DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING REPORT

January 7, 2025



January 7, 2025

By Kim Velsey

The crowd at the Picnic House was somewhat light on December 3, a cold and blustery night. Though members who showed up engaged in a vigorous discussion about bringing back the print edition of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*. While many members were enthusiastic about the idea, others raised concerns about the cost, labor and equipment that would be needed to return to a print *Gazette*, which went fully digital during the pandemic. At the end of the night, members approved a proposal to conduct a feasibility study on bringing it back.

Open Forum

Several members posed questions during the Open Forum segment. One, who has an agenda item up requiring mediation between those for and against Israeli boycotts before any votes are taken, asked about expediting agenda items. Another noted how unique the Coop is and how important it is to keep that in mind when having heated discussions. A third spoke about her experiences joining the Coop in 1978, praising the economic diversity at that time, and asked what could be done to return the Coop to its really strong roots in economic justice and taking care of people in the broader community.

Coop Finances

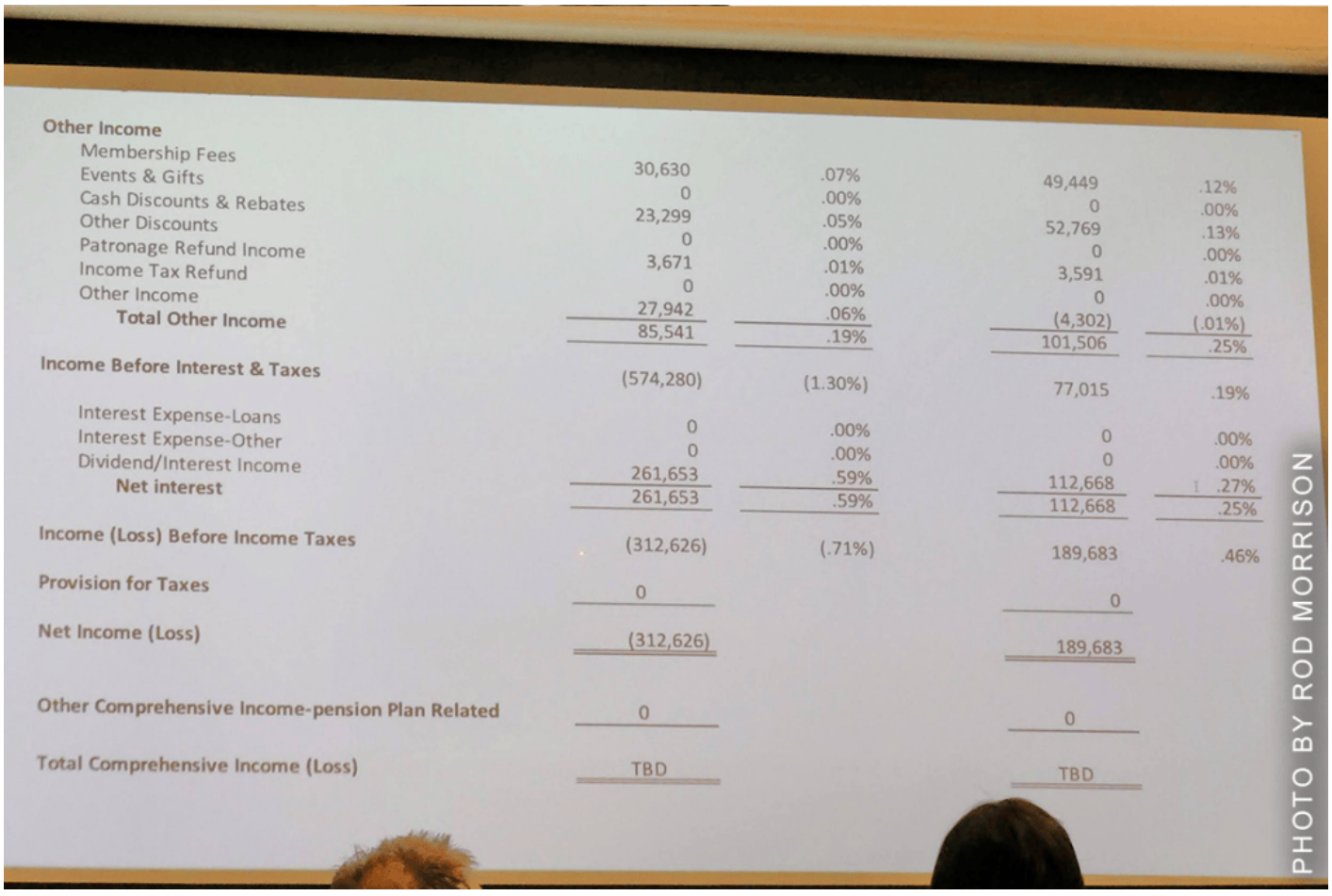


Joe Holtz wearing his treasurer's hat, shared the Coop's financial position

General Manager and Treasurer Joe Holtz gave the financial report. There was a net loss of $312,626 for the 40 weeks ending in November, in contrast to last year's net positive of $189,683, a difference of a little more than $500,000, but Holtz noted that there are 13 weeks left in the financial year, which ends February 2, 2025. Last year,

during the last 12 weeks of the year, the Coop's cash increased by more than $600,000. "I can't promise the same bump this year, but if you're worried about the financial sustainability of the Coop, don't worry," Holtz said.

In response to a question about whether extended shopping hours will help the bottom line—the Coop will stay open one hour later from Mondays to Saturdays, starting in February—Holtz shared that sales might go up but only modestly, by two or three percent. He also noted that the flat markup, which dropped from 25 to 24 percent last year, but is going back up to 25 percent on February 3, should help. The Coop, Holtz added, charges additional markups on vitamins and supplements (ten percent), cheese (three percent), bulk items (six percent), organic produce ($1.10 per case) and bananas ($2.50 per case), not as a way of making money, but as a way of countering against losses.



