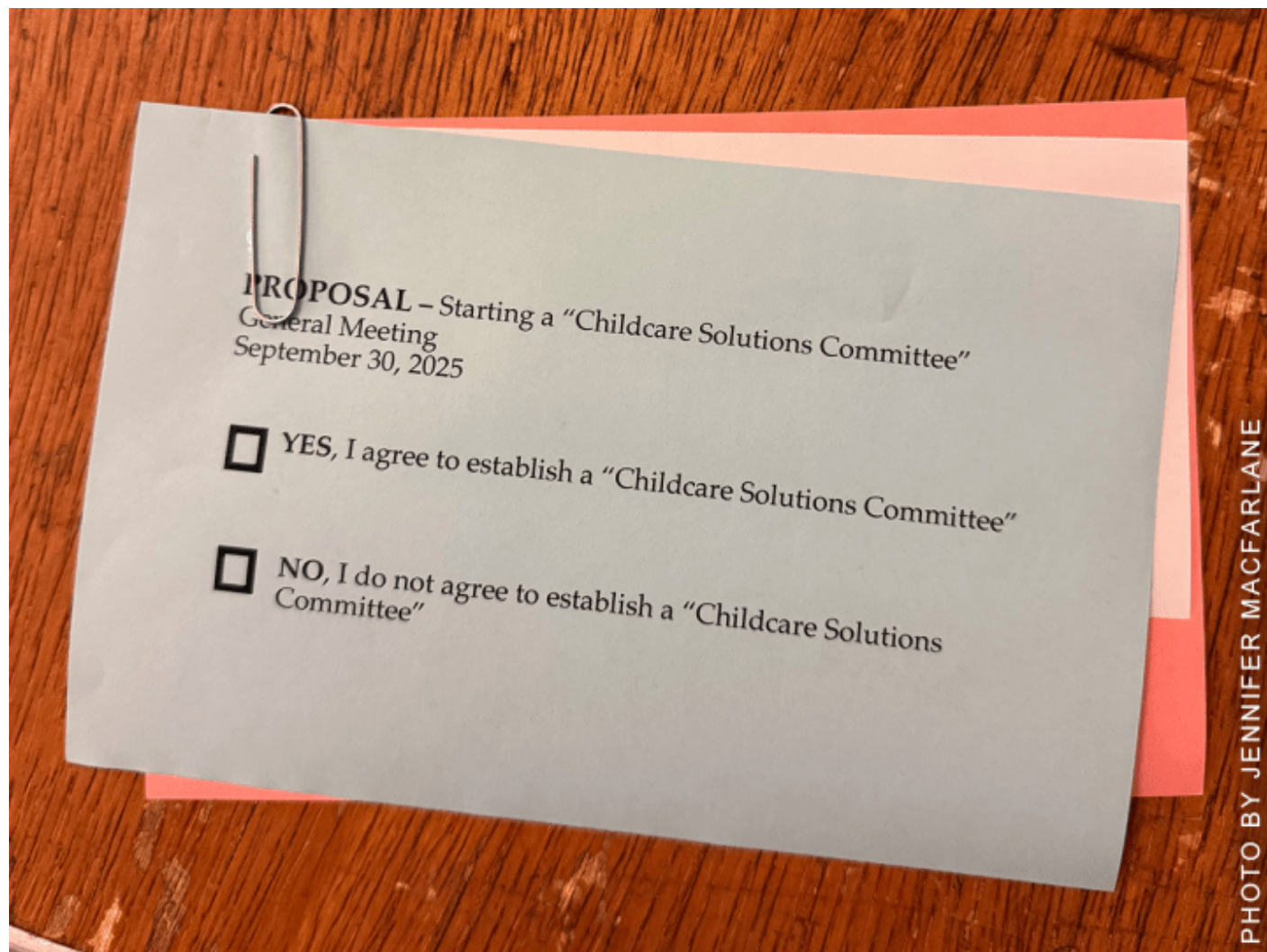


HYBRID MEETINGS ARE COMING. CHILDCARE MIGHT BE NEXT

October 28, 2025



NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

October 28, 2025

By Susannah Jacob

On a mild, early autumn night, the Prospect Park Picnic House held an attentive audience for the Coop's September General Meeting. During the open forum, Coop Secretary Elizabeth Tobier both resigned and suspended her membership in protest of political activism on the Coop board. The members approved overwhelmingly a proposal to start a committee to explore equitable alternatives to now-defunct, in-house child-

