

REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

THIS PAST YEAR:

The Membership Committee reassembled this past year with new members from the Board and coop member/owners , and assisted by our GM, John Calhoun, and by Suzette Snow-Cobb from the Neighborhood Food Coop Association.

The goal of the Membership Committee is to improve and enhance the experience, education, benefits and participation of the member/owners of the Coop. (As well, of course, as encouraging people to join the coop and become member/owners.)

We began our work with the inquiry what could we do to make the Coop more accessible to people of all incomes, and to that end, we took a new look at our membership owner payment options. We have revised our joining options so that people can now join the Coop by purchasing their full 17 shares of stock at once, by spreading their purchase of shares over 3 years, or, for people for experiencing economic stress, paying \$10 per year, until they own the full complement of stock. (No matter what member/owners have paid, they still have all the benefits and perks of being a member/owner as of the time of their first payment.)

We also started looking into a program, modeled after one at the Franklin Community Coop, called Food for All. This program will allow people who are low-income to automatically receive a discount at the register for all eligible food purchases.

And, we proposed a working- member program which has begun, and by which members who work a minimum of 8 hours a month get a discount on their purchases. Anyone interested in this program should speak with our GM.

THIS UPCOMING YEAR:

The new joining payment options as well as the Food for All program will be implemented, making it easier for people to join and become members, as well as making the Coop more affordable.

We are constantly talking about how to make the coop more appealing and more enriching for our member/owners, customers and our community. We have begun brainstorming and discussing number of programs and events for this upcoming year, including a guest chef cooking class series, a Membership Drive, and of course a Spring Fling. We welcome your ideas and participation.