

Brighton Food Co-op Yearly Membership Meeting

January 8, 2008

“Meeting” begins at 10:30am with a lovely pot-luck brunch.

The real meeting begins at 11:50am, after we’ve all eaten and visited.

Present at meeting: Cindy Damon, Denise Hauk, Janice Mechan, Dolores Johnson, Jim Brown, Dana Janssen, Nancy Clark, Amy Ray, Nancy Couch-Nowak, Suzanne Radelt, Heather Pospiech, Joan Johnson, Linda Heller, Jane Hubbarth.

President Cindy Damon starts with remembering how the beginning of 2007 was very unpredictable for the Co-op – if anyone recalls, we weren’t sure what day of the week our distribution was going to stay. But of course, we stayed with Tuesdays, and distributions have been pretty stable and timely the rest of the year.

Cindy thanks everyone for being here, and says to the membership that the board is always open to any suggestions that anyone may have. She gives a special thanks to the homeworkers (**Suzanne Radelt, Kris Verschoor, Nicole Brown, Sue Kataja, and Diane Brady**) for all of their hard work and patience, and the great job that they do. She also thanks the rest of the board for their dedication, cooperation, and for being open minded to new ideas. And last but not least, a thank you to the membership – for all of their hard work at distributions, and all of the care that is taken when distributing and checking orders. There are hardly ever any major mistakes, and that is very helpful to **Dolores Johnson**, our hardworking Treasurer!

Communications Director and computer dude Jim Brown thanks Cindy for the great job she does, and for always keeping the rest of us on track!

Treasurer Dolores Johnson discusses our financial report – our bottom line, while it’s not great, we do have some solutions lined up. She thanks everyone for their hard work and accuracy, because it makes her job so much easier. She goes on to explain our financial report (numbers, numbers, \$\$, a copy is available if anyone is interested in the details) but bottom line is, our net income for 2007 is a negative \$1515.72. Our bank balance covers this, of course, but we need to make sure that this doesn’t happen every year, so, the board came up with some solutions –

- Currently, the board does not pay the 3% markup for orders that the rest of the membership does, along with a \$10 board discount for the work that we do. If the board had, for example, paid a 3% markup on their orders in 2007, the co-op would have made an additional \$1365.45. So, the first part of the proposal is that the board pays the same 3% markup as the rest of the membership, as opposed to say, increasing the markup for everyone else to 4% or 5%. Also, we would change the board discount from a flat \$10 for all, to an amount based on the position – President \$25, Treasurer \$50, and Vice President, AM/PM Coordinators, Communications Director and Secretary will all receive \$20 off of

their orders. Based on 2007 this would have positively impacted our income by approximately \$500.

- We will increase the yearly dues for everyone from \$10 to \$20.
- We will no longer print membership handbooks for everyone, every year at the yearly meeting. The printing cost for 2007 was \$478.78. All of the information in the membership handbooks can be found on our website, along with all of the Outside Vendor catalogs, so there is really no need for anyone to have a printed copy. And very often, the catalog information can change – prices, products, etc. – so the website would be more up-to-date anyway. If anyone felt they had to have their own hard-copy of anything, they could print it themselves at home. We will still have some printing costs, of course – distribution invoices, membership applications.
- We need to get some more members! More members, more dues, more 3% markup, more help at distribution, so we will explore more ways we can advertise for free – tell your friends!

Member and Honey, Maple Syrup and Nut Lady Suzanne Radelt suggests that we re-examine all of this financial info again in six months to make sure that we are on track financially, and not wait until the end of the year to find out. If not, maybe we do need to increase the markup for all?

President Cindy passes around copies for everyone of the proposed changes. **Vice-President Janice Mehan** reads and explains all of the changes to the Policy Handbook and By-laws –

- In the By-laws, under **Article II: Affiliation** – “The Brighton Food Coop is affiliated with United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI), the Great Lakes Chapter of Michigan, and the Frontier Co-operative in Norway, Iowa. The Brighton Food Co-op shall follow all policies of these organizations.” **This will be changed to** “The Brighton Food Co-op is affiliated with United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI), and the Frontier Co-operative in Norway, Iowa. The Brighton Food Co-op shall follow all policies of these organizations.” We are no longer affiliated with the Great Lakes Chapter of Michigan, because they apparently no longer exist!
- In the Policy Handbook, under **Membership** – “A non-refundable \$10.00 membership due is to be paid each year by January 31st”. **This will be changed to** “A non-refundable \$20.00 membership due is to be paid each year by January 31st”. We’re raising the dues!
- In the Policy Handbook, under **Board of Directors** – “Each Board officer receives a discount of \$10.00 and a waiver of the BFC surcharge at each distribution. The discount is applied to the officer’s total order at that distribution.” **This will be changed to** “Board officers receive a discount at our distributions based on their job description. President receives \$25.00. Vice-President, AM/PM Coordinator, Communications Director, and Secretary receive \$20.00. Treasurer receives \$50.00”. As explained by Dolores earlier!
- In the Policy Handbook, under **Money** – “Members **MUST** pay their bill on Distribution Day, and no check can be post-dated more than three (3) days past that day. If they do not pay the day of distribution, they must get their check to the

Treasurer within three consecutive days, or they will be fined \$15.00". **This will be changed to** "Members are expected to pay their bill on Distribution Day. If they do not pay the day of distribution, they must get their check to the Treasurer within three consecutive days of distribution or they will be fined \$15.00." In other words, no more post-dating checks!

Now we get to the part where we vote on these changes – **Nancy Couch-Nowak** moves to accept these changes, **Amy Ray** seconds the motion – all YEA's, no NEY's!

Suzanne motions to re-examine the finances in June – **Nancy Couch-Nowak** seconds the motion – all YEA's, no NEY's!

Cindy passes out the ballots for voting on the board positions for 2008, with spaces available for write-ins –

Cindy Damon, President
Janice Mechan, Vice-President
Dolores Johnson, Treasurer
Dana Janssen, Secretary
Jim Brown, Communications Director
Nancy Clark, AM Coordinator
Denise Hauk, PM Coordinator

All positions were voted on and the above members are the Brighton Food Coop Board for 2008.

One more bit of info regarding Specialty Foods, our meat vendor – they now have access to meats from DK Meats, all GRASS-FED beef! And a few varieties of organic chicken are available, since the previous chicken we were getting through them are not currently available.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm