

"It's just food!"

Brighton Food Coöp Newsletter
March 2011

Welcome new members!

- **Karen Klann of Howell**
- **Nichole Patrick of Lincoln Park (Wow!)**
- **Christie Winch of Howell**

Welcome back, Sally Sibula of Pinckney!

Key Upcoming Dates:

- Next Distribution: **Tuesday, March 22nd** (Shift times will be announced by Michelle Kaloustian.)
- Initial Orders Due: **Wednesday, March 9th** (by 9:00PM)
 - **UNFI** – Login to the Online System at <https://www.unfi.com> (Warehouse = Greenwood, IN).
 - **Frontier**: Send order to Dana Janssen at dana.leahy.janssen@gmail.com.
 - **Sami's Bakery**: Send order to Gina Barnowsky at ginabarnowsky@yahoo.com.
 - **Outside Vendors (OV)**: Send order to Nancy Clark at rnspsalding@comcast.net.
 - **Produce**: At present (but we hope only temporarily) Crosset is unable to deliver to us on our distribution day. Until that situation is resolved, we recommend that members order online from Door to Door Organics (<http://michigan.doortodoororganics.com>).
 - **Exception: Creswick Orders Due Sunday, March 6th**.
- Unfilled Case Orders Due: **Sunday, March 13th** (by Noon)
- Creswick Pickup: **Saturday, March 19th**
- Nuts and Candy can be ordered this month; Honey and Syrup next month.

Distribution Recap

The February 22nd distribution was a challenge because of numerous problems with mislabeled cases from UNFI. For example, one member had ordered a whole bag of Powdered Sugar, but UNFI delivered a bag of Rice that was labeled "Powdered Sugar" – and that error managed to make it through the entire distribution process without being caught! Most other errors were caught, but having to track down and resolve a large number of such problems disrupts the workflow, distracts workers from their jobs, and prolongs the distribution. As always, we urge all workers to concentrate on what they're doing and try their best to overcome the distractions. And throughout the process – sorting and opening cases, distributing items to member piles, and checking member orders – don't just check quantities; also check labels against packages to make sure each package actually contains what is on the label!

Getting What You Want

Members occasionally grouse over a rather unpleasant surprise: They arrive at distribution to discover that very few of the items they ordered have come in. Then they are faced with having to work an entire distribution with little to show for it.

Often the issue is out-of-stocks. But in many cases, the items may be missing because they were never actually ordered – that is, the Coöp’s combined total order quantity of the item was not sufficient for the Batchter to order a case. For example, if the Coöp has to order a case of 12 boxes to get a certain cereal, but members have ordered only a total of 4 boxes, the Batchter will probably not order that cereal because it will be difficult to sell 8 boxes off the Extras Table. After all, the Coöp simply can’t afford to maintain a large inventory of Extras. We are not a storefront!

So how can you avoid this kind of surprise? Well, here are some strategies that may help:

1. Use the UNFI Message Board to drum up interest in the item you want. If you can get enough other members interested to order 70-80% of the required quantity, there’s an excellent chance the Batchter will go ahead and order the item and put the remaining 20-30% on Extras.
2. Check the “Splitting Cases” Basket as of the Wednesday night before distribution. (For example, our next distribution will be March 22nd, so check on the evening of March 16th.) You can then gauge how close the item is to that magic 70-80% threshold. If the quantity is still short of the threshold, and you really want the item desperately, you can raise your own order quantity to push the total above the threshold.
3. On the Friday before distribution, look at your “Committed Order” in the UNFI system. That online document will tell you which of your ordered items UNFI is actually committed to delivering. If you submitted a small order to begin with, and now, because of out-of-stocks and other issues, nothing at all shows up in your Committed Order, you may have no reason to come to distribution – unless you’re also expecting an Outside Vendor and/or Frontier order. Note that the Committed Order appears only in a fairly narrow window. If you check too early or too late, the system may tell you, “You currently do not have any committed orders.” For that reason, try checking several times: maybe Thursday night, a couple times Friday, and then Saturday morning.

Coöp is all about cooperating with each other to get what we want – not just working cooperatively, but also ordering cooperatively. We hope the above strategies will help you take maximum advantage of that cooperative ordering!

Great Recipe to Try!

Michelle Kaloustian brought this dip to the February 28th Board Meeting, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it – not just on celery sticks and crackers, but even on tortilla chips!

Buffalo Chicken Dip

Ingredients:

- 1 Boneless, skinless chicken breast, chopped or shredded
- 1 8 oz. pkg cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 C. Ranch or Blue Cheese dressing (I used Blue Cheese)
- 1/3 C. Pepper sauce (I used Frank's Buffalo, but Frank's Red Hot works, too)
- 3/4 C. Shredded cheddar cheese
- Celery sticks and/or crackers

Directions:

Prepare *chicken* as desired. Chop or shred and place in skillet with *hot sauce* over medium heat until heated through. Stir in *cream cheese* and *dressing*. Continue over medium heat until well-blended and warm.

Mix in half of the *shredded cheese* and transfer mixture to either a slow cooker or an appropriate-sized baking dish. Top with remaining *shredded cheese* and cook on low in the crock pot or at 350° in the oven until hot and bubbly.

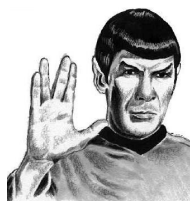
Serve with *celery sticks* and/or *crackers*.

Yields: 10 servings

If you have a recipe you think members would enjoy – especially one that uses ingredients available through the coop – please send it to bfc@brightonfoodcoop.com, and I will publish it in the next newsletter and/or put it on the website.

See you on the 22nd!

Jim Brown
BFC Communications Coordinator



*Live long and prosper;
keep life in perspective;
and don't ever forget--
it's just food!*