

First Alternative NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Fresh, local, organic groceries for everyone

North Store: 2855 NW Grant Ave • South Store: 1007 SE 3rd St



From the Board of Directors

Kestrel Bailey

When I think of the Co-op, the first thing that comes to mind is community. Here, community is more than just a value, it is the engine that keeps local businesses running. That community includes our Owners, shoppers, vendors, residents, and other local businesses. Within those groups, partnerships often lead to beneficial relationships and meaningful growth for all parties involved. One of the clearest examples this past year has been the success of Little Samurai Sushi being made available at the Co-op.

The presence of sushi in the Co-op Deli has done more than satisfy cravings for handcrafted rolls, it's opened doors for Little Samurai Sushi that may not have otherwise been available. After Ashbrook Independent School tried the sushi at the Co-op, they began placing their own weekly orders, which has helped Little Samurai Sushi expand its reach. Beyond

An advertisement for Field Day products. It features images of various items: a bag of organic Savory Herb Stuffing, a bottle of Avocado Oil, a bag of Flour, and a can of 100% Pure Pumpkin. A green banner at the bottom of the product images reads "March 11-17" and "20% Off! regularly-priced Field Day Products". Below the banner, an orange box says "CURRENT OFFER" and "More at firstalt.coop/ownership".

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CURRENT
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More at firstalt.coop/ownership

that, Little Samurai Sushi sources ingredients from local fishers and farmers, creating a full-circle partnership that strengthens our local food ecosystem. When local businesses support each other, everyone benefits!

This is not a standalone instance of local businesses being able to mutually support one another, but it highlights the importance of the community within and around First Alternative Co-op. Another part of that community are the local businesses in downtown Corvallis. Over the last few years, we've seen a surge of new local businesses downtown, including Wade Hardware, Wild Yeast Bakery, Bohdi Cafe, Plant Posse, and many others.

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March Board Committee Meetings

Owners interested in virtual attendance should contact BREC@firstalt.coop for details.

Owner Relations Committee:

The conduit for communication between Owners and the Board.

Monday, March 9, 5:30 pm

Finance Committee:

Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations on financial matters.

Wednesday, March 18, 4:30 pm

First Alternative Co-op

Board of Directors:

Elected Owners putting our cooperative principles into action.

Tuesday, March 31, 6pm

Two locations
Open daily
7am - 9pm

Everyone
Welcome



Continued from previous page...

From the Board of Directors

Kestrel Bailey

Maintaining and continuing to create a vibrant downtown where local businesses can thrive will benefit residents of Corvallis and the Co-op. Luckily, there are local efforts already underway to help maintain and increase downtown business visibility in the form of the Downtown Vitality Task Force and downtown revitalization efforts put forth by the City Council. This was the topic of this year's Co-op Community Social, which featured a talk on these revitalization efforts from Steve Clark of the Downtown Vitality Task Force!

I would be remiss to talk about the Co-op community without discussing all our wonderful Owners and shoppers. This past year has been a year of steady momentum. Month after month, both the North and South stores have welcomed increasing numbers of shoppers, and 577 new Owners joined the First Alternative Co-op community in 2025. That



A scene from last year's Co-op Community Social

growth reflects something deeper than foot traffic, it shows that people are choosing to invest in community driven, values-based food systems. To all our Owners, new and old, thank you for choosing to be a part of something bigger. Your support helps local producers and businesses thrive, keeps dollars circulating in our region, and strengthens the cooperative values that make our stores unique.

If you're a new shopper with us, don't be shy! Let your cashier know what brought you in. Whether it was the bulk section, the local produce, the location, or simple curiosity, we're glad you're here!

As we look ahead, we're excited to continue growing together. Here's to another year of supporting local businesses, welcoming new Owners, and celebrating the partnerships that make our community stronger.

2025-26 First Alternative Board of Directors



Jasmin Woodside
President



Dana Monroe
Vice President



Kathryn Duvall
Secretary



Rob May
Treasurer



Kestrel Bailey



Katy Blye



Lauren Burns



Frank Hall



Julie Wasmer

Board meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 6pm

The Co-op Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers elected by Co-op Owners to guide the store through Policy Governance. Although they are not involved in day-to-day store decisions, they shape these decisions through the development of Co-op policy and vision. Meetings begin with a ten-minute period for Owner comments. Email is also welcome: faboard@firstalt.coop

Gather Ideas and Inspiration at the Sustainability Fair & Town Hall on March 12th

“Inspiring!” “Lively!” “Dynamic!” are words that community members have used to describe the annual Sustainability Fair and Town Hall, which will take place this year on Thursday, March 12, at the CH2MHill Alumni Center on the OSU campus. Come to learn from each other, from our community, and from innovators across the globe at this free annual celebration.

