



## Emily Townsend

I am running for the Board of the TPSS Co-op to continue the work I've begun in the last six months as an appointed Board member. As runner up in last year's election, I was appointed to fill a vacancy, and have relished the opportunity to contribute to our co-op! I hope to continue to serve.

Some recent Co-op accomplishments I'm happy I contributed to:

- The Local Foods Committee Report outlining ways to increase the amount of locally grown and produced goods in our store. The Board adopted the goals of the report, and the GM and staff have begun implementing the recommendations! We still have lots more to do here.
- Communication & Outreach: We've been working to find more ways to connect members, shoppers, staff & the Board. We've had volunteers calling other co-ops to learn more about their outreach programs. I can't take credit for the fabulous new newsletter, but I am cheering it!
- Governance: The less glamorous aspect of being on the Board is attention to detail, making sure the co-op is running as it should. I've enjoyed learning how to do this hard work! Please be sure to vote on the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws.

Some future projects I expect to be involved in at our co-op:

- Future Visions: Our co-op is in a strong fiscal position, and we have the ability to expand the Takoma Park store, invest in local food infrastructure, or pursue other projects. We are starting a conversation about those visions! Please consider joining the Expansion Task Force!
- Expand Volunteer Opportunities: We're working on starting a listserv for people who would be interested in hearing about volunteer opportunities. This enhances our sense of community and extends access by providing discounts.
- Product Selection Committee: Now forming! To join, please e-mail me.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me:  
LISTEMILY@EML.CC

---



## John Harty

I have shopped at the TPSS Coop regularly for well over 10 years, beginning with its Sligo Avenue location. I love the Coop and its wonderful staff, and think it's a tremendously valuable asset to the community. Just imagine what Takoma Park and Silver Spring would be like without the Coop!

I try to buy everything I can here, only shopping at other stores for things the Coop doesn't carry. It was recently pointed out to me (ok, I was persuaded....) that I could support the Coop in other ways too, by running for the board.

In my real life, I teach at the University of Maryland, where I currently chair an academic department with an annual budget of roughly \$3M. Several years ago, before graduate school, I worked as the business manager of a small company with an annual budget of roughly \$2M. So issues involving finance and budgeting aren't new to me.

I have also read and thought a lot about food, food consumption and policy, and especially the ethical and environmental issues surrounding food production. I'm not an expert by any means and don't have any rigid opinions in the area, but I think I know the lay of the land.

If you know what working at a university is like, you'll know that I already serve on plenty of committees. But I'd be very happy and honored to serve on the Coop board too.



### **Stephanie Sinsky**

My name is Stephanie Sinsky and I am running for the board. I grew up in Takoma Park and my parents still live here. Not only am I a member of the Co-op, I am also the Human Resources Manager for the Co-op. So I bring with me a diverse perspective to the board.

I have over fifteen years experience in Human Resources, a strong retail background in addition I owned and directly managed a recruitment company. My skills include budget/finance, project management, and Human Capital management. I feel that I can bring a strong knowledge of business, community as well as strong strategic and analytical skills to the board and the Co-op.

I would like the opportunity to serve the Co-op and maybe bring a different view point to the table. I would love to see the Co-op find and develop its brand, and become a stronger resource for the communities it serves. I am also interested in a better definition of "healthy food" so that the Co-op can serve a larger population of healthy lifestyles.

I believe that the Co-op has huge potential. I would like the chance to be a part of the process that helps the Co-op realizes its true potential.

---



### **Tanya Whorton**

I've enjoyed shopping at the Takoma Park and now the Silver Spring Co-op since 1995. A few years ago, I decided to become a member of the TPSS Co-op in order to financially support the purpose of the Co-op:

*...to serve members' and community needs by providing an affordable alternative source of wholesome food, high quality products, and community resources in an atmosphere of fairness and mutual respect among members, staff and customers.*

From TPSS Co-op Bylaws located at <http://tpss.coop/Bylaws.pdf>

I know that member involvement is necessary for a vital and functional organization, so I recently started supporting the Co-op through volunteering my time. I joined the Membership Committee, where I have met many knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers and staff.

Areas of particular interest to me are food safety, supporting local farmers and producers, and sunchokes (they are delicious!)

If I am elected to the Board of Representatives for 2011, I will work hard to fulfill the responsibilities of the job. I look forward to working with the staff, volunteers, as well as the more experienced members of the board. My goal is to learn as much as I can about how best to serve the Co-op.

I am married to a fellow Co-op shopper, have a dachshund named Winkler, and live in the Silver Spring area. I have been a law librarian and library manager for over 15 years and have extensive experience completing complex research projects as well as hiring and managing staff and working with budgets. In my spare time I enjoy going to farmer's markets, gardening (except for weeding and poison ivy), reading (at least 3 pages before I fall asleep) and baking.



