BOARD REPORT

Fellow Co-op Members:

Among other tenets, our Co-op stands for affordable and wholesome grocery supplies while enriching our community. Over the past 6.5 years, our members have saved over $450,000 by using the Co-op’s services. But, we don’t only like to keep money in our own coffers—we like to pay it forward too! Thanks to all the members who have been rounding up at the registers. With your support, our new “Co-op Cares” initiative has already generated over $400. Next month, all proceeds from this program will be donated to the SAFV shelter. “Blessings in a Backpack” (a program that helps feed children in need in our own community) is the second program of the year that our Co-op will support.

As each delivery grows, more and more people are realizing the cost saving capacity that the Co-op provides. Thus, our staff of Keith, Leah, and Maury has been working tirelessly to make our dream the reality seen and experienced at every delivery day. Our hats certainly go off to them! This consistent growth has caught the eye of many supportive organizations. To name a few, the Alaska Cooperative Development Center and Democracy at Work Institute have both given valuable resources and training. People can’t seem to get enough of us!

While we have experienced much deserved success, our Board of Directors continues to seat only three of the five members. It is vital that our two remaining seats be filled, and we are urging all members to consider joining. Email us at sitkafoodcoopboard@gmail.com to learn more!

Active members are a sign of a healthy Co-op, and it is your right and ability to attend committee and board meetings. By attending meetings, you are able to ensure that your voice is heard and that your opinion taken into account for how you want your growing Co-op to function. Our next meeting is July 12 at 6:30 PM in the meeting room of the library. I sincerely hope to see and hear from you!

Geof Goudeau
Board Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sitka Farmer’s Market
July 7th, 10am to 1pm
Alaska Native Brotherhood Founders Hall

Sitka Food Co-op Delivery Day
July 10th

Let’s Talk About Our Food With Mark Winne
July 11th, 6pm
Sitka Public Library

Sitka Food Co-op Board Meeting
July 12th, 6:30pm
Library Meeting Room

Sitka Food Co-op Campaign Committee Meeting
July 13th, 6:30pm
Library Meeting Room

Baking With Betsy: Baking With Alternative Sweeteners
July 17th, 6pm
Sitka Kitch
See sitkakitch.com for more details

Sitka Farmer’s Market
July 21st, 10am to 1pm
Alaska Native Brotherhood Founders Hall

Sitka Food Co-op Delivery Day
July 24th
Welcome to our very first monthly newsletter! Where to begin? In case you haven’t already noticed… we’re STILL growing! Last year our sales increased by 20% over 2016 and this year sales are currently averaging another 20% above 2017. Wow! Our exponential growth is a great problem to have, but it’s one we need to seriously look at and address if we’re going to continue providing the best possible service to all our current and future members… and to those people who just walk-in to “Shop the Co-op.”

I know that many members are concerned about what our future will look like when we move to a more permanent distribution center of our own. Rest assured, since our beginning we have always promised to continue our existing program which allows members to pre-order and “split” cases in advance of a delivery. This is why our focus is centered on creating a better, more stable distribution center as opposed to developing a typical storefront. Of course, our retail operation would naturally expand since there would be more space to have more products on display. Additionally, we’d have bulk dispensers – meeting the many requests from members for more bulk goods and less packaging.

As always, we could never be a successful cooperative without the participation and support of all our members. Whether you help weigh produce, attend a Board or committee meeting, or even just share your Co-op experience with friends and family… every member is contributing to the growth and success of the Co-op. Without a doubt, we ARE making a positive difference in our community, and this is something every member should be proud of.

As your GM, I look forward to continuing to help the Co-op grow in new and exciting ways. Of course, the challenge as we grow is how do we continue providing the best possible service to all our members while keeping the sense of community that’s shared on delivery days. With everyone’s support and input I’m confident we’ll be able to do just that.

Thank you for letting me work with, and for, you.

Keith
VENDOR SPOTLIGHT: GIMBAL BOTANICALS

Hope Merritt and her business Gimbal Botanicals specializes in harvesting local plants to create lovely blends of teas, tinctures and snacks for your enjoyment. Hope gathers and prepares delicious edibles from around Sitka and makes them available for purchase at the Sitka Food Co-op.

One of their featured products is Devil’s Club tea made out of the dried inner bark of a perennial shrub that grows in the pacific Northwest. For centuries, Devil’s Club has been used by Pacific Northwest Natives as a spiritual protector and for many ailments, including inflammation, respiratory infections, normalizing high blood sugars, and lifting the spirits and stamina. Find Devil’s Club tea in the retail section on delivery day!

Also, Hope is excited to be selling fresh beach asparagus on delivery days in July. Stop in early; it goes fast!

VOLUNTEER WITH SITKA FOOD CO-OP!

Sign-up to volunteer for at least 3-4 hours on delivery days and receive a discount on your order! Check out www.sitkafoodcoop.org/membership/volunteer for upcoming opportunities.
Join nationally recognized food systems/policy expert and author Mark Winne with local food activists for a conversation about food in Sitka.

For the past 40 years, Mark Winne’s work has centered around food systems and food policy. From 1979-2003, he was executive director of the Hartford Food System nonprofit in Connecticut. He is co-founder of the Community Food Security Coalition, where he served as food policy council program director from 2005-12. He has written about food issues for a variety of publications, including the Washington Post, The Nation, Sierra, Orion, and Yes! magazines. He is the author of three books on food — Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty; Food Rebels, Guerilla Gardeners, and Smart Cookin’ Mamas; and Stand Together or Starve Alone: Unity and Chaos in the U.S. Food Movement. He now serves as a senior advisor to the Center for a Livable Future at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Mark will be in Sitka in July doing research for his next book, which looks at the local food systems of 10 smaller communities around the country. For info, go to www.markwinne.com.

6 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, AT THE SITKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

For more event details, contact Charles Bingham at 623-7660 or charleswbingham3@gmail.com


SALE ITEMS ORDER BY 6/29 FOR 7/10 DELIVERY

Apples - Fuji
$1.49/lb

Grapes
Black, Green, Red
$3.60/lb

Avocados - Large
$2.30 each

Beets - Red
$1.77/lb

Broccoli - Crowns
$2.20/lb

www.sitkalocalfoodsnetwork.org
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