

RUN FOR THE BOARD! See www.TPSS.coop for details.



FALL 2016 | VOLUME 7, NO. 4

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Not only are we Americans going to the polls in November for our federal and state elections, but this fall at the Co-op you can participate in a very local democratic process by running for a seat on the TPSS Board of Representatives and voting in the election!

We have had a great year as a Board. We continue to support our General Manager, Abdi, and his staff in all of their communications and efforts with the City Council, City staff, and NDC, the chosen developer of the parking lot next to the Co-op. The Board held a well-attended membership meeting and celebration of the Co-op's 35 Anniversary in the spring and we are gearing up for our fall membership meeting. By the time we hold that membership meeting, the audit of the Co-op's finances and accounting controls will be finished, along with the Co-op's annual report. The Board has monitored the financial health of the organization this year, very happily seeing continued growth in membership and revenues, in part due to a

very successful implementation of the sale of beer and wine.

The nine-member Board worked well together this year. Board Representatives were trained about duties and obligations in January and in February participated in a Board retreat. Board Representatives attended training and conferences and toured other co-ops. We worked together outside of meetings in our various committees, creating efficiencies in our Board meetings. We welcomed and heard from members who attended those Board meetings.

As the season changes and summer comes to an end, so must the composition of this Board. One of our current Board Representatives is naturally cycling off after serving for two full terms and another was appointed for one year last December, her term ends this December. Unfortunately, three other Board Representatives are stepping down for various personal reasons, including a job change to The Netherlands for one. My first term ends this fall and I must run for re-election to remain on the Board. All of these factors have

led to six seats needing to be filled this fall.

That's where you come in: please consider running for election to the Board of Representatives or encouraging your friends and neighbors to do so. Serving on the Board is very rewarding – the Co-op is a community treasure that needs good leadership, advocates, shoppers, and financial stewards and it's a fantastic place with a fantastic mission to give some of your time.

For more information about how to apply to be on the ballot this fall, please visit www.tpss.coop. If you have specific questions about serving on the Board, please send those questions to board@tpss.coop, and one of us will answer you. We are also holding a meet and greet for members interested in running; that meeting will be held in the Co-op basement at 7pm on Thursday, October 6, 2016. We look forward to meeting you!

Rachel Hardwick
TPSS Co-op Board President

EXPANSION AND JUNCTION DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Over the summer, much work has been done towards the expansion and redevelopment of the municipal parking lot adjacent to the Co-op. In late July, the Takoma Park City Council approved the signing of a Land Development Agreement with Neighborhood Development Company (NDC). Listed in that agreement is a timeframe within which it is hoped NDC and TPSS will produce a Letter of Intent for the Co-op to rent space in the new development for our expansion.

NDC and the Co-op Expansion Team continue to meet on a regular basis. NDC's traffic engineer has come up with some new scenarios as an alternative to the cutout off Carroll Avenue that they offered as a solution to the truck unloading issue - the major stumbling block to progress. Our architect is also working on some alternatives that could meet Co-op unloading, parking, and business continuity needs while also meeting the developer's profitability goals.

NDC recently drilled some borings to gather information for a geotechnical analysis of the land under the pavement. This is the next step in the process and will help the developers determine the composition of the ground and what they will need to do to ensure that it will be able to support the planned building and underground parking lot.

TPSS has an outstanding team working for us, including an incredibly able and dedicated architect, advisors from the Development Cooperative, and one of the DC area's top real estate attorneys. Watch for more details as we move forward on our long-anticipated expansion. Please contact Expansion Project Manager Marilyn Berger (mberger@tpss.coop) with questions or concerns.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2:30-4:30 P.M.

FAIR TRADE AND HAND-MADE, LOCAL AND GLOBAL (VILLAGE) - By Jane Batt, TPSS Wellness Manager

The TPSS Wellness Department carries products from around the world and down the street. We are always looking for constructive, creative artisans who serve their communities and the Earth.

Alaffia is a Fair Trade company based in Togo and Olympia, Washington, sourcing the shea butter and coconut oil for all their products from women's cooperatives in Togo. They use 10% of their profits to create pre-natal programs and reforestation projects and to buy bicycles for children to get to school. Their baby and facial care lines are on display on a Wellness end cap.

Pacha Soap Company (pacha means Earth in Quechua language of Peru) is based in Nebraska and gives away one bar of soap to every bar of soap sold. They also empower individuals with training in the profession of soap-making and assist communities with appropriate technology for drilling wells. Their soaps are colorful works of art available now on our soap endcap at the front of the department.



Closer to home, Elisha Shalom is a photographer who prints her work on paper made from industrial hemp. Her images of flowers, vegetable, camels, and cats are vivid and original. She is partnering with farmers in the local and Appalachia region to obtain waste hemp fiber for making her own paper. Her future plans include creating more cards, notebooks, and art paper using hemp as well as leading workshops. Her **NatuReflections** cards are available in the Wellness Department.

Jennifer Carter is a Global Citizen currently residing in Pennsylvania. One of her many inspired networking projects are the **Sangha Peace Meditation Cushions**. Collaborating with families in Kham, Tibet, who sew the cushions, Jennifer fills them with buckwheat hulls. Their stunning rainbow colors are on display at the front of the store.

Ruta and Ali Quereschi make soap by hand on their farm in Bealeton, Virginia, where they live with several animal friends. Their soaps are uniquely fragrant, moisturizing, and long-lasting. Hand-cut by the Wellness staff, with names like Ruby Grapefruit and English Lavender, they are a great gift for a friend or a special treat for yourself. Just ask a Wellness staff member for **Harmony Creek Farms** soap.

In nearby Pennsylvania Amish Country, Sharon Kummerer creates unique herbal tea blends by hand under the label **Akron House Tea Company**. All the fruits in her recipes come from nearby farms or her own garden. With names like Spiced Butterscotch Pecan, Butter Rum and Almonds, and Chocolate Rose, they are the perfect finale to an autumn day. These new tea flavors are on display next to the bulk teas and herbs.



Our world is indeed a Global Village, and the Co-op invites you to come and explore its delights with us.

TAKOMA PARK SILVER SPRING CO-OP

MANAGEMENT TEAM

General Manager
Abdi Guled
gm@tpss.coop

Store Manager
Hussein Choteka
hchoteka@tpss.coop

Director of Administration
Marilyn Berger
mberger@tpss.coop

Front End Manager
Eugenia Appiah-Kusi
eugeniaapk@tpss.coop

Finance Manager
Yodit Gebremeskel
finance@tpss.coop

BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

President Rachel Hardwick
Vice President Robert Anderson
Secretary LuLu Fulda
Treasurer Adam Frank

Board Members
Emily Townsend
Katie Parker
Melissa Schweisguth
David Zuckerman
Patrick Brown

E-mail: board@tpss.coop

The mission of TPSS Co-op is to promote healthful living by offering wholesome foods, high quality products, and community resources in a clean, friendly, cooperative grocery store... that you can own!

TAKOMA PARK SILVER SPRING CO-OP

201 Ethan Allen Ave, Takoma Park MD 20912

p. 301-891-2667 - f. 301-891-2695

www.TPSS.coop

Open Daily 8 AM – 10 PM