

# Co-op Market Grocery & Deli 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

## *Candidate Profiles & Official Ballot*

Co-op Market Grocery & Deli is a member-owned corporation. By electing members of the Board of Directors, you are participating in the democratic operation and oversight of your cooperative.

The Board of Directors we choose acts on behalf of all Owners. The board oversees our co-op's financial condition, connects to our Owners, shapes our co-op's vision, and works closely with our General Manager to set long-term strategies. Directors must be current Owners in good standing.

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There are two parts to the 2022 election.

1. Election of board members.
2. Confirmation of one appointed board member to serve the remainder of their term.

### **I. ELECTION**

There are four seats with terms that expire in 2022: seats B, D, E, and F. Board terms are usually three years; however, in 2022 two seats will serve three years and two will serve two years. This will facilitate staggered terms so that approximately one-third of the board is elected each year, in accordance with our Bylaws. Candidates will be

chosen for their term by drawing straws after the election.

We have four candidates for election this year:

- Art Gelvin
- Brian Kassof
- Hilary Shook
- Briana Walters

Please check the box on the ballot to vote for a candidate. You may select up to four. You can also leave the ballot blank. Write-in candidates are not allowed.

### **2. CONFIRMATION**

Vacancies between elections are filled by appointment. Applications for appointment to the board may be submitted year-round. Board appointments are subject to a vote of confirmation by Owners at the next annual meeting if an annual meeting occurs before the end of the unexpired term (*Bylaws, 2017, Article 6c*).

Patrice Lee was appointed to seat G in February 2021. This seat's term expires in 2023. You are being asked to confirm her appointment. Please select yes or no on the ballot.

*See inside for candidate bios.*

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## **What does it mean to be an Owner “in good standing”?**

Our Bylaws state that Owners must be in good standing to receive Owner benefits. This is especially important for voting in our annual Board of Directors election.

To be considered “in good standing,” Owners must either have paid their full \$200 investment or have made a payment of at least \$5 toward their investment within the last quarter.

It is critical that we have current contact information for every Owner, so if you haven't updated your mailing address and email recently, please do. Cashiers may also ask you to review your contact info at the register.

We compiled our voter database from records pulled on February 28, 2022. On that date, we had a total of 4886 Owners. Of those, 3572 were in good standing and eligible to vote.

***For our election to be valid, at least 10% of eligible voters must participate. This means that we will need at least 357 votes.***

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## ART GELVIN



I've been a supporter/Owner of the co-op from the very beginning. There is a special feel that is synonymous to all co-op food stores that I have ever visited. It's a welcoming place, where the staff says hello as you walk in, and it's a relaxed environment that you can't get anywhere else. It feels good to be able to spend my money at the local level, where I can obtain high quality products, and support local producers.

I have served on the co-op board for the last three years, at least two years serving as the board secretary. The difficult challenges that the store has faced have had a positive impact on my personal and professional growth. I'm proud to be a part of the current board as we have formed a strong team while spending a lot of time together, mostly through Zoom meetings, working through the issues.

It's beginning to look like we're heading towards stability. It's time for the board to return to normal business and to get the co-op moving forward. I would like to continue with the board as I still see that the co-op can play a vital role in educating the community about the importance of eating well, there is a lot of opportunity for collaborating with other organizations to make Fairbanks a better place, and to support the growth of sustainably produced foods from local sources.

I am employed with the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, working on a wide variety of projects throughout Alaska, and all the places that have snow. I enjoy cooking and sharing what I've learned. It's a great way to get friends together. You can always find me browsing the cookbooks in a bookstore, or perusing the shelves in small, out-of-the way grocery store.

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## BRIAN KASSOF



As an Owner since 2011 and part of the board since 2019, I believe strongly that Co-op Market makes our community a better place to live. It's a place where our Owners and shoppers can live their values: a commitment to healthy eating; support for fair trade, sustainable food production, and a healthier environment; support for local farmers and businesses; building a stronger community. It's a store that puts the needs and interests of its customers and Fairbanks first. The co-op reflects the best parts of Fairbanks — a little offbeat, community focused, and caring about our neighbors.

This is why I care passionately about keeping Co-op Market a strong, vital part of our community. When I joined the board, we were starting to discuss the next stage of the coop's development before the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to focus on surviving the challenges of the next two years. Thanks to the staff's dedication and the amazing support of our Owners, we have weathered the storm. Now we are ready to return to the task of charting the co-op's next stage of growth and development. This

includes increasing its offerings and working with community partners to expand access to healthy, sustainably produced food for everyone in Fairbanks.

I am currently a stay-at-home parent and editor for the Alaska Energy Transparency Project ([alaskaenergytransparency.org](http://alaskaenergytransparency.org)). From 2000 to 2017, I worked as full-time faculty member at various universities and colleges, including the University of Alaska Fairbanks; Reed College; the University of California, Berkeley; and the University of Virginia.

I believe I have the passion, skills, and experience to help the co-op continue to develop to serve the community's needs even better. My service on this and other volunteer boards has given me the perspective, collaborative skills, and knowledge of the grocery industry needed to help the co-op achieve its potential. Over the past three years I have been a member of the board's Finance Committee and Strategic Planning/Outreach Committee, as well as a member of the GM Search Committee. I would be honored if you allow me to continue to work on your behalf as a member of the board.

