



Board member Carolyn, tabling with Co-op staff at the Juneteenth Festival



Board members Patrick and Hope at the Elmwood Village Summer Concert Series



Board members Rita, Heather, Domenic, and Devon at the 2022 Annual Owner's Meeting

# jump on board!

## RUN FOR THE CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello!

**Thank you for considering serving on your Co-op's Board of Directors.** The Co-op is governed by a Board of member-owners like yourself, who are elected to represent the interests of the entire ownership - now over 20,000 people!

If elected, here's what you could expect from your Board experience:

- The Board meets monthly with the general manager, along with any interested member-owners. Once annually, the Board holds a retreat, and occasionally volunteers with store events.
- The Board does not run the store, nor does it have direct control over daily operations.
- We operate using a system called "Policy Governance" that emphasizes the values of the Lexington Co-op community and the long-term vision of the organization.
- The Board seeks owner input on the goals and vision of the organization and reports periodically to the owners on its activities, decisions, and compliance with Board policies.

To run for one of the open Board seats, please review the attached materials and apply online. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out at [elections@lexington.coop](mailto:elections@lexington.coop). We'd love to talk with you.

Thank you again for your consideration of Board service to our Co-op. Strong leadership is essential to our success!

*Devon Dams-O'Connor, Domenic Licata, Patrick Finan  
Board Elections Committee*



**Applications Due September 1<sup>st</sup>**

[www.lexington.coop](http://www.lexington.coop)  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LexBoard2023>



# Eligibility, Expectations and Qualifications of Board Members

Board Members have a duty to represent the owners as a whole and not a particular constituency, and to always act in the owners' best interests. Board Members are compensated through a \$1,000 grocery stipend for each year they actively serve on the Board.

A strong and successful co-op depends on a highly functioning and effective Board of Directors.

## Eligibility

To serve on the Co-op Board of Directors, you must be:

- a member-owner of the Cooperative in good standing (your Class A Share must be in your name and paid in full)
- 21 years of age by October
- able to undergo a successful professional background check including fingerprinting required by the State Liquor Authority
- willing to make a 3-year commitment to the Board

In addition, you must not

- have an overriding conflict of interest
- be a paid employee or the spouse/partner of a paid employee

## What Makes an Ideal Director?

- Ability to abide by the Co-op's bylaws and Board policies.
- Commitment to attendance and active participation at monthly board meetings (two hours on first Mondays), the annual owners' meeting (October), retreats and training sessions, regular committee meetings and occasional owner engagement opportunities
- Willingness to learn to understand financial reports (training will be provided.)
- Access to the internet and the availability to respond to frequent Board related e-mail
- Genuine dedication to the Seven Cooperative Principles, and to the Lexington Co-op's vision, values, growth, and wellbeing
- A willingness to abide by the Board's code of conduct, and to work collaboratively with understanding, mutual support and respect
- Possess an inquisitive nature and willingness to listen and learn, and act with integrity, flexibility and common sense from a pragmatic, informed point of view.
- The ability to lead, facilitate discussions and work towards building consensus.
- Objectivity to assume fiduciary responsibility to steward the Co-op on behalf of the member-owners, in consideration of the Co-op's three primary stakeholder groups: member-owners, employees, and vendors.

# How to Run:

This year, there will be (3) three-year terms and (1) two-year term up for election. To run for a seat, apply online following the instructions below.

## Board Application and Election Process

### 1. Access the board application

- [www.lexington.coop](http://www.lexington.coop)
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LexBoard2023>

### 2. On your application, answer the following questions (Suggested word count per answer: 150-250)

- Why do you want to serve as a director on the Co-op's Board?
- Tell us about your skills, experience, or training that would make you an ideal Lexington Co-op Board member, as described above? (Bulleted list recommended)
- What role(s) should the Lexington Co-op serve in the WNY Community?
- You will also be asked to:

1. List your potential conflicts of interest with the Co-op and agree to abide by the Board's Code of Conduct.
2. Certify that you meet the eligibility requirements listed
3. Upload a photo of yourself

*Your application responses will be published on the Co-op's website and in the annual report sent to member-owners and appear on the ballot.*

### 3. Training opportunities

Candidates are encouraged to attend the August and September Board meeting and attend policy governance training.

- *August Board Meeting: August 7, 7pm-9pm*
- *September Board Meeting: September 11, 7pm-9pm*

### 4. Meet the Candidates Forum

The Co-op will host a virtual forum where candidates can introduce themselves and address questions posed by the member-owners. The event will be recorded for member-owners who are not able to attend the livestream.

**Co-op owners will vote** via an online ballot, in-store paper ballot, or at the Annual Meeting. Election results will be available several days after the election and posted on [www.lexington.coop](http://www.lexington.coop).

**Application Deadline: September 1, 2023**

