

# BOARD STORIES



## WHY I SERVE . . .

*By Detra Dettmann, Oneota Co-op Board of Directors*

Hello! My name is Detra Dettmann and I have one more year left on my second term on the Oneota Co-op Board of Directors. I currently serve as secretary of the board.



**Tell us a bit about yourself! For instance, what's your "day" job?**

In my day job I serve as the NE Iowa district supervisor with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for the state parks, forests, and preserves bureau. I see my role as supporting the 20 field staff working in the state parks and state forest in my region. I have amazing staff who are stewards for some of Iowa's most beautiful places and also help create lasting memories for the visitors who enjoy these special places. My region include

Yellow River State Forest, Pikes Peak State Park, Backbone State Park, Maquoketa Caves State, Cedar Rock State Park, Volga River State Recreation Area, Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, Bellevue State Park, Clear Lake State Park, McIntosh Woods State Park, Beeds Lake State Park and George Wyth State Park. I feel very fortunate to have work that knits together my love and passion for natural resources and my skills and interest in administrative duties such as budgets and planning.

**In your experience, what can a new board member 'expect'?**

A new board member can expect to join a team that is engaged, committed and diverse. Last year the board focused on strategic planning over several months



and this process brought the board closer together and really showcased each person's commitment to the future of the Co-op. We're also a board that really dives into issues and the discussion is often very rich and robust. We're also diverse in that we all have different backgrounds and different strengths. While we are all committed to the Co-op, we do bring differing perspectives and viewpoints which helps us look at issues from different angles. A new board member can also expect to feel very

welcome. It's really enjoyable to get together with this group every month and know that everyone is serving to help make the Co-op the best it can be.

**Tell us what you enjoy doing in your 'free' time.**

In my free time I love to be active outdoors. After becoming empty nesters a few years ago, my husband and I adopted the mantra of "Bike, Hike, Kayak" with the goal of doing one of these activities daily. These are three of our favorite things to do, whether revisiting favorite trails or rivers close to home or finding new ones to explore farther away.



[Click to view Detra's video regarding her Co-op board experience!](#)

## IS IT YOUR TIME TO SERVE?

The Co-op welcomes all interested member/owners to confirm candidacy in our next board election cycle.

There will be two open seats on the 2023 election ballot.

[Applications](#) are due Monday, Jan. 2, 2023. Learn more by [clicking here](#).

## COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE NUMBER TWO

**Democratic Owner Control.** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their owners, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the ownership. Owners have equal voting rights - one owner, one vote.