

Hannah Breckbill - 3-year term candidate

How long have you been a member/owner of the Co-op and why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I first joined the Co-op in 2010 on a roommate's membership. I finally got my own membership in 2016 or so! I'd like to serve on the board because the Co-op is such an important community institution in this town, and I like to be involved with community institutions because I see lots of opportunity in them to build a better world through collective power.

What do you enjoy most about the Co-op and what is your vision for its future?

I like that the Co-op creates a natural gathering point for people who care about good food—whether it be that they want the healthiest things for their families, or that they want to be conscientious about the justice issues or environmental impacts in the sourcing of their food. I know that the membership of the Co-op, and their values, are the key thing that differentiates the Co-op from other grocery stores. My vision for the Co-op's future is to be a leader in revolutionizing the food system in our town and region! A community- and values-based leadership is a powerful thing.

What kind of leadership or other experiences could you bring to the Co-op as a Board member?

I've participated in and even led a number of boards in the past decade, particularly the Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center and the Iowa Food Hub. I'm also a food entrepreneur with Humble Hands Harvest, a worker-owned cooperative farm. I bring a lot of passion for cooperative economics and governance. I also have been developing my community organizing skills as a member leader with the Land Stewardship Project, the president of the nascent Driftless Young Farmers Coalition, and as founder of the annual Queer Farmer Convergence at Humble Hands Harvest.

What experience do you have in working with a group process?

I've spent a decent amount of time learning and practicing facilitation skills in community organizing and board contexts.

If elected, can you commit to a three year term?

Yes

Are you willing to assure adherence to policy governance and a code of ethics?

Yes

What other interests do you have outside the Co-op?

Regenerative agriculture, creating local resilience in advance of climate change, playing string instruments and singing four-part harmony, the solidarity economy, progressive Christian theology, queering everything, building grassroots power for social change.



Aaron Detter - 3-year term candidate

How long have you been a member/owner of the Co-op and why are you interested in serving on the Board?

My wife and I have been Co-op members since we moved to Decorah two years ago. We are both originally from this area of the country. When we decided to move back, the existence of the Co-op and the region's robust local foods culture were key reasons why we chose to make Decorah our home. I realize the tremendous value that the Co-op brings to this community. I want to serve on the Board so that I can be a part of ensuring that the Co-op stays strong and vital, in the vein of all those who have made it the community cornerstone that it is today.



What do you enjoy most about the Co-op and what is your vision for its future?

What I enjoy most about the Co-op is that it is a values-oriented space; that it offers my wife and me the opportunity to live our deeply-held values with regards to food consumption, with an emphasis on organic and locally produced food, all while living in the beautiful, rural region in which we have chosen to settle.

My vision for the Co-op's future is a very auspicious one. I feel that the Co-op's future and that of our community as a whole go hand-in-hand; the entire Decorah area benefits when the Co-op prospers, and vice versa. I see an ever-strengthening commitment to the Co-op's core values, and an increased member base as more and more members of our community embrace the sustainable food movement and its community-building power.

What kind of leadership or other experiences could you bring to the Co-op as a Board member?

My background and education are in the field of urban and regional planning. My role as a planner often puts me in a leadership position among the communities in which I work - bringing together diverse viewpoints and tackling complex societal issues with the goal of achieving consensus toward common goals.

While working as an advanced urban and regional planner at the New Mexico Department of Transportation, I was appointed by the governor of that state to serve on the newly formed Rio Grande Trail Commission to represent the Department in the development of a scenic destination trail running the entire length of the state. As part of my administration of multiple federal funding programs for sustainable transportation, I administered and facilitated New Mexico's Recreational Trails Advisory Board and ensured the state's continued eligibility to receive federal funding for multi-use trails.

As a planner, I have a great deal of experience facilitating community meetings, presenting to city councils, and administering and facilitating our region's Transportation Policy Board, which oversees and awards millions of dollars in state and federal funding annually for transportation projects in our five-county region of northeast Iowa.

My professional and personal interests are deeply rooted in sustainability and conservation. During graduate school in Upstate New York, my favorite class was a planning course that was cross-listed through the Biology Department, taught by a conservation biologist and farmer, and focused on sustainable food systems, biodiversity, and rural landscape conservation. It was the foundation for a life and career championing those causes.

I believe my professional and educational background as well as my personal values and commitment to principles of sustainability can help support the mission of the Co-op and guide it to continued success.

What experience do you have in working with a group process?

My work as a planner is practically defined by group processes - bringing together diverse stakeholders, facilitating and coordinating public outreach and community input efforts, and administering state and federal funding programs that require close coordination with the public and between different government agencies.

If elected, can you commit to a three year term?

Yes

Are you willing to assure adherence to policy governance and a code of ethics?

Yes

What other interests do you have outside the Co-op?

I'm a great lover of music and the outdoors and feel blessed to live where I do. I love attending recitals and concerts at Luther College and enjoy hiking and bicycling all around the Decorah area. I enjoy landscaping, horticulture, arboriculture, and gardening. I'm a lover of pre-modern architecture and art, as well as some modern and post-modern. I enjoy travel and have been fortunate to travel abroad on multiple occasions, visiting locations across Europe, Canada, and Australia, including studying French in France and Quebec; my wife and I now keep our travels pretty minimal and local due to concerns for climate change and the environment. I enjoy conversing in French when that rare opportunity arises. In my hypothetical spare time, I like reading both fiction and non-fiction, especially social criticism and medieval European history.

