

the

Coop



the official newsletter of your community grocery

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE DIXON COOPERATIVE MARKET

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WWW.DIXONMARKET.COM

The President Cornered by Hank Brusselback

It's been a fascinating, intense two years on the Dixon Coop Board. I recently looked through the agendas of our meetings and was reminded of our many challenges and learning experiences. I learned a lot on this board, things about the grocery business and about a community that works for its neighbors. A few thoughts about groceries: ordering the right stuff (organic when possible, local when possible, cheap, popular enough to keep moving, diverse enough for this dynamic place) is a huge challenge that our managers handle and keep improving. Coolers use enormous energy, are critical to the project, and demand much upkeep. David Rigsby keeps that part going. Computer software for running this business is a pain and we all have to keep that going. Competing with mega-stores requires hustle and education. Our group of volunteers works especially hard to accomplish that.

I am proud to have had a chance to work with this potent little board. I will miss the expansive meetings, ones we have twice a month now, since the projects have demanded it. Much gratitude to my friends and coworkers: Jay, Gaywynn, Barbara, Scott, Melody, Funny, Nelson, Karen, Felicity, René, Jeff, and the great stockers and cashiers that keep the Dixon Market humming along, even in the face of difficult economic times.

Thank you all.

Another Year by Gaywynn Cooper

The annual meeting marks another year of keeping the Co-op doors open. In June we passed our 4th anniversary. In a time considered by most as a recession this is to be celebrated and cheered as even a greater accomplishment. The secret in my mind is the incredible community spirit of our Embudo Valley Community. This is not an accomplishment of any one individual or any one group. It is the combined effort of terrific, hard working managers, a huge cadre of committed volunteers, a dedicated Board of Directors, each one of our member/shareholders and a whole lot of people who come to the Co-op to shop. We all do it together. What a concept!

Having said this, I want to especially acknowledge the ultra hard working management team we have. They have made the Market an efficient and cost effective business while maintaining a level of service and friendliness that easily beats the competition and provides a fun shopping and meeting place. Please let them know they are appreciated.

Next Jay Geiger and Hank Brusselback deserve a huge round of applause and thank yous for their two year service on the Board of Directors. They have given more than a full measure of time, energy and attention to the long list of issues the Board had tried to grapple with this year. Both have served as president during their terms and provided thoughtful and wise leadership (and lots of humor). We

thank their partners Ron and Gaia respectively for their forbearance and support. This was a year of learning from others how to improve the health of our Co-op and we look forward to their continued input as background support. Give them a hearty thank you when you see them for all they have given to the market.

The Co-op could not operate without all the volunteers who cashier, price stock, put products on the shelves, make deliveries, repair equipment, make signs, change locks, and a myriad of other tasks big and little. To each and every one of you we are indebted. You are the glue of the Co-op. Thank you a thousand times.

Finally if you are a member, give yourself a pat on the back also for being loyal members and shoppers. All the work done on your behalf would be to no avail if you did not do your part and shop the Co-op. We thank you. Your support is vital. Collectively we as members are providing jobs here in our community, we are providing an outlet for growers and producers to sell their products, we have created convenience for ourselves not having to drive miles for our food and we are creating an infrastructure that supports a vibrant community.

As we move into the coming year(s) it will be our challenge to evolve. It is not a done deal that the Co-op will survive. We will continue to need loyal shoppers, focused forward thinking staff and willing, hardworking volunteers plus an active committed Board. The annual meeting is your greatest opportunity as a member to express your opinion

and influence the future of the Co-op. Come and get the nitty, gritty reality of the Market and express your opinion.

**Dixon Cooperative Market
Annual Member's Meeting**

**January 31 4:00 – 6:00
Dixon Community Center,
Dixon, New Mexico**

Agenda

- Approval of last year's minutes
- BOD President's Report: State of the Co-op
- Managers' Reports, Treasurer's report, Report on Volunteers
- Election of 2 new BOD positions
- Discussion of the Co-op's Future

Snacks available!

Notes on voting:

As provided by the By-laws each membership is entitled to one vote.

Ballots will be mailed to out of area residents and must be postmarked prior to Jan 31 to be valid.

Any member may request a mail in ballot by calling 579-4190.

Ballots will be available at the store Jan 18 prior to the meeting and can be returned to the ballot box in the store or may be deposited at the annual meeting.

Voting by proxy is not allowed by the Bylaws.

Ballots will be invalid if not accompanied by a current member number. These will be removed prior to counting.

REMINDER

Tell us what you think is unique about the Co-op. Entries must be in the Contest box by Jan 27th. Winner receives a \$25 Co-op gift certificate!

**"The Funny Manager"
Resigns**

Yes, it is true. Funny has turned in her resignation. It is not a rumor. I know many of us have come to equate the Co-op with its managers and can not imagine what this means. Funny is one of those bigger than life people who is a force in and of herself. She has indeed become an icon in the 4+ years of service to the Co-op and the community. When hired, she freely admitted she knew nothing about

**Board of Directors • Election 2010
our 2 candidates**



Shelby Leonard

My husband and I purchased land in Dixon in 2000 and spent the next several years building a retirement home based on the rural farming and garden environment in which we both were raised. We made Dixon our permanent home in 2008.

For the past year, I have been your Tuesday afternoon volunteer cashier at the Co-op. It has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know many of you and to realize the amazing diversity that exists here in Dixon. It has also provided the opportunity to observe how the Co-op has become a focal point for bringing the community together. I'm running for the board because I believe that the Co-op provides a vital service to the Embudo Valley. I would like to help assure that the Co-op continues that service as a viable community-owned business. I would also work to help the Co-op expand its space, stock, and service and perhaps improve as a local resource for food, nutrition, and distribution of community-based agricultural products.

running a grocery store, but with unflinching courage she jumped in and learned about distributors, finding products, selecting products and encouraging us to buy products. Her strong belief in the Co-op carried us through many a tough day and her positive attitude raised our spirits as well. She would always remind us that what really matters in life is relationships and she brought that to the Co-op. There is no question that this belief has contributed immensely to the success of the organization.

We will miss your over the top personality, that heartfelt laugh, the true concern you have to educate us all on issues of health associated with what goes in our mouths and more!.

At a time like this there are not enough ways to express our collective gratitude and appreciation



Susan Tixier

The Dixon Co-op is becoming, has become, the heart of this community, a community as varied and rich as any in New Mexico, I believe. Being a working part of the community and coop, in whatever way I can serve, gives me the opportunity to pay back the many gifts that each has given me. It would be an honor to be able to represent the people on the board and represent the board to the people here in the Embudo Valley in guiding the coop in a structured way to the next level of development always keeping in mind the uniqueness of our community. There is huge potential for this coop to be a model, a one-of-a-kind that can be duplicated by other, similar, villages.

I would bring experience in nonprofit governance, including creating budgets (revenue and expense projections and profit/loss documents) which could be helpful given the national/world economy and the impacts of various economies on our community. I have written many successful grant proposals for nonprofits I have been involved with: the New Mexico Environmental Law Center; Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, Colorado Environmental Coalition.

My family, my ex-husband's and our children, have been coming to this area for over 40 years. My academic background is all New Mexico: UNM School of Law, St. John's College. I love this country and its people. If elected I will serve; if not, I will serve.

for all of Funny's hard work. On Feb 23rd the Board and staff will host an Open House at the Co-op to honor Funny on her last day. (details to be announced) We invite everyone to come and say Thank you to Funny in their own way. Funny, we honor your decision and wish you the best in your next adventure. May your heart and spirit be nurtured and blessed. You have made ours a better world.