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## PATRICE LEE



I love the Co-op Market concept and am happy we have a store in Fairbanks that not only provides quality products, but partners with and invests in our community. The small size with amazing selection makes for a satisfying and wonderful shopping experience.

I am seeking confirmation of my appointment after volunteering on the board in order to lend some expertise in the areas of finance, outreach to diverse members of our community, and to do the day-to-day work that needs to be done in service of the market.

Some of my goals for the market are to expand Ownership, help food security in our community, help the co-op through an upcoming renewal lease agreement, and to include additional partnering opportunities for local food growers and producers.

- Retired math and science teacher – 24 years
- BS Zoology, minors in Chemistry and French
- Volunteer co-coordinator of Citizens for Clean Air – 14 years
- Board member, Interior Gas Utility (IGU) – 2017-2020
- Chair, IGU Finance Committee
- Board member, Fairbanks Symphony
- Numerous executive boards during my career as a teacher
- Wife of 45 years; four adult children

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## HILARY SHOOK



As the Deputy Center Manager for the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, I direct the coordination of resources in response to wildland fire and all-hazard events. I collaborate with local, regional, and national committees to develop employee training, implement policy, and work to improve communication among interagency partners.

A Hoosier native, I became an Alaska resident in 2009 and Co-op Market Owner in 2010. Before landing in Alaska, I was an Americorps volunteer and program coordinator for Hoosier Hills Food Bank, where I worked closely with donors, volunteers and member agencies to provide food to at-risk families. Later I was an assistant manager of perishable foods for the Bloomingfoods Co-op Market in Bloomington, Indiana, where I purchased dairy, meat and bread, working closely with local vendors. I coordinated local farm tours to increase awareness about local food suppliers and the local food economy.

Elected a board member in 2019 and then board chair in 2020, I chair the following committees: GM Search; Outreach & Planning; and the Executive Committee. Together the staff and board have collaborated with our consultants at National Co+op Grocers and Columinate to improve store and board operations. Along with my fellow board members, I participate in several developmental workshops that include group facilitation, board finance training, and GM development and evaluation. We attend round table discussions with other co-op board members nationwide to learn from shared experiences. I believe our co-op depends on Owner involvement and that broadening our membership is essential to solving our food supply concerns for the Interior and rural Alaska. I look forward to working with you, our Owners, as we grow and improve our service to our community.

Providing access to affordable local and sustainably produced food to our communities is one of the many reasons I am a co-op Owner. I am forever grateful to you for continuing to shop at the co-op and improving our local food economy, and to our staff, who are on the front line and have navigated the challenges faced by the retail grocery industry during the pandemic with ingenuity and grace.

My family spends our free time in the garden and exploring this beautiful state. I have a BA in Sustainable Development from Indiana University and an MPA from University of Alaska Southeast.

# BRIANA WALTERS



My name is Briana Walters. I'm a first-generation Alaskan with a lifelong history in the Fairbanks area. My parents were born and raised in northern Wisconsin. My mom is one of 14 children and grew up on a dairy farm. My dad enjoyed the bounties of a large family garden. Wisconsin feels like a second home. My Midwest heritage, mixed with my Alaska upbringing, has instilled an appreciation for agriculture and farming, as well as acknowledgment about why locally produced food is vital for a thriving and healthy community. Accessibility to locally grown food is made possible, in no small part, because of Co-op Market Grocery & Deli. The service the co-op provides to Fairbanks creates a meaningful relationship between the people who grow and produce our food and the people who consume it.

I know that by shopping at the co-op I can focus on two joys: cooking with locally sourced produce, dairy, and meats for my family and helping grow a regenerative, locally based economy in Fairbanks. Our community needs more options when it comes to selecting healthy, sustainably produced food, and Co-op Market is my first choice.

As a proud Owner, I want to serve on the Board of Directors and be part of something that is fundamental to my core interests and beliefs. Serving as a board member is an opportunity to help contribute and develop meaningful ways to strategically grow the positive impact of the co-op (and the co-op model) for our community.

I have a bachelor's degree in Accounting and a master's in Business Administration. Since 2017 I have served as director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Office of Management & Budget. My professional work style places an emphasis on technical excellence, organization and problem-solving. I easily accept mentoring from those around me and enjoy collaborating with others who share a common goal. Alaska – and the Interior – is unique. I am eager to learn more about the co-op, expand our reach within Fairbanks and the surrounding communities, and welcome new Owners and shoppers.



## OFFICIAL BALLOT 2022 BOARD ELECTION

### I. ELECTION

There are four open seats. You may select up to four candidates. You can also choose to leave the boxes blank.

- Art Gelvin
- Brian Kassof
- Hilary Shook
- Briana Walters

### 2. CONFIRMATION

Shall the appointment of Patrice Lee to Seat G be confirmed?

- Yes
- No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Return this ballot by mail or in person to:

**Co-op Market Grocery & Deli**  
attn: Owner Services Manager  
526 Gaffney Road  
Fairbanks AK 99701  
(907) 457-1023

*Ballots will be accepted until 8 p.m. Friday, April 22.  
Results announced at our virtual annual meeting on Saturday, April 23.*