

## Nomination for Board of Directors of Oshkosh Food Co-op

I hereby nominate myself for membership on the Board of Directors of the Oshkosh Food Co-op and I provide the information below in support of my nomination.

1. Name: Peter Westort
2. Address: 1103 E. Parkway Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
3. What I would bring to the Board: After a career in Accounting and Taxation, I feel I can offer insight and assistance in the financial management of Board activities. I have been involved in not-for-profit organizations in a variety of capacities over a number of years including AFS (American Field Service), United Way, Boy Scouts of America, UW Oshkosh Credit Union Assets and Liability Committee, and, in particular, as a member of three different food coops, all of which had retail stores. I feel this gives me an ability to be objective and helpful.
4. Dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op: It is my desire that the Oshkosh area have a place that offers healthy food at reasonable prices, provided in a sustainable manner, and easy accessibility. To be responsive to buyer needs, it should be member owned. I think it is imperative that processes be put in place that will result in the doors of this co-op opening within the next two years.
5. Importance of the Co-op to the Community: I believe that the long-term health of any community requires healthy, affordable, reliable, and easily accessible food options. In this sense, I believe that the Oshkosh Food Co-op would provide a valuable resource to the community. The existence of a food co-op also sends a signal that the community is has a large, committed, and caring volunteer base.
6. Why cooperatives: The primary reasons for cooperatives are cost and control. A cooperative, by its very design, does not need to provide for owner profit. It only needs to provide for sufficient cash flow to continue and grow operations. This allows a coop to keep prices reasonable. Since a co-op is customer controlled, it can be much more responsive to consumer needs. This affects sourcing and type of product, portions or size of offerings, and pricing.
7. Additional Considerations:
  - a. I am a retired accounting professor and have lived in Oshkosh for about fifteen years. I have been involved in the community in various capacities for most of that time.
  - b. I was the coordinator of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program from 2004 until we merged with United Way a few years ago. I continue to be

involved as a quality reviewer. We provide free income tax return preparation for low and moderate income taxpayers.

- c. My wife, Mary Ann Offer, and I have been involved with AFS (American Field Service), the high school student exchange program, for about 20 years. We have hosted international exchange students who have attended Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West high schools. I am currently the Treasurer for the local Area Team of AFS and I also serve on the national board of directors of AFS-USA.
- d. I have served on Allocations Committee of the Oshkosh Area United Way for the last several years.