op is so important to my quality of life both directly and through its benefits to the community that I am interested in serving on the Board. As the Co-op reached out to new customers and members, it must balance fiscal expediency with a larger vision and mission. My main goal is to see Harmony develop into the anchor of a local food movement in Northern Minnesota. I think that Harmony plays a vital role in recalibrating a local food system with greater relationships between growers and consumers in Northern MN that will enhance the overall economic base and health of the Region's communities. Thank you for considering me when you vote in the upcoming elections.

BRIDGET STOMBERG

I have served in multiple capacities on Non-Profit Boards over the last 18 years. I have sat as President and CEO for the Western Colorado Coalition for Women in Mesa County, Colorado for 4 years and most recently, served as Secretary for Bemidji Community Theatre. Currently, I sit as an interim-appointee for the Harmony Board and have for the last 4 months. I attended The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, studying Theatre and Business. I also attended Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado. I pursued a degree in pre-med with an emphasis on Naturopathic Medicine. I performed a 6 month internship in Fruita, Colorado with Dr. Rick Jensen, ND.

As a member of the Harmony Co-op and The Board of Directors, I am devoted to giving voice to and representing the interests of the general membership. I maintain the intent of the Board which is to help define the vision of the co-op, help develop policies to carry out that vision and maintain a strict adherence to all governing documents set forth by the Co-Operative and the Board of Directors. I am also fully committed to ensuring the long-term financial health and sustainability of the organization. As an active member of both my home community of Blackduck and the Bemidji community, I am dedicated to creating social justice and equality.

JUDY BOORMAN

I am currently serving on the Harmony Food Co-op Board of Directors. I have had quite a lot of experience being a member of a governing board of directors. I am the past president of the Austin Family YMCA Board of Directors. I served all but the first year of nine on the Board's Executive Committee, two years as secretary, two years as vice president, two years as president, and two years as past president. I have great respect for the mission of the YMCA, and I would still be serving had I not retired and moved. I served two, three year, terms on the Austin Salvation Army Board of Directors, as well as three years on the Austin Figure Skating Club Board of Directors. I have always actively volunteered in the community. I served as co-chair of the Miss Minnesota Pageant through my affiliation with Jaycee Women, as well as several volunteer positions with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts when my children were young. What I bring to the Harmony Co-op Board is a strong background of volunteer work with emphasis on organization, strategic planning, goal measurement, policy making and administration assessment. I have enjoyed meeting the staff and members of the Co-op and I look forward to volunteering wherever I am needed as Harmony continues to be a vibrant presence in the area.

DOUG SCOTT

I am the Chief Financial Officer of a growing health care business. I manage the financials and general ledger. I have a degree in both Business Administration and Accounting. Being a former small business owner, I am familiar with the local economy.



MEMBER DISCOUNT COUPONS

BY MIRABELLE POE, FRONT END MANAGER

We are now giving your quarterly discount electronically. We have your quarterly coupons at the register ready for your use during any visit. The electronic coupon is tracked on our system and we can tell during your transaction if you've already taken it during any given quarter.

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

BY HARMONY STAFF

Come join us throughout the month of October to celebrate cooperatives! Check out the front of the store for news and information about cooperative business models, local cooperatives and of course our very own Harmony. We will be tabling by the deli hallway area, each week representing a different aspect of the co-op world.

WE'VE ADDED SOCIAL MEDIA!

BY MIRABELLE POE, FRONT END MANAGER

We've joined the hip and trendy businesses of today by adding Facebook and Twitter. Please join us and follow what we're doing!



HARMONY STAFF

GENERAL MANAGER

Greg Gasman

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Colleen Bakken

FRONT END DEPARTMENT

Susanna Aasgard

Haley Barraza

Lauren Bennett

Jason Dowell

Susan Elj

Rachel Harper

Julie Jensen

Shannon Murray

Julia Oxenreider

Liz Poehler

Cass Schlauderaff

FRONT END SUPERVISORS

Christine Sazama & Nicole Deeter-Tanner

FRONT END MANAGER

Mirabelle Poe

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

Deborah Davis

Katie Houg

John Marroni

Sheila Ryan

PRODUCE MANAGER

Lisa Weiskopf

BREWING MANAGER Matthew Tufto

HEALTH & BEAUTY CARE AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE MANAGER

Marina Lovell

EDUCATION, VITAMINS & SPICES MANAGER

Lisa Knights

BULK ASSISTANT

Ted Weir

BULK MANAGER

Jeff Borgert

FROZEN & DAIRY ASSISTANT

Lauren Bennett

FROZEN & DAIRY MANAGER

Mackenzie Lindahl

IT DEPARTMENT Cheryl Winnett & Holly Churchill

DELI DEPARTMENT

D.J. Arens

Sara Dennison

Lynne Lawson

Danielle LeClaire

Nina Lubarski

Thomas Mettler

Yma Sautbine

Siau Yean Montgomery

Dale Warner

DELI MANAGER

Andor Lofthus

Official Ballot for Board of Directors Election 2011

Harmony Cooperative Grocery, Inc.

Vote for Three (3) by placing an "X" before the name of each person you are voting for:

_____ Judy Boorman (3 year term) _____ Ryan Zemek (3 year term)
 _____ Bridget Stomberg (3 year term) _____ Doug Scott (3 year term) _____ Write In _____

Ballots may be mailed in to or dropped off at Harmony Cooperative Grocery, Inc., 302 Irvine Ave NW, Bemidji, MN, 56601 or brought to the General Membership Meeting on Friday, October 28, 2011 at United Methodist Church, 9th Street and Beltrami Ave, Bemidji, MN

MEMBER # _____



302 Irvine Ave NW
 Bemidji MN 56601
 218.751.2009

PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 59
 Bemidji, MN 56601

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER-OWNERS!

HARMONY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--|
| Dennis Montgomery (Chair) dennismontgomery@hotmail.com (218) 987-2037 | Debbie Warne-Jacobsen debbie.warnejacobsen@gmail.com (218) 243-3093 |
| Judy Boorman judyboorman01@gmail.com | Bridget Stomberg mrsyam2009@yahoo.com (970) 201-7561 |
| Mary Chernugal mmcher@paulbunyan.net (218) 987-2331 | Casey Wytaske (Coordinator) caseywytaske@gmail.com (218) 261-0386 |
| Mary Overlie mary@maryo.org (612) 963-0238 | |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tara Widner | Fran O'Brien |
| Nate & Heather Avenson | Jerry & Ivania Jamison |
| Lucy Evans | Lee & Polly Scotland |
| Juanita Martin | Elaine Erickson |
| Tim & Lorrie Hawkin | Acacia Wytaske |
| Gloria Phelps | Merlin & Joyce Vold |
| Bonnie Bush | Patsy Teufer |
| Andrew Fullhart | Brian Jambor & Layna Cole |
| Grant & Mary Oppegard | Nicholi Ludlow |
| Peter Mazingo | Valarece Long |
| Mary Appleton | Marcy Hanson |
| Patti Haasch | Mickel & Jan Scamp |
| Norma Rinkenberger | Bemidji Area Schools |
| Rachel Lehman | |
| Mark Johnson | |

General Membership Meeting 10/28
 United Methodist Church Basement
 9th Street & Beltrami Avenue
 Meet/Greet (5:30pm) Dinner (6pm) Meeting (7pm)