## **Preston Quesenberry**

Hello fellow TPSS Co-op members. I was appointed to fill a vacant seat on TPSS Co-op Board of Representatives (the "TPSS Board") last spring and I'm running to serve on the Board again this fall for three basic reasons.

First, I am an attorney with considerable experience in both corporate governance and tax issues. My practice has focused on tax-exempt organizations, including various mutual associations and tax-exempt (as well as some taxable) cooperatives. While I will not be the Co-op's attorney, I think my legal background can prove useful to the TPSS Board -- and, indeed, I believe it already proved useful when I played an active role in helping to draft the amendments to the Co-op's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation that you will be voting on in October.

Second, I am a long-time supporter of building strong, locally-based economies and thus want to push the Co-op to expand its local foods offerings -- especially if offerings of locally-grown produce. The membership has made clear that it wants the Co-op to make local foods a priority, and the Co-op took an important first step toward achieving this goal by establishing a local foods committee (which released a report last February) and passing a policy that prioritizes increasing the amount of local foods at the store. I want to continue building on this momentum and have already taken a step toward this goal by asking the General Manager to present a local foods report at each Board meeting to measure the Co-op's progress in increasing its local foods offerings. I will continue being an advocate for increasing the amount of local foods sold at the Co-op if I am elected to serve on the Board.

If the Co-op is going to increase its local foods offerings -- and, particularly, its offerings of local-grown produce -- it may need more space, which brings me to my third reason for wanting to serve on the Board: I want to contribute to the efforts to expand the Takoma Junction store. As some of you may know, the Co-op recently created an Expansion Task Force to explore the feasibility of using the Co-op's significant reserves to make expansion a reality. While I would want to very carefully assess the expediency of the various expansion options under consideration, I am excited about the various new things expansion might make possible, including not only more fresh produce but also more prepared foods (including a fresh salad bar) and possibly (if the law is amended to allow for it) the sale of local, organic, and biodynamic beer and wine. I am also excited about how such an expansion might help spur a rejuvenation in the entire Takoma Junction area. In sum, I plan to play an active role in exploring the expansion of the Co-op's Takoma store.

Finally, I believe a Co-op is only as strong as its membership and thus I want to take steps to try to increase the proportion of the Co-op's customers that are members by making the benefits of membership more substantial.

I appreciate your considering me for the TPSS Board position and if you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at [preston.quesenberry@gmail.com](mailto:preston.quesenberry@gmail.com).



### **Steve Dubb**

I moved to Takoma Park in August 2009 and joined TPSS Co-op within a week of moving here. This speed was no accident: while I may be new to TPSS Co-op, I am not new to co-ops. I first joined a university housing co-op in Berkeley, CA in 1986. From 1989 to 1998, I was a member-owner of a worker bookstore co-op in San Diego. From 2000 to 2003, I was executive director of North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO), an association of U.S. and Canadian campus and community co-ops. I've also participated on co-op boards, task forces and committees at the national and international levels. My present job, which I have held since 2004, includes assisting in the development of worker co-ops.

I first got involved in TPSS Co-op serving as a volunteer elections monitor in December 2009. In January 2010, I was appointed volunteer Chair of the then-moribund Membership Committee. As Chair, I have sought to make TPSS Co-op more accessible to the membership. Committee work to date has included providing input into the re-launching of a TPSS newsletter, providing input into the revamping of the TPSS website to make it more member accessible, writing articles for the TPSS Co-op newsletter, recruiting outside speakers to participate in TPSS Co-op's semi-annual membership meetings, developing a slide presentation on the history of co-ops for co-op staff and members, making it easier to volunteer, and helping the Board develop membership policy. We still have much work to do, but I believe we have made a good start.

As a member, I also helped conduct a store survey at the Silver Spring store and, in general, try to pitch in where I can, such as by marching with TPSS Co-op in the 4th-of-July parade.

My interest in serving on the board is three-fold:

- 1) I believe in the importance of community ownership and community economic control. TPSS Co-op, as a local member-owned cooperative, epitomizes these values. So I want to do what I can to make TPSS Co-op as effective of a community business as possible. I also think it is important for me, personally, to maintain myself grounded in local work, even as I spend most of my working day on national and policy issues.
- 2) I believe that TPSS Co-op is at an important inflection point in its development. We have great stores, but the sense of co-op ownership and community is not as strong as it could be or should be. If elected to the Board, I would work with Co-op staff and members to develop a greater breadth and depth of community activities, so that TPSS Co-op stores are not just nice places to shop, but true community centers.
- 3) I would like to assist TPSS Co-op to develop a solid business plan that would enable the Co-op to expand in ways that meet community needs. To achieve this goal, the Board will need to play a critical role in helping raise capital and community support.

I'd like to think that ten years from now that TPSS Co-op could be one of the top food co-ops in the nation. It excites me to have a chance to be a part of the team that helps make that happen. If elected, I would strive to be accessible to both TPSS Co-op staff and members. Through cooperation, we can make it happen! Thanks for your consideration of my candidacy.