care. The Board of Directors voted to approve hybrid GM meetings, on the basis of a simple majority vote in favor that occurred this past summer.

OPEN FORUM

Seven members took the microphone during the meeting's open forum. Board member Tim Hospodar asked the General Coordinators to speak to the "topics of harassment, violence, exposure, and liability." He asked the GCs to address harassment of members who book venues for meetings, how to address meeting attendees who come without scanning their IDs, and how to address harassment board members have received via email throughout 2025.

Mitty Owens, a Coop member for 20 years, spoke in favor of hybrid meetings, as a busy parent and nonprofit social justice manager. He affirmed his belief that hybrid meetings would foster greater participation and participation.

Gus Vianna-Biehler, a member since the 90s, spoke to suggest that while Coop prices may be lower than those at stores like Union Market, they are still expensive. He asked that the new board look into opportunities to offer discounts for New Yorkers like himself who are retired, on fixed incomes and coping with medical expenses.

Carly Benkov, a member for 15 years, spoke for the first time at an open forum to ask for further information about recurring shifts—how many slots are available total, and how many people are on the waitlist to join. She expressed interest in the Coop opening a greater number of recurring shifts for people who would like to join them.

Elizabeth Tobier, a member of the Coop for 35 years, and who has served as Secretary for a combined 13 years (2002–2010, 2020–2025), read aloud an impassioned letter that she also submitted to this issue of the *Linewaiters' Gazette*, which announced her resignation. She added that she will also be suspending her Coop membership.

Charlie Rogers of the Chair Committee read a note from present member Barbara Ma-

zor, who requested her contribution be read. Her message “invited everyone in the Coop to take a break from their activities on BDS [the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement] throughout [sic] the end of the year.”

PRICES ARE UP 25% SINCE 2019. MEANWHILE, TRANSACTIONS ARE DOWN AND MEMBERS ARE BUYING FEWER ITEMS PER SHOP.

A note from member Noah Potter went unread, because a rule requires members' presence in order to have a note read aloud, and Potter was absent. It was suggested that Potter submit his message to the *Linewaiters' Gazette*.

Board member Keyian Vafai asked how products are chosen through the online product suggestion form.



GENERAL COORDINATORS REPORTS

General Manager and Treasurer Joe Szladdek addressed questions raised during the open forum. He explained that thousands of product suggestion forms are submitted through the Member Services website, and they are read by every staff person and taken into consideration without strict criteria. Buyers consider if the proposed product fits Coop standards, fills a gap, is local, good quality and whether it's affordable—or perhaps offers a more affordable version of something already being offered at the Coop.

Szladdek described the Coop's existing income-based plan, which offers a reduced markup for members on income assistance—a 21% markup instead of the standard 25% markup.

On the subject of harassment, he confirmed that members attending meetings are required to scan in—he walked into the meeting without scanning, and was called back to scan in. He also addressed friction at the Coop, in General Meetings and in the pages of the *Gazette*. “There's a lot of tension. We feel it here. Staff and other committees have been on the receiving end of a lot of really intense and sometimes quite nasty emails. It's very concerning,” Szladdek said. He advised members seeking to lodge complaints to go to the Dispute Resolution Committee, which has a process to handle complaints. He said he was sorry to learn that Elizabeth Tobier is resigning.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Szladdek presented a slideshow detailing the Coop's financial health. In general, costs are rising across the board. He reported that sales are up 9.2% in the first 32 weeks over the same period in the last year. Expenses, from payroll to insurance, however, went up 12.8% in the same period. Net income this fiscal year is negative at -\$457,000. He pointed out that that negative number may reflect summer sales that dwindle during months when members take vacations, and the fall could likely bring an uptick in sales. He reported that the Coop is looking for ways to manage rising costs, including by lowering the cost of accepting debit cards through a new service

provider.