The Sustainability Fair, which begins at 5 pm, will feature more than 60 hands-on exhibits, each representing a partner organization or action team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. A fabulous spread of delicious local food will be offered by New Morning Bakery, and attendees will delight to the sounds of the Nick Rivard-Ben Woodman Jazz Guitar Duo. The entire event will be waste-free, with recycling and composting stations located throughout the facility.

At 7 pm, the focus will shift to the Alumni Center ballroom, where participants will be seated at tables of 8 for a fast-paced, interactive Town Hall. The program includes three parts, each with a presentation from the main stage followed by discussion and activity at the tables. The program will include the annual “Community Scrapbook,” a slide presentation highlighting the sustainability achievements of Sustainability Coalition partners and action teams during the past year—actions that are moving our community toward our goals of environmental quality, social equity, and economic vitality.



This year’s keynote speaker is Andrew Millison (pictured above), who has travelled the Earth, documenting impactful stories of land regeneration on his popular YouTube channel, which has over 100 million video views.

In addition to being a highly successful storyteller, Millison is an internationally renowned permaculturist and founder of OSU’s Permaculture Design Program. The title of his Town Hall presentation is “Global Resilience Efforts: Lessons for Corvallis”.

Primary sponsors of the Sustainability Fair and Town Hall are the OSU Sustainability Office, Benton Community Foundation, First Alternative Co-op, G. Christianson Construction, and Peak Heat Pumps and Electric.

Registration is not required for the Fair, but space at the Town Hall is limited. Register for the Town Hall by March 5th.

Learn more and register for the Sustainability Town Hall at sustainablecorvallis.org.



Come say hello at the First Alternative table at this year's Sustainability Fair



★ ★ ★ Board Seeks New Directors ★ ★ ★

First Alternative has been going strong for more than 50 years and needs a strong Board of Directors to continue thriving into the future. If you would like to join other Owners in making important decisions about the Co-op you should consider a position on the Board.

What Does the Board Do?

The Board **develops a vision** for First Alternative and decides on strategies to achieve that vision. It decides when it's time to remodel or expand a store, how to serve a broader community, and the role of the Co-op in the broader community. The Board also **makes financial decisions** including setting the annual budget, when to spend cash or take on debt, and when to declare a patronage dividend. Another important duty is **hiring and supervising the General Manager**. Supervision is done through monitoring compliance with written policies that cover all areas of operations. This frees the Board from micromanaging day to day decisions and frees our professional manager to implement the policies in any reasonable way. **The Board seeks input from Owners** and ensures the continuation of an effective Board through recruitment.

What is required from Directors?

- Be a shareholder of First Alternative
- Have an interest in the organization's mission and goals
- Have a willingness to further your knowledge through orientation and training
- Have a willingness to represent the organization to the community
- Provide about 10-15 hours of service per month, distributed approximately as follows:
 - 6-8 hours Board meetings, including preparation and attendance, on the last Tuesday of each month. Board meetings are typically 3 hours.

**For more information,
scan the QR code to visit**

**firstalt.coop/
governance**

*The deadline for returning
applications is March 31.*



- 2-4 hours Committee Meetings including preparation and attendance. Committee meets are typically 1-1½ hours.
- Participate in 1 annual weekend goal setting retreat (local)

The directors are elected in June. A full Board is composed of 10 directors elected to three-year terms, with 3 or 4 positions regularly coming up for election each year. This year there are three 3-year positions open.

The Board Recruitment and Elections Committee recruits and endorses candidates with the knowledge and skills needed to do the work of the Board. All Owners are eligible to run and are highly encouraged to do so. This year, as in previous years, candidates with financial management, accounting or legal backgrounds would bolster our already strong Board. We will use Ranked Choice Voting in this election, regardless of the number of candidates. This method has been shown to have results best representative of the voters' choices.

Each Board member receives a 15% in-store discount on items not already on sale, as well as training, conference opportunities and related travel expenses.

If you would like more information, or would like to request an application packet, please contact the First Alternative Co-op Board of Directors at admin.board@firstalt.coop. An application packet can be downloaded from the First Alternative website. The deadline for returning applications is **March 31**.

Beans for Bags Cuts Waste and Supports Local Organizations

Quarter I • January-March

Co-op Recycling Center

Grace Center for Adult Day Services

Heartland Humane Shelter

Vina Moses Center

*Bring your reusable grocery bags &
support charitable organizations! Learn
more at firstalt.coop/donations*

