

First Alternative NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Fresh, local, organic groceries for everyone

North Store: 2855 NW Grant Ave • South Store: 1007 SE 3rd St

The 
SCOOP
January 2022



From the
Board of
Directors

**Elizabeth
Sonstegaard**

Happy New Year from the First Alternative Co-op Board of Directors!

We are thankful for the First Alternative staff who have worked hard to keep us all fed over the last year. Working the frontlines during a pandemic while also facing labor shortages and supply-chain issues is challenging and we appreciate it. Here's to hoping we can celebrate our resilience and cooperation sometime in 2022!

At the November Board meeting, Mark Tarasawa (Finance Manager) presented First Alternative's 2022 Operational and Capital Budgets. As always, Mark did a great job

of walking us through the budget assumptions, explaining what all these numbers mean, how they are calculated, and what type of growth we can expect in the coming year. At this time last year, we had expected to slowly come out of the pandemic and start to return to something more familiar in 2021. Instead, we had a fire that destroyed the annex building, which houses the Co-op Kitchen commissary, shutting down production for over 3 months. Luckily, the commissary is back up and running and making delicious food again but they are still limited in production due to operating in a smaller space while we rebuild from

the fire. We also got an update from the Strategic Planning Committee on the results of a market study that First Alternative conducted this fall. The data from this study will help inform future decisions about the South Store. The Board also reviewed Executive Limitations and Board/Management Linkage policies.

First Alternative has a lot of work to do in the coming year—rebuild the annex, start community conversations, and make decisions on the future of the South Store. The Board of Directors is looking forward to engaging with Owners and shoppers to help guide us through this next year. 🥬

**Important Board of Directors
Election Info Inside...**

January Board Committee Meetings

Owners interested in virtually attending meetings should contact BREC@firstalt.coop for details.

Board Recruitment & Elections Committee: Working to recruit qualified Board candidates.
Tuesday, January 11, 6pm

Finance Committee: Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.
Wednesday, January 12, 4:30pm

Owner Relations Committee: The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.
Wednesday, January 12, 6pm

Strategic Planning Committee: Develops strategic plans consistent with the Board's vision and direction.
Monday, January 17, 6pm

First Alternative Board of Directors: Elected Owners putting our principles into action.
Tuesday, January 25, 6pm

**EVERYONE
WELCOME
Open daily
7 am - 9 pm**

Happy New Year!

Board of Directors Election Updates ★ ★ ★

Ranked choice voting, new Owner initiative procedure, and dates!

It's election season again. No, not that election, the First Alternative (FA) Board of Directors election. Although the voting period runs from June 1st to June 15th, there's a lot that happens before the ballots go out. The FA Board has a committee, the Board Election and Recruitment Committee (BREC), that is responsible for the administration of our elections.

As an Owner of FA, you can not only vote for the candidates running for the Board and any Owner-sponsored initiatives and referenda from the Board, but you can also run for the Board, and sponsor initiatives that you think are important issues for the Owners to address.

A full FA Board of Directors is composed of ten directors elected to three-year terms, with either 3 (three) or 4 (four) positions coming up for election each year. This year, there will be 3 (three) positions open on the Board.

The Board has decided to use ranked choice voting (RCV) when there are more candidates than open positions. When there are the same or fewer candidates than open positions, the election will be the same as what we've used in the past. One big difference between the two is that when we use RCV, there cannot be write-in candidates since all voters should be able to rank all candidates. All candidates need to follow our processes to get on the ballot. We will continue to have a hybrid election using electronic ballots for the Owners who did not opt out of receiving electronic correspondence from FA and paper ballots mailed to the rest. The Board may include some survey or advisory questions on the electronic ballot.

There are some important deadlines in our election process. The description of the issue in any Owner initiative needs to be addressed to "BREC Chair" and turned in to either store's Customer Service desk by February 1st. BREC and the Board will determine whether the initiative meets the criteria needed to be on the ballot. If so, the sponsor is notified that they can proceed with gathering the required number of Owner signatures to be on the ballot. Completed petitions must be addressed to "BREC Chair" and turned in to either store's customer service desk by April. BREC will validate the signatures and if approved, publish the text of the initiative in the May and June editions of the Scoop.

If you'd like to run for the Board, there are two ways to get on the ballot. The first, and recommended way,



First Alternative Co-op 2021 Board of Directors





is in February get an application and submit it to BREC no later than March 31 BREC will schedule interviews in early April and then endorse candidates that they determine are well suited for the Board. Endorsed and incumbent candidates will be noted on the ballot. Candidates who are not endorsed and candidates who do not want the endorsement can file a petition with at least 20 Owners' signatures by May 6. All candidates on the ballot will provide a statement and be interviewed for the May Scoop. It is highly recommended that interested Owners attend a Board meeting or two before applying.

So now you know why our election in June starts now. It's not too early to think about running for the Board or, if you have a great idea or otherwise important issue that needs action by the Owners, starting an initiative. Watch for posters in the stores and more articles as we move through the process.

Also, BREC is looking for more non-director Owner members. If you would like to be considered for serving on BREC, let us know.

For more information, contact BREC.board@firstalt.coop.



The Co-op Kitchen Winter Menu

Let us do the cooking this season!

The Co-op Kitchen and Bakery are cooking for you all winter long, with a selection of old favorites and fresh new delights ready to Grab 'N' Go every day!



Clockwise from top right: Grab 'N' Go Soup, Vegan Chai Cupcakes, Marionberry Cheesecake, and Green Chile Cornbread Loaf



It's your Co-op.
Own it.



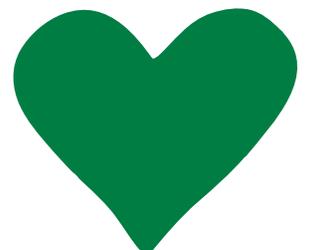
Save • Earn • Support • Vote

To get all the details and become an Owner visit firstalt.coop/ownership

The Co-op welcomed

40

new Owners in November!



Citrus Spree

First Alternative
NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

January
19-25

More details
coming soon
to Facebook,
Instagram &
firstalt.coop

TUESDAYS
15% off
produce

FOR STUDENTS

with a valid student ID from an Oregon college



SOUP & SALAD

The Classic Combo



Is Back In Our Deli



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