The Coop's balance sheet projected on the PowerPoint screen

Another member asked if adding more members would help. Holtz thought it might,

and shared that the Coop is adding some new members, but that new membership must be balanced against other factors, such as our capacity limits.

General Coordinators Report

Holtz brought up the Agenda Committee election at last month's meeting, where a Coop board member abstained from voting—something that is allowed by the Coop's by-laws but is very rare. Holtz said it has not been done for 23.5 years and felt that other Coop members should ask why the board member abstained or the board member should explain it, neither of which had happened.

Tim Hospodar identified himself as the board member who abstained and said he did so because believed it was an unfair election—that the proper notice and nomination protocol had not been followed.

General Coordinator Ann Herpel disagreed and said it was standard operating procedure that a person who has a position can put themselves up for re-election, that the move was seconded and that the committee is understaffed and the person was not taking a position from someone else. She also noted that the Agenda Committee had placed a notice about the election in the *Gazette*, on FoodCoop.com and on the Coop Corner bulletin board, as required.

PHOTO BY ROD MORRISON

Director of Purchasing and General Coordinator Joe Szladek said 651 turkeys were ordered prior to Thanksgiving.
General Coordinator and Coop Director of Purchasing and Operations, Joe Szladek, talked about Thanksgiving sales. The Coop ordered 651 turkeys this year and 1,400 pounds of turkey parts. Only six turkeys and 150 pounds of parts were left over, a margin of error of only about two percent. The Coop also ordered 1,200 pies.

Szladek also talked about the Coop deals program, run by the National Co+op Grocers, which the Coop participated in last month. About 100 Field Day products were marked down ten to 28 percent. The Coop may participate again in the future, but is going to pause the program at the moment, he said, because it needs to finish building Clover, the inventory system that uses electronic labels. For the deals trial, new prices had to be entered manually, and the process is too much to manage as the staff works to roll out Clover.

Committee Reports



The Fun Committee’s past, current, and future plans where heralded by committee member Rob Price.

Rob Price talked about some of the Fun Committee’s plans for next year: a square dancing event, possibly a singles night, a happy hour at Bierwax in Prospect Heights. Previous events have included a puzzle swap and a picnic.

Personnel Committee



Newly elected Personal Committee member, Jerome Barth, demonstrating his leadership skills.

Jerome Barth was elected to the Personnel Committee, which is involved in hiring Coop personnel, including selecting Joe Holtz's successor. Ninety-seven members voted in favor of his election and 10 voted against.

Print *Linewaiters' Gazette* Feasibility Study



Advocating for a return to the newsprint *Linewaiters' Gazette*, Alex Godin introduced his idea with passion and some success.

Member Alex Godin brought forth a proposal to conduct a feasibility study on the return to a print *Linewaiters' Gazette*. Godin, who joined the Coop six years ago, said that since the pandemic, which brought the end of many community traditions including the print *Gazette*, childcare and the bulletin board, he has felt out of touch; in his view, the Coop has become "more sterile and more like a Whole Foods."

Godin said he's talked to new members who are amazed to learn that the Coop had a newspaper and older members who say they haven't read it since they could pick it up. "It feels to me important, feels like we can do it, if we're able to sell 600 turkeys and hit the number within six, I think we should be able to publish a newspaper," he said.

After Holtz suggested adding a deadline and pointed out that the *Gazette* staff may be too overtaxed to conduct the study themselves, the proposal was changed to read that a committee, including but not limited to Godin and *Gazette* staff, would report back on options, logistics and constraints to bring back the print edition, within one

year.

Rod Morrison, a *Gazette* photographer who joined in 1983, held up a few old print *Gazettes*, eliciting a little chorus of appreciative sighs. But Morrison recommended against reinstituting it. “The horse is out of the barn. Members don’t consume media in hardcopy any more. Right now, the *Gazette* is put together virtually. To produce the old *Gazette* before the pandemic, a team went in on Sunday, five of them, including a proofreader,” he said. “I think what we need to do is build on what we have, make it more personal. Do a better job of publicizing the fact that we have a newspaper, rather than looking back to a media that is sort of dead, unlike the Food Coop.”

General Coordinator Herpel said that it cost about $23,000 per year to print the *Gazette*, that the Coop doesn’t have the infrastructure to do it again, that the digital readership is probably 10 times the print readership, and that the Coop recycled probably half of the print *Gazettes*.

PHOTO BY ROD MORRISON

General Coordinator Ann Herpel returned to the podium to argue against switching back to the old way of publishing the *Gazette*.

A number of members spoke in favor of the proposal, which passed 88 to 25, and expressed delight at the idea of a print edition. “My house is filled with books, magazines, zines of all sorts. I would love to read a *Linewaiters’ Gazette* on the subway,” one said. Another suggested that if printing every issue was too onerous, the Coop might do a more limited print edition, a special issue, for example, few times a year.

Kim Velsey has been a Coop member since 2020. When she’s not writing for the Gazette*, she’s a staff writer at* New York *magazine.*

WORTH THE WAIT: CANDID CONFESSIONS FROM THE HOLIDAY CHECKOUT LINE

January 7, 2025



By Nikia Dawkins

How do you pass the time while waiting in line? Or while waiting for life to truly begin? What keeps you going as you seemingly remain in one place? These were some of the ideas I discussed with Coop members waiting in the checkout line on the Monday before Thanksgiving. I entered the building looking for vegan pie and left with fresh wisdom and that feeling of camaraderie that seems to live at the Coop year-round. During this post-election holiday season, Coop members stood in line with full carts and even fuller hearts, eager to share their thoughts, feelings and stories. Despite the divisive political climate and the rainy winter weather, there was a spirit of optimism and resilience in the air.

Over the course of a few hours, I bounced around some of the longer checkout lines, asking members to share how they pass the time. Most shoppers opt to scroll on their

phones. Gary said, “I read the political news, the local football scores and the lack of good movies coming out at Christmas, and I get boiling mad.” He was, however, looking forward to seeing *The Brutalist* on the big screen in December. Linewaiters also spent a lot of time exploring nearby shelves. Members waiting in the main checkout line perused health and household products, but “the express aisle is more dangerous,” said Anna**,** due to the abundance of snacks. Alejandra, who was not only waiting in line but also waiting for her partner to return with frozen blueberries, confessed that she often stares at the shelves and shelves of vitamins. “There are so many things and I have *no idea* what they’re for!” she said with a laugh. “I wonder if they work. I wonder if there’s a difference between brands. Like, is there something that’s being spoofed and another that isn’t? I don’t know! Like, what is CoQ10?”

> “HOW LUCKY WE ARE TO BE IN THIS PLACE WHERE WE CAN GET THE FOOD WE NEED TO CELEBRATE A HOLIDAY WITH THE PEOPLE WE LOVE.”

Experienced shopper Doris said she always checks out the end-cap with discounted products and odd specials: “Today I found soft-glazed gingerbread cookies for $2.42. There were all these fancy things today. So much fun!” Susie Jen announced excitedly, “I read the *Gazette*!” Other members like Katie choose to enjoy a book on their phones. “Usually I listen to some sort of audiobook,” Katie said, “some cheesy romance that I will *never* admit to.” Cheryl was reading *Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton, about guerrilla farmers in Australia, even though she often has very little down time, while waiting. “I’m a teacher in the local community, so I always run into parents of my students at the Coop,” she said, and moments later, as we continued talking, she ran into yet another one. New mother Cecilia**,** whose baby girl was chilling happily in her carrier, said, “I usually just try to entertain this little person. And the best way, honestly, is breastfeeding her. So many times she’ll be in the cart head--butting me, so I’ll just breastfeed her in the cart, which is like the funniest thing I’ve ever done in my life.” Members like Frances even use the waiting line to work on med-

itation practice. “I belong to a meditation group,” she said**.** “That’s the glue that holds me together.”



ILLUSTRATION BY MAGGIE CARSON

When asked about what they’re most grateful for this holiday season, members mentioned their newborn babies, post-election feelings and strong community ties. More than one member was simply grateful to be alive. Laura shared, “I’m grateful for the people around me because in the face of an election where the inequities in our society were really clearly demonstrated, everyone I know is doing some sort of work to make the world a better place.” Anna said, “I’m grateful for the abundance we have here at the Coop and for the community we have around us at this time especially.” Cheryl shared, “I’m feeling like it’s a blessing now to be here. How lucky we are to be in this place where we can get the food we need to celebrate a holiday with the people we love, especially in light of the political situation in our country and in our world. This is a total blessing.” A moment later, she smiled and said, “Oh, there’s another former parent!” Chosen family was a popular response as well. John said, “I’m grateful that I have friends and that I’m going to make a mess of comfort food and eat it with them to keep my mind off of other things.” Katie said she’s most grateful for her husband who had recently been out of town for four days, leaving her to take care of

their two children on her own. “I’m a terrible single parent,” she said sheepishly. “I’m so grateful for his competency and patience.”

As the year drew to a close, I also asked members about what they’ve spent the longest amount of time waiting for in their lives, and answers ran the gamut from higher education to inner peace. “To have a baby,” said Cheryl. **“**I was 41 when I gave birth and I waited a long time for that to happen.” John said, “I’m trying to learn a new language now—Ukrainian. I’m using the Duolingo app, and I’m going to reach a point where I’m going to have to take a real class or find a tutor because it only teaches by example and that’s all you get from it. But it’s a start!” Many members, including Sarah Sills, said they’re still waiting for social justice. Others had finally found new careers. New father Dan, whose baby girl sat serenely in his stroller, said, “I just opened a record store in Williamsburg. It’s called Boom Service. Mostly old and some new releases as well. But that’s been a lifetime dream.” Angelina quipped, “I’m waiting for my kids to grow up so I can have some alone time.” Scott had trouble thinking of an answer but then it came to him: “I’m waiting for the U.S. men’s national soccer team to perform at a level commensurate with their ability.”

“I’M STILL WAITING; I JUST DON’T KNOW WHAT I’M WAITING FOR.”

Susie decided, after much thought, “I’m still waiting; I just don’t know what I’m waiting for.” Other members such as Afiya couldn’t really relate to the question at all: “I don’t wait that much in my life,” she said. “I do the things I want to do when I want to do them. I pretty much have always done that. Sometimes I wish I hadn’t, but most of the time it’s OK with me.” Phillip said he’s still waiting to realize his full potential. Meanwhile, Alejandra said, “My college degree took a really long time. It took me 10 years to finish my undergraduate [degree]. I worked full time the entire time.” Laura said, “I have a very hard time taking time off, and I think what I’ve waited the longest for is to be able to read one novel after another. I read them at night before I go to sleep so I don’t read them very fast, but I’m really enjoying it right now.” She recom-

mends the novels of Amor Towles, especially *Rules of Civility.* Katie said she's waiting for "enlightenment—to feel like there aren't any existential questions that are lingering around in the periphery and weighing me down." Members like Gayle were waiting to feel centered or, like Anna, to have a sense of confidence and to find their place in the world. Finally, retiree Frances said with a sigh, "I've been waiting for peace and serenity, and I think at this late date, I'm getting there."

Nikia Dawkins is a life-long writer and night owl who's always on the lookout for good vegan ice cream.

HOLTZ REFLECTS ON A HALF-CENTURY WITH THE PARK SLOPE FOOD COOP

January 7, 2025



Part 2 of 2

January 7, 2025

By Hayley Gorenberg

On the cusp of retiring after a half-century, Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) General Manager and first-ever staff member Joe Holtz reflected on pivotal moments for the Coop. Here is Part 2 of the Linewaiters' Gazette *farewell—or perhaps one can say "exit interview" with Holtz.*

Early on, Holtz focused attention on the Coop's physical plant as central to the establishment's continued existence. The first PSFC space was on the second floor, without an elevator. "You had to schlep really heavy things upstairs. Cases of groceries are heavy!" With the understanding that hauling "80-pound cantaloupe crates from California" upstairs was unsustainable, Holtz approached the owner of the building about

leasing the first floor, with an option to buy at a fixed price by 1980.

After the Coop pulled off that initial purchase, Holtz went next door to the owner of the "twin" of the Coop's building, requesting that if that owner decided to sell, "You shouldn't forget to talk to us, because we might want to buy it." That second purchase followed in the late 1980s, as did a similar conversation with the owner of Kline's rug cleaning business—with that property marking a third purchase.

> "YOU HAD TO SCHLEP REALLY HEAVY THINGS UPSTAIRS. CASES OF GROCERIES ARE HEAVY!"

The properties served Coop goals of growing the range of products and ability to serve member needs.

"Improvement is important," Holtz says, recalling a standout conversation with a member who approached him to say, "I love the Coop, and I'm quitting. Why? Because I'm a busy person." It was problematic for the otherwise enthusiastic member that the Coop was open on a very limited schedule and carried a relatively narrow band of items. "I've got a family. I don't have time to work and go to multiple stores. There are so many things I can't get at the Coop."

"That was like a roadmap," Holtz says. "That was such a gift. How do I make it so that person doesn't quit in the future?" Soon the Coop was open for longer hours, and carried a wider range of products.

Product choices

Some product choices came easily, guided by members. At one point the Coop carried nonorganic as well as organic kale and collard greens. But the nonorganic greens didn't sell well. Even a single case a week didn't stay fresh. "Members spoke!" says

Holtz. “Organic kale was almost every time better-quality. So we dropped nonorganic.” The Coop still carries lemons, oranges and one-pound bags of carrots—both organic and nonorganic. “We double-market certain things. It’s the will of the members.” Pineapple is also double-marketed and “very often nonorganic costs more. Why? They taste better. Why don’t we handle nonorganic bananas? Organic got up to 100 cases a week. Nonorganic—even five cases, we had trouble moving them fast enough.”

From early days, Holtz exercised judgment to bring quality to Coop shelves; price was a factor, but not the only driver. When Holtz started visiting the Hunts Point green market in the mid-1970s, he found two choices of green peppers, priced at a difference of eight cents per pound. He bought the better peppers for eight cents more.

“Red leaf lettuce: We never thought twice. Always bought the local, because it was better. It didn’t matter that it was four dollars more a case; we had a good price on so many things, the fact that we had a slightly less good price on lettuce—but better quality? We had the luxury of not having to worry, because members realize pricing is done honestly and transparently, and that we can have good food and support local agriculture when possible.”

Years ago the Coop decided to stock nonorganic honeydews from one source only. “Why? Because they’re the best honeydews. Why? Because his company only ships the best ones. People were blown away by them. We still get them. Instructions to a produce buyer are, ‘If you’re going to buy conventional honeydews, these are the only ones you buy.’ Even when they don’t have much give, they are delicious. The less expensive honeydew? No one shoulda bought it! That’s the kind of thing you learn over time. It became clear that it was OK for us to make a quality decision that would really be serving the members better.”

> “WE HAD THE LUXURY OF NOT HAVING TO WORRY, BECAUSE MEMBERS REALIZE PRICING IS DONE HONESTLY AND TRANSPARENTLY…WE CAN HAVE GOOD FOOD AND SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE.”

Then there were stocking choices that implicated questions about production methods. The Coop did not initially carry meat. When the GM voted to stock meat, Holtz was personally relieved that it excluded factory-farmed meat. “I’m personally happy with that,” says Holtz. “Does that mean some people will decide they won’t be members? Some people want meat to be part of their lives, and they can’t afford meat that’s not factory-farmed.”

Could some people say the choice not to stock factory-farmed meat fails the test of “leading with cooperation,” because the cheapest meats are factory-farmed? Holtz acknowledges there may be an argument: “That’s sort of saying, ‘The Coop’s not for you.’ I’m not particularly happy with that. On the other hand, the alternative of being part of factory-farmed meat culture—that personally for me is a step too far.”

Boycotts

The Coop has joined boycotts over time and historically participation has been “very much noncontroversial,” Holtz said, referencing Nestle and occasional boycotts called for by national labor leadership. Calls to boycott products from Israel, on the other hand, reveal significant division in the membership. Holtz remarked on being “horrified by what’s going on in Gaza… horrified by attacks on civilians because they happen to be in the vicinity of people Israel wants to kill,” and also “horrified by October 7.” He continued, “If members voted on a ceasefire and return of the hostages, I suspect well over 90% would vote in favor.” In contrast, he said he believed a stance about boycotting products from Israel (as opposed to letting members decide what to purchase) would show deep divisions. “I’m worried about the members who will never join in the future and the members who will now leave,” he said. “We have little practice when a community is split, thousands on each side. I think the fact that there are thousands on each side is an incredible problem for the Coop. I frankly don’t know how the Coop decides this or gets out of this conundrum.”

International and post-retirement cooperation

Over the course of 50 years, Holtz has developed deep expertise and affinity for the International Principles of Cooperation, springing from mid-19th century concepts of a cooperative in Rochdale, England.

> “I LOVE TALKING TO PEOPLE FROM OTHER COOPS, EVEN IF THEY DON’T WORK THE WAY WE DO.”

Core to his commitment to those principles, for anyone seeking assistance in exploring creation of a cooperative: “The answer is always ‘yes.’ It’s in the cooperative principles to say ‘yes’ to a young person who wants to learn about cooperatives. It’s our duty.” Relatedly, “coops help coops,” he said, adding, “I love talking to people from other coops, even if they don’t work the way we do.”

By way of example, when the United States Federation of Worker Cooperatives had a conference in New York City years ago, organizers asked for meeting space to plan, and PSFC shared work space. The conference then asked whether PSFC members would help at the registration table, and PSFC gave members work credit to help.

In the 1980s Holtz made up a packet of “important things to do if you want to start a coop like PSFC.” He mailed it all over the United States, and “made clear I was there to help them, and not just by sending something in the mail.” Then he extended help abroad. To help start a food cooperative in Paris, Holtz and GC Ann Herpel participated in years of weekly Skype sessions, helping to plan, discussing structure and how to source fruits and vegetables.

After he retires on the last Friday in June 2025, 50 years after he was hired in June 1975, Holtz plans to visit a bevy of European cooperatives in coming years, “not as a paid consultant, but just as a person who wants to do this. Just to say, ‘Hi, how are you doing?’” He intends to return to New York City, but if he ever left the city for another locale, “the day I move there, I’m joining the food coop, even though they

don’t operate like we do, and they’re not going to give me an opportunity to run a checkout line and stock the shelves. It’s still a community-owned business that’s not part of mega-corporations of the world.”

COORDINATORS’ CORNER: OUR COOP AT RISK

January 7, 2025



ILLUSTRATION BY ERIK SCHURINK

By the General Coordinator Team

January 7, 2025

Despite 52 years of success, our Coop’s future is not guaranteed. As General Coordinators, part of our role is to identify risks to the Coop, and we believe growing divisive-

ness among members is one that we should all be paying attention to.

Many are aware of a campaign by a group of members, PSFC Members for Palestine, advocating a boycott of Israeli goods. However, the broader membership may not fully understand the narrow perspective of this group or the risks their actions pose to the Coop.

Why a Boycott Threatens the Coop and Its Financial Sustainability

A boycott risks dividing our community and weakening the Coop. We've already seen increased tension at General Meetings (GMs), in *Gazette* letters, and through complaints to the Dispute Resolution Committee. We've also heard from many members, including staff, who plan to leave the Coop if a boycott passes. This could result in thousands of departures, and it would be irresponsible to assume endless interest from new members. Without new members to replace those who have left, the financial impact could be catastrophic.

Impact on Prices and Staff

Financial fallout from a boycott could force tough decisions such as raising prices or laying off staff. If the Coop is forced to raise prices because of shrinking sales, low-income members will bear the brunt of those price increases. Moreover, if prices rise, some members may reconsider the value of their membership if the price difference between the food they buy at the Coop and other stores narrows.

Reducing staff or cutting benefits would be equally unacceptable. Our hardworking staff, many of whom tirelessly supported the Coop through the pandemic, rely on the income and benefits from Coop employment. A divisive boycott could jeopardize their livelihoods.

Legal Risks

Boycotting Israel carries additional risks. In 2016, then-Governor Andrew Cuomo warned: “If you boycott Israel, New York will boycott you.” Thirty-four states, including New York, have legislation restricting Israeli boycotts. While these laws don’t currently prevent a Coop boycott, doing so may invite scrutiny from state agencies. At the federal level, the new administration has signaled it would target organizations they deem to be antisemitic. Proponents of an Israel boycott might not see their actions as antisemitic but many others do, including those in positions of political power on both sides of the aisle.

As witnessed after a similar boycott succeeded at the Olympia Food Coop, our Coop risks litigation from members unhappy with the outcome. Even if the litigation fails, the financial costs and time required from management staff would be significant.

Boycotts at the Coop

Since 1973, boycotts at the Coop have historically received overwhelming support, often near 100%, with none below 80%. Currently, a boycott must receive 75% or more of the votes at a GM in order to be considered advice to the board in favor of a boycott. The 75% vote threshold ensures widespread support of the membership and better reflects the International Principles of Cooperation. Those principles, embraced by the world-wide cooperative movement, prioritize cooperation and participation over political, ethnic or religious differences. Lowering the vote threshold to 50%, as is being proposed by PSFC Members for Palestine, threatens to undermine these principles and harms the Coop.

Hybrid Meetings Proposal and Its Link to the Boycott

A proposal to adopt hybrid GMs, allowing both in-person and remote attendance, may soon be presented at an upcoming meeting. This initiative is supported, in part, by the pro-boycott group. While hybrid meetings could enhance accessibility and participation, such a significant governance change requires careful study. It has been the Coop’s decades-long tradition to form a committee to study any proposed changes to

Coop governance before bringing the changes to a GM.

