

President's Report 2012

2012 has been a learning experience for your Board of the Syracuse Real Food Co-op. After surviving the tumult caused by the ratification of a new set of Bylaws in 2011 we settled down to grow as a group responsible for looking out for the best interest of the members of our Co-op. A major part of this process was a retreat we all participated in that was facilitated by Marilyn Scholl from CDS Consulting Co-op. It was during this retreat that we came to realize the strengths and weaknesses of each of us. By partaking in the Myers-Briggs program we all came to know each other better and know why we tend to act the way we do. Having a familiarity with these special traits we have, at least in my opinion, been better able to work together. Because of this training we have been able in the past few months to put together a much better procedure for overseeing the management and operation of the Co-op.

We have also not lost sight of looking for that perfect place for our Co-op to expand into. This search does not just mean pounding the pavement looking for the right location. It also means putting together the corporate building blocks necessary for such a move to take place. We have been learning how these types of moves are done from researching what other successful Co-op's have done. Hopefully that perfect location will intersect with our search and at that time we will know just what is needed to have smooth transition.

I would like to take this time to recognize the unfailingly loyal work one of our Board members has been doing for this organization for many many years. Walley Francis has been on this Board for longer than most of us can remember. If my facts are correct Walley came on the Board in 1985 and he has acted as our Treasurer for all but 3 of the years since then. His work has always been thorough and extremely competent. Whenever we needed insight as to what has happened in the past all heads turn to Walley for the answer. If we start to deviate from our path it is Walley showing us how to get from a to b. At this time I would like us all to stand and give Walley Francis a rousing round of applause.

This is my time to thank you the members of the Syracuse Real Food Co-op for letting me serve you as President of your Board of Directors. This was a task I really didn't sign up for in 2010 when I was asked if I would like to serve on the Board. It was one that necessity dictated I take however, about six months later. During my time as President I hope I will be remembered as successfully leading us through the struggle of bringing a new set of By-laws to the point of adoption. I also hope I am remembered as turning our Board into a group of equals. Next month when the Board elects its officers I intend to withdraw my name. I will however continue to do the job I originally signed up for and that is as a proud Board Member of the Syracuse Real Food Co-op.