

Northwinds

Newsletter of the Northwind Natural Foods Co-op
Fall 2007



2007 General Membership Meeting

The annual General Membership Meeting was held Saturday, November 10 at the Gogebic-Ontonagon County Senior Center in Ironwood. Sixteen members attended (one left early).

The meeting was called to order, and a moment of silence was held for Kris Hopkins, who had passed away the week before (see page 3). The minutes from the previous GMM were approved. Eva Smith-Ferguson gave a short report on the state of the co-op, and a 2-page financial report by George Beck was handed out. Highlights included sales of approximately \$200,000 this year, of which about 75% was from non-members. Revenues increased by \$11600 over last year's revenue, a 6.3% increase. Unfortunately expenses rose as well, exceeded revenues by about \$800.

Much of the discussion focused on the potential impacts of Wal-Mart and Walgreens coming to town, and whether the co-op should take out a loan to complete the Phase 1 capital improvements recommended by P. J. Hoffman of United Natural Foods. After some discussion a motion was made to take out a loan for the upgrades. The vote

was 13 in favor, 1 opposed, and one abstention. The loan will be for a maximum of \$25,000 from North Country Development Fund (a nonprofit co-op, which specializes in these loans) to purchase a produce cooler, bread freezer, and additional shelving. Discussion ensued as to how we could refinish the hardwood floor and accomplish other improvements during the final reset.

Five members were elected to the new board: Naomi Kauppi, Mary Waits, Terry Davis, David Graczyk, and returning board member Steve Garske.

Finally, Mary Waits announced she is opening a second-hand store in the former Northwoods Niche (and former Co-op). She generously invited Co-op members to donate items as a fundraiser for the Co-op. 75% of sales of donated items would be given to the Co-op.

A big thank-you to three previous board members, who are leaving at the end of their terms: Ian Shackelford, who took it upon himself to compile the informative and enjoyable newsletters we've seen of late, including (with Linda Beck) the interesting co-op history; Lily Palmer,

who diligently prepared the agenda for the board meetings and the detailed, well written minutes afterward; and George Beck, whose financial expertise was invaluable in putting the co-op on a fiscally sound course. Their dedication and hard work will be greatly missed.

Christmas Gifts from the Co-op

Looking for that Special Gift? This year at the Co-op you can find some wonderful gift choices.

- Locally made Goat Milk soap in Bulgarian Lavender, Pumpkin Pie, Northwoods and Frankincense and Myrrh scents is now available \$3.99 per 4.5 oz bar. This is a very nice mild soap.
- Beautiful, long lasting, beeswax candles made in Michigan by a small family business. These candles come in several different shapes and sizes. The candles are not scented, but retain the subtle scent of beeswax.
- For book lovers we have over 50 titles to choose from, many at special holiday pricing. (Check out the holiday book table for great deals!)
- From a land far away - handmade Fair Trade elephant grass baskets from Ghana, Africa in 4 different sizes, from a small basket at \$9.99 to a

round or two-handled market basket for \$24.99 - a gift you can feel good about.

Once again we have delicious Panettone from Italy. A traditional sweet cake with citron, butter and raisins that is great with tea or coffee - \$8.99 for a one pound box. And for a truly indulgent treat - here's a hint from a customer:

Use sliced Panettone dipped in egg nog and then beaten egg for a delectable french toast. (Guess that would make it Italian toast!)

Still having a hard time deciding what to get? How about a Co-op gift certificate? It can be any amount from as little as much as you want, and the recipient is sure to be pleased.

A quick reminder for all members:

If you have already renewed your membership - Thank You!

If you have not yet renewed - memberships expired September 30th, so make sure you are up to date by renewing today! It's still only \$15 and gives you great benefits, including a 2% discount on every purchase.

Also make sure to pick up your laminated card - we have quite a few patiently waiting to be claimed by members who

have renewed. We'd like to remind all members to please show their card at checkout to ensure they get the member discount. The more members and customers we have the harder it becomes to remember who is a member and who is not, and it would help us a great deal. If you'd like a card for your key chain let us know - so instead of having to root around to find your card, it'll be there.

On behalf of Northwind Natural Foods Co-op staff and Board of Directors we like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Holiday Store Hours

December 24th - 9am to 2pm

December 25th - Closed

December 31st - 9am to 2pm

January 1st - Closed

Remember - The annual spice sale is going on now till December 31st!

A fun fact - from the start of the spice sale this year we have sold over 9 pounds of cinnamon! Our cinnamon is of exceptional quality - the most flavorful you can buy!

Comings and Goings

As mentioned earlier, Kris Hopkins passed away recently. Kris was one of the founding members of the co-op. Before the first store, when the Co-op was just a

food- buying club, early deliveries were made to her barn.

Thank you to Ryan McGrath, former store clerk, who left recently to build a stick house for the winter. And welcome to new store clerk Joan Nieminen. Joan has picked up where she left off at K-Mart, and has been doing a great job.

Finally, we would like to thank Mary Waits for her great window displays, David Furgason for constructing the produce display shelving, Jeanean Santini for hauling the recyclables and trash to the transfer station, and all the other volunteers who helped make our co-op a success!

Have we been Naughty or Nice? You decide.

If you think we've been nice, perhaps you'd like to reward us by becoming a working member? Working members help the staff in many ways. There are many things they can do from bagging foods, refilling spices, cleaning and organizing to working on the newsletter or updating the mailing list. And don't forget only 6 hours per month entitles you to a 10% discount!

We'd also like to form committees for the outreach and our newsletter. If you're interested in helping out - let us know. Contact Eva at the store at 906 932 3547, or by e-mail at evannfc@sbcglobal.net.

Northwind Natural Foods Co-op Mission Statement

1. To provide a marketing and purchasing outlet for primarily natural, organic, unprocessed foods and related items at a minimum price, on a nonprofit basis.
2. To educate and promote to the community healthy lifestyles, wellness and a whole foods diet emphasizing natural, organic, and unprocessed foods.
3. To educate the community to the benefits and potentials of our cooperative and cooperatives in general and to cooperate with other cooperatives.

Northwind News is published by Northwind Natural Foods Cooperative for its members. Please notify us if your address has changed.

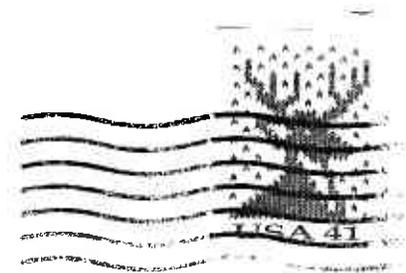
If you'd like to contribute to Northwind News with a recipe or article, or advertise in the newsletter, please contact Eva at the store, or by phone or e-mail. A business-card sized advertisement is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Northwind Natural Foods Co-op
116 South Suffolk Street
Ironwood, MI 49938
(906) 932-3547
evannfc@sbcglobal.net

Manager: Eva Smith-Furgason
President: Naomi Kauppi
Vice-President: Mary Waits
Secretary: Terry Davis
Treasurer: David Graczyk
Other board member: Steve Garske

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Ian and Ramona Shackleford
141 W. Arch
Ironwood, MI 49938