Szladek informed the members that prices are up 25% across the board, since 2019. He also reported that transactions are down, and members are buying fewer items in each transaction. These shifts may reflect members who live further from the Coop, and thus shop there less frequently, as well as inflation.

GENERAL COORDINATOR REPORT

General Coordinator Matt Hoagland offered some numbers and perspective around recurring shifts and the waitlist. Recurring shifts are 50% of the work currently available at the Coop and around 50% of all recurring openings are filled (leaving 50% of recurring options available, which is over 3,000 shifts).

Using checkout and 6:00 p.m. evening shifts as the base example for popular shifts and stocking as an example of currently available recurring shifts, he reported there were no checkout or 6:00 p.m. recurring shifts available, but there were a lot of stocking recurring shifts with exception to M-Th, 7:30 p.m.

COOP CHEESEMONGER YURI WEBER WAS COMMENDED FOR BUYING A PALETTE OF GRUYERE FROM WISCONSIN, AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LONGSTANDING GRUYERE FROM SWITZERLAND.

The highest demand for a task on the waitlist is checkout and the most popular time is 6 pm, both by significant numbers. Checkout on Monday through Thursday at 6:00 p.m. is by far the most desired shift, but it only accounts for roughly 2% of total work done at the Coop. With a near 50/50 split of those shifts between recurring and freelance members, currently around 1% of the membership has access to 50% of the most desired work. The Coop staff has been fielding requests for more recurring shifts, though the challenge is that members tend to want the same few slots.

General Coordinator Elinor Astrinsky made a report concerning the impact of tariffs on products carried by the Coop. She explained that distributors have been trying to run down inventories and avoid shifting costs to consumers as long as possible. New shipments portend the end of that era. Health and beauty product prices have already increased between 5 and 30 percent. Swiss knives, coffee, Vietnamese shrimp, Australian and New Zealand lamb, and Swiss cheese are all examples of imported products with prices set to rise. "I think the most important part is that our buyers are consistently and constantly looking for alternatives, trying to get better deals, looking for more distributors, looking for people who will give us volume discounts, looking for new relationships." Astrinsky complimented Yuri Weber, the Coop's cheese buyer, for buying a palette of Gruyere from Wisconsin as an alternative to the longstanding Swiss Gruyere. The new Gruyere is being sold alongside the existing one, and Astrinsky suggested that Coop members sample it.