Lori Egan - 3-year term candidate

How long have you been a member/owner of the Co-op and why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I joined the Co-op several years ago because I wanted to support local growers and wanted to have access to more natural products while supporting a local business.

What do you enjoy most about the Co-op and what is your vision for its future?

I enjoy the variety of products that are made available at the Co-op. I really appreciate the happy and helpful staff working at the Co-op. My vision for the future is to continue to provide locally grown foods and products to meet the needs of the community.

What kind of leadership or other experiences could you bring to the Co-op as a Board member?

I have 16 years of non-profit management experience. I have been involved in the Food and Fitness Initiative. I currently serve on the HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, and Clayton) Partnerships for Children board of directors and Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging policy council.

What experience do you have in working with a group process?

As a nurse, I have many years of experience working with a team and as a manager working to provide services in a non-profit setting. The majority of the work is group process to accomplish the goal.

If elected, can you commit to a three year term?

Yes

Are you willing to assure adherence to policy governance and a code of ethics?

Yes

What other interests do you have outside the Co-op?

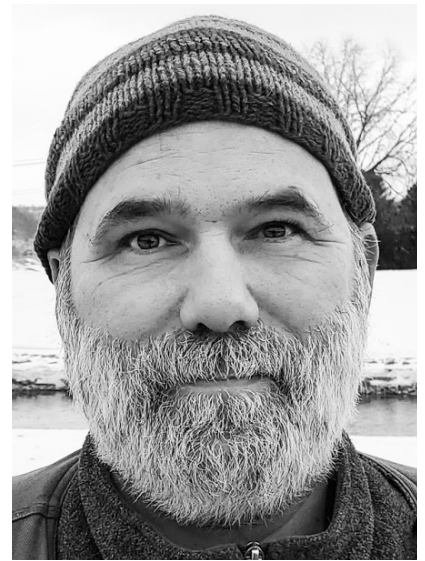
My family is extremely important to me and spending time with our grandson is a top priority. I am very concerned about our healthcare system in Iowa and I am an advocate for economic justice and protecting our environment.



Scott Hawthorn - 3-year term candidate

How long have you been a member/owner of the Co-op and why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I've been a member/owner of the Co-op for 20 years. I bought my membership in my 20s, with the money I made selling winter squash to the Co-op. The principles which guide the Co-op are the foundation of why I became a member and continue to volunteer. Over the past years of my Co-op involvement, I have been able to see and experience the many ways in which our store serves the community. I and my family, have developed deep roots here and the Co-op is more than just a store to us; it is a sustaining, vibrant, community force. I ran for a one-year position on the Board in 2016 and have been serving since. Over the past 4 years, I've worked with my fellow board members to guide the management team in its strategic planning, and serve as a direct link to the Co-op members. I am deeply interested in local, organic food, and sustainable development. I am dedicated to helping sustain the Co-op's future and continued service to its member/owners.



What do you enjoy most about the Co-op and what is your vision for its future?

One of the most important things, for me, is that the Co-op is locally, cooperatively owned and run. I also thoroughly enjoy the community of people involved with the Co-op. I love seeing it grow and change, and I love the food. I would like to see the Co-op continue to thrive; growing sustainably, reaching out to the larger community through education and projects, meeting the community's changing needs and being a source of healthy, locally sourced, and affordable food choices.

What kind of leadership or other experiences could you bring to the Co-op as a Board member?

I've run my own stone masonry business here in Decorah for 20+ years, working with many different customers and contractors on various projects. I think my flexibility to work with individuals and groups is a benefit, and also, my long-term experience of running a small business in general, is of value. During my past years serving as a board member, I have been a part of the capital campaign and store remodel. I've had the pleasure and rewarding work of serving on multiple committees within the board and look forward to continued efforts. In addition, I've been a working member for many years and my wife worked for the Co-op for over 10 years. Our family's involvement has allowed me to have a deeper understanding and respect for the volunteer base and employees of the Co-op.

What experience do you have in working with a group process?

I feel that in group process, not just the efforts of one person, but the combined experiences of many can lead to a much more comprehensive solution. In my line of work, I have to be able to work with teams of various individuals towards a shared goal. The teamwork and coordination required has its challenges and rewards, and I've had many years of experience successfully doing this. Listening to each interest and engaging with the shared goal for a mutually respectful resolution requires patience and perseverance. I have now been serving on the Co-op board for 4 years and feel I have an integral understanding of how the board, as a group, and each committee functions. We have an effective, dynamic group process within the board!

If elected, can you commit to a three year term?

Yes

Are you willing to assure adherence to policy governance and a code of ethics?

Yes

What other interests do you have outside the Co-op?

My family and I enjoy traveling all around the driftless area; hiking, exploring, listening to music, and generally enjoying our friends and family! Historic preservation and restoration have been continued interests of mine, for years. I enjoy learning more, seeing what other communities have done, and have been involved in various preservation/restoration projects in this community.