



## The Alternative Food Cooperative 2012 Board of Directors Application

### Note from the Current Board President, Linda Barrett:

Thank you for considering becoming a Board Director of your Alternative Food Cooperative. You should be aware that it is not always an easy job, but it is a necessary and vital job, and you will be rewarded by knowing you have helped in something important – carrying out the mission and purpose of the Co-op.

The Board of Directors meets at 7pm at the store on the third Tuesday of each month. If this does not work for the new board, a new date/time will be discussed after the elections.

Please refer to the duties of the Board of Directors as described in this document. In order to carry out these duties, past experience has indicated that the time commitment varies for each board member. There are different levels of opportunity for involvement; but, involvement is necessary to have some background and experience that will benefit each board member as they carry out their duties and vote on various items.

In accordance with the by-laws, all board members will be offered working member status and may receive super worker status by meeting those requirements.

Candidates are encouraged to read the by-laws which can be found on the website at [www.thealternativefoodcooperative.com](http://www.thealternativefoodcooperative.com)

### What is expected of Directors

Directors are elected by Co-op members to represent members' interests. Section V of the by-laws indicates that "the power and duties of the board include engaging management, overseeing the operations of the Co-op, establishing operating procedures, budgets and fiscal controls, securing good conditions of employment, and assuring that the purposes, mission, and principles of the Co-op are properly carried out." A commitment beyond attending monthly board meetings is strongly encouraged to understand the organization's needs and make informed business decisions. There are various ways this can be attained.

You will be provided various opportunities to be involved. This amount of time can vary from month to month as your involvement in short-term and long-term Co-op activities emerges. Each Director will be given the opportunities such as serving on a sub-committee; volunteering in the store, overseeing a particular project, etc. This will help you understand the complexity of our operations and thus make good and informed decisions at Board meetings.

11/16/2011



**Application Form (use additional sheet(s) if your answers are longer) due 1/15/12**

<b>Full Name:</b>	
<b>Everyday first name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone(s):</b>	
<b>Email address(es):</b>	

**1. Tell the members about yourself:**

**2. Tell the members about why you would be a good Director**

***Please sign this affirmative statement: I certify that I am a member in good standing, that my dues are fully paid, that I give the Co-op permission to edit my bio for publication to members, and that if elected I will honor the commitment levels expected of a board member:***

<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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**Return the completed application to the attention of Linda Barrett and leave it in an envelope at the Co-op with the cashier. You may also mail it to the Co-op or give it to a current board member.**

**11/16/2011**



## Information for potential applicants

### General Co-op description

The Alternative Food Cooperative, Incorporated is a RI-based corporation that is owned by its members. It is not recognized by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3) as a charitable organization.

The Co-op operates a retail storefront on Main Street in Wakefield that is open to the public. It also provides members with a benefit to bulk purchase.

The Co-op has built a community of members and provides them with fresh, local, organic, and natural foods that are not adulterated and that have, to the best of our buying ability, only wholesome ingredients.

### Election Process

**This Election:** FOUR board positions are open and will be filled with the top four vote-getters, whether new applicants or incumbent board members who elect to be a candidate.

**Term:** Each board member will be elected to a two year term in accordance with Section X, #4 of the by-laws.

**File an application:** this form is your application. It can be given to the cashier, to a board member, or to the General Manager marked to the attention of Linda Barrett, Chair of the Nomination Committee.

**Become certified:** when your membership and dues status are confirmed and all your materials have been shown to meet the minimum requirement, you will be placed on the ballot. NOTE: the information on the ballot may be edited to meet space restrictions.

**Ballots/Bio:** a sheet will be prepared and distributed to members and in the store with a brief bio of each applicant.

**Voting:** held at the January Annual Meeting and for two weeks thereafter. Someone will call you with the voting results.



11/16/2011

## Excerpts from the By Laws:

### *Number and Qualification:*

*The board shall consist of seven directors. To be qualified as a Director, a person shall be a member of the Co-op and shall not be associated with interests adverse to the Co-op. No person who is employed by the Co-op shall be eligible to serve as a directors and no director shall be employed by the Co-op except for special and limited duties at the discretion of the board.*

### *Purpose and Mission*

#### 1. Cooperative Sales:

- A. *To provide high quality products at reasonable costs and to operate at all times in a manner that is fair and equitable to its members, staff, and community.*
- B. *To specialize in selling organically grown, unprocessed whole foods and to support sustainable local agriculture whenever feasible while also balancing the needs and wishes of our membership.*

#### 2. Cooperative Character

- A. *An open and voluntary membership without any social, political, racial, religious, sexual or other arbitrary discrimination.*
- B. *Democratic governance with equal voting rights among members and opportunity for participation in decisions affecting the Co-op.*
- C. *Strict limitations on monetary return on member capital.*
- D. *Equitable use of net savings to avoid one member gaining at expense of another member.*
- E. *Active cooperative with other cooperative organizations.*
- F. *Education of the members and the general public in the cooperative principles.*

#### 3. Powers

*The Co-op shall have all the powers enumerated in the RI Corporations Act and shall have such other powers as are conferred on it by the Articles of Incorporation or these By Laws.*



#### 4. SECTION V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*1. Powers, Duties: Except as to matters reserved to membership by law or by these Bylaws, the business and affairs of the Co-op shall be directed and controlled in the interests of members by the Board of Directors (herein referred to as the "Board"). The powers and duties of the Board shall include, but not be limited to, engaging management, overseeing the operations of the Co-op, establishing operating procedures, budgets and fiscal controls, securing good conditions of employment, and assuring that the purposes, mission, and principles of the Co-op are properly carried out.*

*The complete by-laws can be found at [www.alternativefoodcooperative.com](http://www.alternativefoodcooperative.com)*

11/16/2011