

Kari Ridge

Co-op Board Nominee Statement



I joined the Co-op during a visit to Western Mass. because I believe in cooperative values and I fell in love with the Co-op's local organic produce and fresh baked goods 😊 Later, Leverett's peaceful trails and natural beauty enticed me to move here about 10 years ago and I became a devoted Co-op shopper. Amid the Co-op's challenges, in 2019 I began to volunteer to help turn things around.

As a member of the Co-op's Newsletter Committee, it has been a privilege to keep members informed about the latest Co-op news and successes during the past year. From my career as a journalist, I've learned to communicate effectively, to listen to others' concerns and to take detailed notes at meetings. As a trained AWA writing workshop leader, I've helped dozens of people in the US and in Africa to become empowered through finding their voices. Through volunteer efforts with several non-profits, I've gained insights into fundraising, public relations and event-planning. As a part of the Co-op's Membership Outreach and Communications Committee for the past year, I've enjoyed collaborating with talented volunteers as we planned future events and connected with members.

Most importantly, I truly care about this cooperative of ours. I care that members have a voice in what happens here; I care that the Co-op survives and thrives. And I'll work hard in partnership with this dedicated Board, which has already accomplished so much, and our new GM to help our Co-op to once again be a vibrant grocery store where neighbors meet their neighbors and where everyone feels welcome.

I would be honored to be a part of the Leverett Village Co-op Board of Directors and I appreciate your consideration.

~ Kari Ridge