

# Board of Directors Candidate Statements

**From The Board of Directors:**

## **Annual Meeting & Elections**

Our Annual Meeting, coming up on November 16th, will kick off the election for the 2017 Board of Directors. The board serves as the voice of the membership, monitoring Syracuse Real Food Co-op's performance and plotting its course – and that means voting is one of the most important ways a member-owner can engage in democratic control of our cooperative.

This year, members will vote for four new directors. It is important to show these candidates strong support by voting for them. They will be representing your interests – ensuring that SRFC protects and builds owners' equity, operates in accordance with policy, and stays true to our vision of building a “sustainable, thriving cooperative commerce in our local community.”

The board hopes that the candidate statements below will be helpful in familiarizing you with the candidates. Be sure to come out to SRFC's Annual Meeting to meet the candidates and cast your vote! You can vote for up to 4 candidates. (Can't make the meeting? Ballots can be cast for thirty days – more info will be posted in the store and online.)

Please join the board in thanking each of these individuals for stepping up in service to our Co-op. Our organization will be strengthened by the democratic process. Briana Kohlbrenner and Tom Taylor will be leaving the Board after this year and we thank them for their service on the Co-op Board of Directors. The next few years are going to be an exciting time for the Co-op and your leadership will be looking for your input and support.

# Andrew Erickson



1. Describe your involvement with SRFC. Include amount of time spent and specific activities, if appropriate.

Board member for 3 years

2. Describe any volunteer or paid experience relevant to serving as a Co-op Board member.

See number 1.

3. What do you see as SRFC's role in the broader community?

Providing healthy and convenient food in a community based grocery store.

4. Please provide a personal statement, including anything you feel is relevant to your candidacy.

Living in the neighborhood and serving on the SRFC Board has been very fulfilling. I would be honored to serve another term.

# Debra Lee Gertz



1. Describe your involvement with SRFC. Include amount of time spent and specific activities, if appropriate.

I have been a member since 1982. I participated as a volunteer worker packaging cheese, raisins, etc. and served as a Board member from 2000 to 2003 and again 2013 to present.

2. Describe any volunteer or paid experience relevant to serving as a Co-op Board member.

As a Board member, I have attended monthly meetings, helped organize membership meetings and forums, worked on the garden committee.

3. What do you see as SRFC's role in the broader community?

I see the SRFC as a community center that offers healthy options for nourishment and engages in right relationship with local farmers, producers and businesses.

4. Please provide a personal statement, including anything you feel is relevant to your candidacy.

I enjoy my time on the Board. It grows me as a person and hopefully my presence has helped our Co-op. We work well together as a team, Board, management, and Staff and I look forward to continuing to collaborate and accomplish sustainability in challenging times.

# Anthony Terrinoni



1. Describe your involvement with SRFC. Include amount of time spent and specific activities, if appropriate.

Worked with SRFC to run a coffee & snack stand @ East Side Soccer games to raise funds for scholarships.

2. Describe any volunteer or paid experience relevant to serving as a Co-op Board member.

I am the Executive Director of East Side Soccer.

3. What do you see as SRFC's role in the broader community?

Positive force to change the food consumed & habits by adults & children.

# Meagan Weatherby



1. Describe your involvement with SRFC. Include amount of time spent and specific activities, if appropriate.

I joined the Co-op's Board of Directors in January 2014. During my term, I have served as Co-President (2015) and President (2016), and participated in the Board Perpetuation Committee including chairing that committee in 2014 and 2015. One of my top goals has been to enhance communication between the board and membership through member forums, member surveys, and newsletter articles. I also volunteer on the "ad hoc" committee for the Co-op's Backyard Permaculture Garden.

2. Describe any volunteer or paid experience relevant to serving as a Co-op Board member.

Since 2005, I have been the Program Sustainability & Outreach Coordinator at Cooperative Federal – the credit union that was born within our food co-op back in 1982. I am responsible for program management, grant writing, outreach, and collaboration on business and strategic planning. As part of Coop Fed's development team, I work to strike a balance between strategic goals, the collective needs of our membership, and our core mission. Many of the skills I have learned in my career – from interpreting financial statements, to preparing Annual Reports, to expansion planning – aid my service on SRFC's board. I also volunteer on Eat to Live Food Cooperative's Advisory Board, which provides technical assistance and support to their Board of Directors. I'm active with the nascent NY Cooperative Network, co-organizing the 2013 NY Cooperative Summit and the Network Gathering at CommonBound 2016.

3. What do you see as SRFC's role in the broader community?

Our Co-op has been a cornerstone of CNY's cooperative economy for four decades. As a conduit between Syracuse households and sustainably produced food, SRFC has been a pioneer in the natural foods movement and a friend to local farmers. SRFC is a defining characteristic of the Westcott neighborhood, part of our walkable (and bike-able) community. It's a locus of energy where you can't help but run into your friends and neighbors; where you can really believe that the purchases you make support conscious businesses, local jobs, and the creation of a stronger, fairer economy. Finally, it's an embodiment of the next challenge for the cooperative movement: as the economic and food-system landscape evolves, how do we stay competitive, relevant, and responsive to our members and the community at large?

4. Please provide a personal statement, including anything you feel is relevant to your candidacy.

Our world needs an interconnected set of solutions in order to overcome a tangle of problems. People and the planet are starving for real nourishment, for thoughtful policies that see beyond short-term profit. We're starving for a different way to interact with each other and the institutions around us; for meaningful, safe, and fair jobs. Sometimes, we're just straight-out starving. To me, our best hope for finding those solutions is creating a solidarity economy. Starting right here, where we live and work, we can make choices that gradually transform ourselves and our communities. We can use our successes and our failures to enrich kindred work in other communities; to build bridges between those communities until the solidarity economy is everywhere. SRFC is part of the solution in Syracuse. As a member of the board, I will work to keep SRFC strong, sustainable, and engaged with this vision.