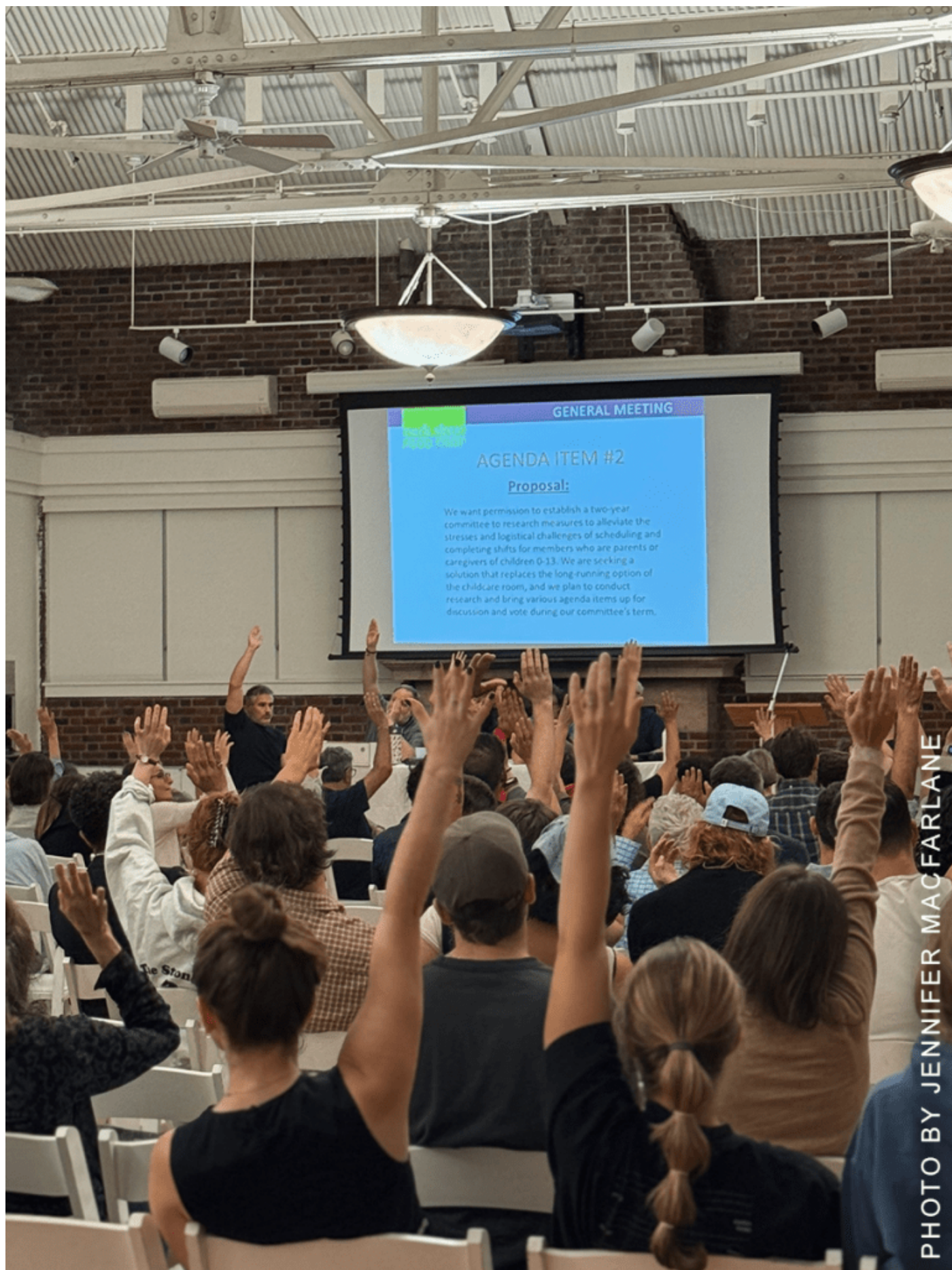


PHOTO BY JENNIFER MACFARLANE

AGENDA ITEM ONE: FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In the first agenda item, member Michael Freedman-Schnapp presented his previously-circulated idea for a financial advisory committee made up of members that would “help support the Coop during a period of transition and financial uncertainty that exists in the grocery industry across the country.” He cited tariffs, the pandemic, and inflation as reasons to create a delegated work committee of members with financial expertise to collaborate with the Coop’s financial team. Members queried and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal.

AGENDA ITEM TWO: PROPOSAL TO START A “CHILDCARE SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE” TO EXPLORE EQUITABLE OPTIONS IN PLACE OF IN-HOUSE CHILDCARE

Coop member Brian Russ proposed a two-year committee to research “measures to alleviate the stresses and logistical challenges of scheduling and completing shifts for members who are parents or caregivers of children under 13.” Russ has been endeavoring since 2022 to replace the former in-house childcare the Coop offered to parents while they shop. While increased insurance rates made restoring the previous arrangement cost-prohibitive despite widespread support from members, Russ proposed a committee to formulate alternatives. Membership Coordinator Jana Cunningham spoke to discuss her concern that the proposal is underdeveloped, and lacks details about the size of the committee or its goal. GC Elinor Astrinsky motioned to amend the “two-year committee” to a “one-year committee,” an amendment that was almost unanimously adopted. The proposal was approved 101 to 25.

