



## 2021 Oshkosh Food Cooperative Board of Directors Statement of Nomination

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### Brief Biography (150 Words or Less):

As a lifelong resident of Oshkosh, I'm excited about the potential a co-op brings for this community. I was fortunate to work for some exceptional companies, and people, during my career. My experiences allowed me to understand the operational logistics of the food industry and the direct impact it has on an ecosystem.

When I first began my role as Food and Beverage Manager at EAA, I worked closely with local restaurant owners to refresh the food operation program. This provided a unique dining experience for guests at the airshow and was a huge success.

I currently serve as an adjunct board member for the Co-op through the Leadership Oshkosh Program, and serve as an advisory committee member for the FVTC Culinary and Hospitality program. When I'm not busy with work or committees, I spend time in Oshkosh with my fiancé Nicole, our dog, Dudley and cat, Chloe.

Please provide a written nomination statement that addresses the following questions. This will be shared with your fellow member-owners and posted on our blog. Recommended length not to exceed 2 pages:

### 1. What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board?

First, I would bring almost 20 years of food/beverage and event experience to the table. This includes operational logistics, financial incentives, and a professional business acumen that would complement the hard work that has already been completed by current and previous board members and new General Manager. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with extremely talented professionals at Lambeau Field, the Kentucky Derby, NBA, NASCAR and college baseball and would love to continue sharing any helpful knowledge as a full-time board member for the next three years.

Secondly, as a lifelong resident of Oshkosh, I bring a sense of community to a project that is centered on that same heart and soul. Being a member of this community brings with it a sense of responsibility to care for, work with, and support my neighbors. I live here and I work here because I care about Oshkosh and its future. Now I hope to continue supporting this community by giving my time, talents, and resources to the Oshkosh Food Co-op.

Lastly, now that the Co-op board is transitioning from a working board to a governing board, with the hiring of a General Manager, I feel that it's crucial to ensure board members support the GM in the best way possible. I feel that I can ensure a positive Board/ GM relationship with goals that are aligned for operational success.

## 2. What is your dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op?

My dream for the Co-op is to make sure it is a successful and thriving business, focused on our core principles of community, sustainability, accountability and courage. I will work hard to ensure the co-op is financially sound, is focused on community involvement, and provides a safe and judgment-free space to purchase groceries. Most of all, I want to ensure that it serves as a community gathering place that provides sustainable, local, and healthy food alternatives to serve those from all walks of life. The Co-op will be a place to serve its members and non-members offering health, knowledge and inspiration to the greater Oshkosh community.

## 3. Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh community?

The Co-op will serve a variety of needs that haven't been satisfied. The location of the Brio building is listed as a food desert. This is a fundamental pillar to ensure residents in this area have the necessary access to food. This store also provides direct access to local farmers and producers - an avenue that other grocers won't capitalize on. Rather, they focus their own interest on high margin, low cost and sometimes low quality products. Co-op's specialize in the farm to table eco-system. Although we can't always promise the lowest price possible, we can commit that the Co-op will do all it can to promote local products in our store. The Co-op will also focus on providing food to guests that are underserved or marginalized due to a variety of economic reasons. This store will welcome everyone from all walks of life, regardless of any socio-economic challenges they may be facing. The Co-op will also be a place for education and programming, offering a space where the community can gather to learn and shop. These are the pillars of the Co-op and will serve a higher purpose for this community. Being the first store of its kind in this area, the greater Oshkosh community will benefit greatly from this type of grocery store that is willing to look out for the interest of its own community.

## 4. Why cooperatives?

Cooperatives connect the lines between business and the communities it serves. As a membership organization it has a duty to serve not only those members but the community as a whole. A collection of members who have a vested interest in the operation brings collaboration to ensure it succeeds. Member owners recognize they are helping to support a greater goal by reinvesting back

into the community. Cooperatives not only serve the community they are in, but are themselves within a community willing to help each other. Cooperatives are a proven model, and Oshkosh is fortunate to be opening the first co-op grocery store in the Fox Valley.

5. Please offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op member-owners to know about you.

Being an adjunct board member for the last seven months has allowed me insight into the wonderful work that is being done to promote, execute and achieve success for this project. There is no question that the Co-op will provide community members with something that is desperately needed. Not only does it fulfill a food desert, but it's an opportunity for local farmers and producers to get their products into the hands of consumers. Hard work and passion are essential signs of any successful business venture, and the Co-op is no exception. Continuing to show that dedication for this project would be my priority. I would be honored to continue working with the group as an official board member and look forward to sharing opening day with the entire community.

\*Please note that the OFC Board of Directors or its Governance Committee may modify the format but not content of self-nominations to ensure all self-nomination documents are consistently presented to member-owners for consideration.\*