Before voting, members need answers to important questions: How will member privacy and security be protected? How will the potentially high costs of well-executed hybrid meetings be managed? What impact will hybrid participation have on the GM's deliberative process? What other logistical challenges do hybrid meetings present, including ensuring that members attending in-person and those attending virtually have equivalent experiences? Until these concerns are addressed, this proposal should not move forward.

A Broader Strategy

PSFC Members for Palestine need the hybrid meeting proposal to pass because it is part of their strategy to boycott Israeli products. Why? Venues have refused to host GMs if the boycott item is on the agenda because of the inflammatory nature of this topic. In addition, their large email list would have an outsized impact with hybrid meetings in effect.

Their strategy has three parts, as outlined in their communications:

1. Convert all General Meetings to hybrid.
2. Reduce the boycott vote threshold from 75% to 50%.
3. Vote on boycotting Israeli products.

We are not opposed to studying and considering other formats for the General Meeting, including hybrid meetings. We are opposed to changes in the governance structure for the sole purpose of advancing this group's goal to boycott Israel.

Take Action

We believe most members, including those on all sides of this issue, want to protect the Coop from these risks. We urge everyone to:

- Write to the *Gazette*.
- Attend General Meetings.
- Discuss these issues with fellow members.
- Vote against:
    1. Hybrid GMs as proposed at this time.
    2. Lowering the boycott vote threshold from 75% to 50%.
    3. Boycotting Israeli goods.

Together, we can protect our Coop’s future.

Note: The Coop currently carries less than 10 items from Israel.

2025 COOP BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS ARE DUE

January 7, 2025



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN DONOHUE

Interested in serving on the Coop's Board of Directors?
Nominations are now open!

OPENINGS

There are two openings on the board. Members serve three-year terms.

CANDIDATE DEADLINE

If you wish to submit your name for nomination, you must declare your candidacy by submitting a statement of up to 750 words to gazettesubmissions@psfc.coop. Candidates may also opt to include a small photo. Candidate statements and photos will be published in the *Gazette*. Deadline for candidacy submission is Saturday, March 1, 2025.

DECIDING AND VOTING

Candidates will have the opportunity to present their platform at the March 25, 2025 General Meeting. Every member will receive an online ballot via email in May. Paper ballots will be available upon request. The votes from the advance online voting will be combined with the in-person votes at the Annual Meeting, to be held on June 24, 2025.

DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors comprises five elected Coop members and the senior General Coordinator present. Members serve three-year terms. Members of the board are expected to attend GMs monthly. They receive Coop work credit for their attendance. From our inception in 1973 to the present, the monthly General Meeting has been an integral decision-making body of the Coop. Since the Coop was incorporated in 1977, we have been legally required to have a Board of Directors. The Bylaws of the Park Slope Food Coop state: “The portion of the Board of Directors meeting that is devoted to receiving the advice of the members shall be known as the General Meeting…The members who gather to give advice to the directors may choose to vote in order to express their support or opposition for any of the issues that have come before the meeting.”

For more information about Coop governance, please see The GM and the Board of Directors *and* Amended Bylaws of Park Slope Food Coop*.*

PRINT ‘GAZETTE’ FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS

January 7, 2025



The *Linewaiters' Gazette* is the heartbeat of our community.

COVID necessitated a transition to a purely online format for the decades-old institution. Now as we emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever, the store is feeling more and more sterile and members are interested in bringing back the energy and livelihood of a print edition.

At the December GM, members voted to create a year-long committee dedicated to researching and understanding opportunities to fit a physical newspaper into the evolved workflows of our changing Coop.

We are seeking up to five members to join the team.

All are welcome to apply—we're specifically interested in meeting members who might have some of the following skills:

- Deep knowledge of desktop publishing tools like Adobe InDesign.
- Experience with print publication production.
- Experience working on self-directed projects.
- Experience with qualitative research projects.

Most of all, we are looking for empathy, energy and curiosity. The work will be mostly self-directed and will fill the two hours and forty-five minutes for each shift rotation. Workslot credit will be provided.

To apply, please email alex@alexgodin.com with any relevant experience and the words “Coop committee application” in the subject line.