AGENDA ITEM THREE: ELECTION FOR THE HEARING ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (HAC)

HAC member Dominique Bravo introduced HAC candidate Matt Cecil. Matt Cecil addressed the meeting, and was approved for a three-year term on the HAC, 104 to 12.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ELECTION FOR HEARING OFFICER COMMITTEE (HOC)

HOC member Catherine McCaw summarized the work of the HOC Committee. She then spoke on behalf of Andrea Hirshman, an HOC member who was not present but was up for reelection. HOC member Marian Hertz spoke on behalf of Julie Vasady Kovacs, who was also up for reelection. HOC members Marian Hertz and Liam Malanaphy, HOC members also up for reelection, both spoke on their own behalf. Hertz was reelected 108 to 8. Hirshman was reelected 104 to 10. Vasady Kovacs was reelected 104 to 10. Malanaphy was reelected 108 to 9.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Coop Secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the minutes from the July 29 and August 26 General Meetings. The former was approved and the latter was approved as amended.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

During the Board of Directors' meeting, the board moved to accept the membership's advice on Agenda Item 884, a proposal for hybrid General Meetings. The item received 66.43 % votes in favor through a referendum vote. The notion had previously been put forth as a by-law amendment. As a proposal, however, it required only a simple majority vote to pass, which it received. In fact, the proposal received more votes than any in Coop history. Board members Tess Brown-Lavoie, Tim Hospodar, Keyian Vafai, and Brandon West voted in favor of accepting the membership's advice. Board member Lynn Husum voted against. GM and board member Joe Szladdek abstained, reading a statement explaining his decision. He said, "I want to be clear on my position here: while I support the members' vote, I do not support this type of Board action." He summarized his views: "I respect the members' majority vote for hybrid; I recognize the Board's legal authority to act, though far outside of Coop norms; I am deeply concerned about again breaking 50 years of precedent; I am equally concerned about hybrid becoming entangled with divisive issues and forming the foundation for future governance; and I believe protecting norms and process is essential to

the long-term health of the Coop.” Szladek added that while he disagreed with how the process unfolded, he will respect its outcome, and help implement the change carefully and fairly.

All board members voted in favor to accept the members’ advice of the Hearing Administration Committee and Hearing Officer Committee Elections held earlier in the evening.

Susannah Jacob is a native Texan and PhD student of US history. She takes pride in her proficient operation of the slotted, plastic bag-taper machine in the Coop’s bulk department.

IT’S PUT YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY EVERY DAY AT THE COOP

