



Name: Heather Seraphine

A brief biography (150 words or less):

I have lived in the Oshkosh area for the past 12 years. I grew up in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and went to college in Pennsylvania. I later worked at a large law firm in Washington D.C. while teaching evening classes at a business college before relocating to Wisconsin. I continue to work in the legal field. I am a paralegal and office manager at a small law firm in Oshkosh. I enjoy working hard to solve problems for clients, as well as help check off life goals that clients may have – like getting their estate planning in order or helping open the small business that has been their dream. On a personal level my husband and I live in the Menominee South neighborhood with our three rescue dogs that enjoy gazing out the window and letting pedestrians know that they are on neighborhood watch.



What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board? (1-2 paragraphs)

I have been a supporter of the Oshkosh Food Co-op for several years and have been a member since before the Co-op was up and running. I have a deep understanding of Co-ops and their benefits. My family belonged to an agricultural fruit grower's Co-op when I was young. My brother owns and operates a kombucha company in Missoula, Montana, that distributes to Co-ops across the state of Montana. And I belong to three other Co-ops in different areas. I think that my previous Co-op participation and experience gives me a little bit of an edge. Additionally, I am a practical problem solver; part of this is due to my legal background. I have no problem trying to see the multiple sides of a problem and engage with others to come to a resolution that might satisfy several viewpoints.

What is your dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op? (1-2 paragraphs)

I would like to see the Oshkosh Food Co-op thrive as a downtown market. In addition to becoming a hot spot to shop for things like local products, bulk foods, fresh produce, and other healthy items, I would like to see the Co-op become a hub in the community. There is a wonderful community room and patio area that could be better utilized for community get togethers, meetings and classes. I would like to help the Co-op grow into a place that is not only a beautiful market for shopping but is a happy and healthy "other place" for people to socialize and learn.

Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh Community? (1-2 paragraphs)

I believe that if you are a current member of the Co-op, you are aware the store is in a food desert. I think it is important that all people have easy access to good, healthy food – the Co-op helps achieve this goal for the city. The Co-op is important from a sustainability aspect – local farmers and retailers helping to feed local people. This is a very important ideal for many reasons – it helps to enhance the sense of community; it helps to improve the environment; and it helps people to feel that they are doing good by shopping and participating because they are!

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oshkoshfoodcoop.com

a member-owned community grocery store





Why cooperatives? (1-2 paragraphs)

I like that Co-ops help unite like-minded people; sometimes it is hard to find your tribe. There are many reasons you could believe that being a member of the Co-op is worthwhile, but I guarantee that you share the same passions on some level as all the other members – that is pretty neat. It is also important that a Co-op is a democratic structure in which all members have a voice and can give their input. This helps make the Co-op that happy other place for so many people. And my last reason for favoring the Co-op ideology is that it makes it so easy for me and other members to be supportive of local farmers and retailers.

Please offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op member-owners to know about you. (1-2 paragraphs)

I am easy to talk to. I welcome anyone reaching out to me with their thoughts for the Co-op and will take them seriously and consider them while making decisions if elected to the Board.

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