

It's time to Vote!

2016 Co-op Market Board of Directors

A Fairbanksan since 1974, **Stephen Anderson** grew up on a small family farm in Tennessee.

"We raised most of our own vegetables and a variety of berries and fruits for our jams and preserves," he said. "All our milk came from a cow I helped milk once a day from the time I was 8 until 16, and most of our red meat from a calf we'd raise and have butchered every other year."

This background gave him an appreciation for simple, locally raised foods.

Stephen became an Owner before the co-op opened because "it prioritizes locally grown products when available, and it also provides a local alternative in its management and policies."

Currently the Building Plans Examiner for the City of Fairbanks Building Department, Stephen has extensive experience in plumbing and heating construction, installation, repair and service. He owned and operated Anderson Mechanical from 1989 to 2003 and has been a shop steward for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers since 2005. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from UAF in 1976. He is an active member of Toastmasters.

Stephen is concerned about sustainability, and he said his experience as a shop steward taught him about cooperation for common interests. He wants to make more sustainable, healthier groceries available to everyone, and he believes the co-op can do that. ❖

Annmarie Billingsley is an attorney and small business owner, running and managing Chena Legal LLC. She and her husband have lived in Fairbanks for 10 years and are raising two young daughters here.

Annmarie has served one term on the Co-op Market board and has particularly enjoyed using her legal background to help with tasks like editing bylaws, researching statutes and reviewing contracts.



STEPHEN ANDERSON

"I use a collaborative law model in my practice, and I am constantly negotiating or attending mediations," she said. "As a teacher, mother and conscientious eater for over a decade, I've thought a lot about values, goals and the best way to use my passion and excitement to share ideas while learning from other people's experiences."

Annmarie particularly likes the cooperative value of self-responsibility. She said that working with others in the community to build a store that meets our own needs and shares our values is empowering.

"I think it's important to support the community, local farmers and the local economy. I want my money to go towards a community project." ❖

Before moving to Fairbanks in 2009, **Brian Kassof** and his family lived in Portland and Seattle, communities known for their strong support of local agriculture and food production. They appreciated fresh, local, pesticide-free produce. Brian said, "We wanted our children to learn that food didn't just appear, but was grown and prepared by hardworking farmers."

The Kassofs were happy to find local farms, farmer's markets and CSAs in the Interior – and to join members of our community-owned cooperative. He said the co-op "supports and builds the community from within, ... helping to increase local self-reliance and a more diversified economy."

Brian wants to ensure the co-op's continued growth in a time of economic difficulty. "As our state faces challenging times, it is more important than ever to build resilient, strong, community-based institutions like the co-op."

Brian said he is passionate about social justice and living ethically. He believes we need to reach out to non-Owners, "particularly low-income members of the community, who may not know about the co-op's extensive offerings or believe it's too expensive a place to shop. The co-op's ability to make healthy and responsibly produced food available is one of its primary values to the community."

Brian is an Assistant Professor of European and Russian History at UAF. He holds a B.A. in History with Honors from Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Berkeley. ❖



BRIAN KASSOF



ANNEMARIE BILLINGSLEY

After working as a registered nurse for 10 years, **Jodi Tansky** is currently a stay-at-home mom pursuing a certificate in holistic nutrition. “My passion is using nutrition to heal our bodies and helping people to attain the highest level of wellness for themselves by offering motivation, support and resources.”



JODI TANSKY

Jodi said she wants to serve on the board because she’s interested in “developing a locavore mindset.” Stating that she is a locavore, she said her family harvests much of their food, and “we try to buy as many local products as possible, knowing that we’re getting nutritionally dense food while supporting local farmers and businesses so they can be sustainable in our community for years to come.”

She is interested in community outreach. “Community members want to know that they are getting more than local, organic and specialty foods. My belief is they desire these connections – nutritional education programs, cooking classes and a holistic support system.”

Jodi holds a B.S. in Nursing from Armstrong Atlantic State University and served as an emergency nurse at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital from 2007-2015. She is secretary of the Alaska Emergency Nurses Association and in 2013 was named Alaska Nurse of the Year in the Education category by the Alaska Chapter of the March of Dimes. In 2012-13, she chaired the FMH Emergency Department Education Committee and co-chaired the FMH Housewide Education Committee. ❖

Hans Geier is a former UAF economist and cooperative developer. He holds a degree in Cooperative Management from Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota, an M.Ed. from Washington State University; and an M.S. in Natural Resources Management from UAF.



HANS GEIER

Hans has been a Co-op Market Owner “since the beginning.” He has served several terms on the Co-op Market board of directors and has held the office of vice chair. He is a member of the Alaska Farmers Union board and the Alaska Food Policy Committee governing board.

“I am from Minnesota, where I lived and trained in cooperative classes,” he said. He believes the co-op board’s next challenges are “consolidating our success and preparing for expansion.”

Hans said he supports Co-op Market “because it’s mine!” ❖

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #2

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men & women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

OFFICIAL BALLOT
2016 BOARD ELECTION

Choose up to 4 candidates for 3-year terms.

- Stephen Anderson
- Annmarie Billingsley
- Hans Geier
- Brian Kassof
- Jodi Tansky

Name _____

Owner Number _____

Email _____

Return this ballot by mail or in person to:

Co-op Market Groery & Deli
526 Gaffney Road
Fairbanks AK 99701

Ballots will be accepted until 5 p.m. October 20.