

So You Want to be a Bluff Country Co-op Board Member!

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Bluff Country Co-op Board of Directors. Below we will talk through what it means to be on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors plays a critical role in ensuring the continued success and health of the Co-op. The Board of Directors guides the Co-op by establishing the vision and ensuring the long term vitality of the Co-op. We ensure the store operates within our value system while empowering staff to manage day-to-day operations of the store. The Board seeks input from its owners and reports regularly back to the owners. We encourage you to attend one of our meetings to get a better sense of how the Board works and what a typical meetings looks like. All owners are welcome to any open meeting.

What does the Board do? Board members are elected by the Co-op ownership at the Annual Meeting for a 27-month term. Generally, three seats are open for election each year. Successful Board members must be a BCC owner in good standing. Meetings are currently held on the second Monday of the month from 5:30-8:00pm. It is expected that members attend these monthly meetings and participate in one of the standing committees (Social Equity, Board Development, Member Outreach, Project, and Executive). Committees typically meet monthly. Board members also attend two half-day retreats each year, attend an orientation meeting, and the Annual Membership Meeting. Additionally, all Board members agree to abide by the Director's Code of Conduct, BCC's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. These are available on the BCC website (<http://www.bluff.coop/about-us/>). The BCC Board uses a Policy Governance Model. The key features of this model include the Board focusing its attention on the goals and vision of the Co-op, rather than on operational issues. More details of this model of governance can be found on the BCC website. Using this model ensures that the Board is responsible for the organizational performance of the Co-op on behalf of its members. The Board of Directors serve as fiduciary agents for Bluff Country Co-op.



What would be expected of me? The Board meetings monthly and attendance is expected by all Board members. Typically, a Board member can expect to devote 4-5 hours each month to Board work. Officers may spend additional time. The BCC Board is a professional board and is compensated accordingly. For 2017, Board members will receive \$45 each month for their service (the president and committee chairs receive \$60 each month).

What is the mission of our Co-op? The mission of Bluff Country Co-op is to provide high quality, sustainably produced, regionally grown food and products to the Winona area. We create a sense of community and inspire our shoppers to build a sustainable local society. A complete set of our Ends are available on the BCC website.



What is a co-op? A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. Co-ops share a set of values and principles. The cooperative values include: self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, solidarity, honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others. The full set of cooperative principles can be found on the BCC website.

Now what?! If you are interested in submitting an application to run for the Board, please email your responses to the following questions to Ann Lichliter at ann@bluff.coop no later than **July 26, 2016**: (1) Why would you like to serve on the Bluff Country Co-op Board of Directors? (2) What professional, volunteer and/or community experience and skills do you have that may benefit the Board's and Co-op's work? (3) What is your experience working cooperatively? and (4) Please include any other additional information that you would like. Please also attach a photo. Responses and photos will be included in the fall newsletter. All Board members are also asked to publically disclose any conflicts of interest and to abide by the Director's Code of Conduct.

Cooperatively Yours,
The 2016 Bluff Country Co-op Board of Directors
Ann Lichliter, President