

"It's just food!"

Brighton Food Coöp Newsletter March 2010

Key Upcoming Dates:

- Next Distribution: Tuesday, March 23rd (Shift times will be announced by Michelle Kaloustian.)
- March UNFI, OV, and Frontier Orders are initially due by Wednesday, March 10th (9:00PM).
- March Creswick Pickup was March 6th. (Next pickup is April 17th. with Orders due by April 7th.)
- Sami's Orders are due to Gina Barnowsky by Saturday, March 13th (9PM).
- Unfilled UNFI Case Orders are due by Sunday, March 14th (6:00PM).
- Note: Nuts, Candy, and Syrup can be ordered this month; Honey next month.

Welcome, New Members!

- **Aileen Heck of Howell**
- **Tammy Sexton of White Lake**

Coöp Financial Information:

	January 26 th	February 23 rd
Number of orders placed:	22	19
All Products Total:	\$9,375.45	\$7,141.99
Extras Table Sold:	\$ 911.90	\$ 632.80
Extras Left:	\$ 202.69	\$ 122.90
Membership:	28*	32 [†]

*apparently active members just prior to the Annual Membership Meeting on Jan. 12th.

† members who have paid dues for 2010 or who have announced their intent to renew

We have some great news: **UNFI has just raised our volume discount back up to 17%!**

The February 23rd distribution went fairly smoothly, despite the fact that Crosset delivered the produce rather late in the morning. We need to address a few concerns, though, in order to make our process even better:

- **Mistakes** – Nobody wants to spend all day at distribution, but that's no reason to hurry at a breakneck pace or to engage in multi-tasking. When you're involved in splitting items or delivering them to members, **PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND DO ONE THING AT A TIME!** Splitting cases incorrectly or distributing the wrong items to the wrong members makes a lot of work for others who then have to spend time trying to figure out what went wrong and how to correct it. In some cases, members have not even received what they ordered because it mistakenly ended up on the Extras Table and was bought by someone else. In the long run, slowing down and doing things right the first time will actually speed up the distribution by saving time for everyone!

- **Splits on the Scales** – Please be careful when splitting up items that have to be weighed. We’d like to think that the weights suppliers have put on their cases are exactly right, but unfortunately, that’s not always true. If you weigh out and bag most of an item – for example, rolled oats – but just give the original bag to the last member on the list without weighing the remaining contents, you may very well be shortchanging that member. We have had cases where the member “left holding the bag” actually ended up 3-4 pounds short of what she was supposed to receive! Please weigh and bag all the splits, and if the total comes up short, adjust the quantity and price for any member who gets shorted. (Depending on the circumstances, either we will try to get a refund from the supplier, or else the coöp will absorb the loss.)
- **UNFI Item Placement** – When offloading the UNFI truck, we have to park the items in temporary locations (before distributing them to members) so that we can keep using the carts for offloading. To improve the subsequent distribution process, please separate and park the items as follows:
 - **Frozen Items** go on the table closest to the entrance door.
 - **Refrigerated Items** go on the table next to the Frozen table.
 - **Split Items** (the label displays “Split” or “Multi”) go on the tables where Zingermans and bulk items will later be split. (If you run out of room, just set up an extra table or two temporarily.)
 - **NonSplit Items** (the label displays a Member Name) can just be piled on the floor over near the Extras Table

These measures will not only expedite the distribution, but will also save wear and tear on backs!

Almar Orchards – our supplier of apples, cider, and doughnuts – is done for the season, but they’ll be back in September. We want to thank Denise Hauk for making the Almar runs this season. Her job as Secretary does not include that task in the job description, so she was doing it strictly as a volunteer.

Thanks again, Denise!

Finally, if you’re a coffee-drinker, we’d like to call your attention to both a new product and a worthy cause. Higher Grounds Roastery, our coffee supplier in Traverse City, is now offering **Fishtown Blend** (“a dark blend with lingering notes of caramel and chocolate”), from which all proceeds benefit the Fishtown Preservation Society in its quest to preserve historic Fishtown in Leland, Michigan. (See <http://www.preservingfishtown.org/>.) We encourage you to try this tasty blend!

Think warm thoughts – Spring is only a few days away!

Jim Brown

BFC Communications Coordinator