October 28, 2025

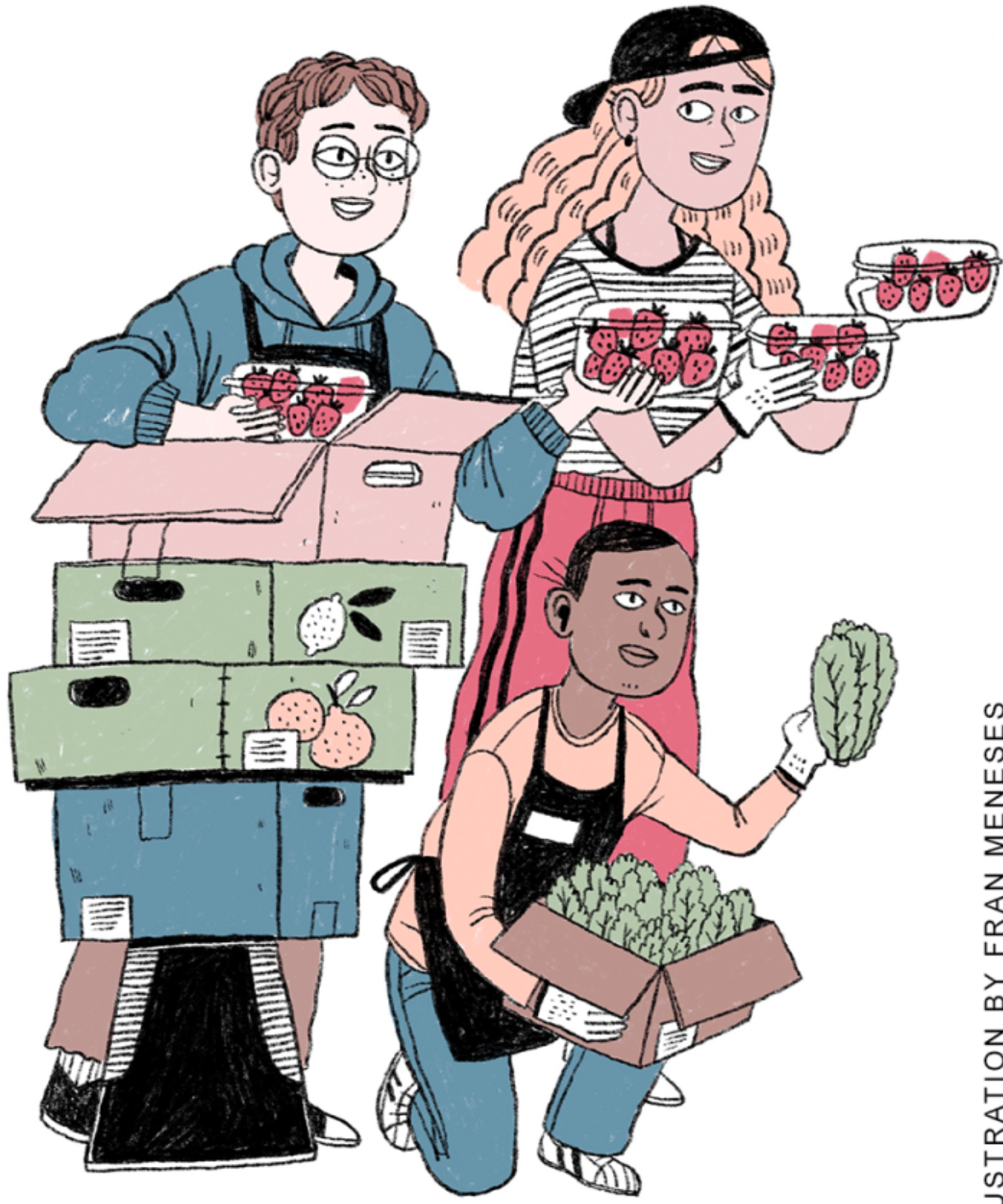


ILLUSTRATION BY FRAN MENESES

YOUNG LABORERS DEVELOP WORK ETHIC AND EARN POCKET MONEY—AND THEIR PARENTS' ETERNAL AFFECTION

October 28, 2025

By Liz Welch

My daughter just turned 14 this past September, and we've already begun exploring what kind of work experience she'd like to try now that she's legally allowed to work in New York State. Up until now, she has earned money caring for neighbors' cats and, on occasion, selling her artwork. I once mentioned babysitting as a possible teen job, to which she quickly replied: "Um, no thank you. I prefer cats to small children."

Fair enough, but not much of a résumé builder.

And then one day I spotted my dear friend Luise's teenage son Anatole stocking shelves at the Coop. "What are you doing?" I asked him.

He flashed his megawatt smile and said, "Working a shift for my parents."

I was flooded with thoughts—ranging from 'his parents are brilliant,' to, 'Wait, does the Coop *allow* this?'—which Anatole must have intuited, as he added: "When Bella turns 14, she can work here too."

Considering my husband just did a weekday 5:30 a.m. shift to avoid household suspension, I thought, "This is a triple-win!" She gets work experience, we get credit—and a break from the constant nail-biting brink of suspension—and she becomes a more conscious and connected member of a community where "work for food" takes on so many layered meanings.

My next question was, "How do we sign up?"

I spoke with Membership Coordinator Jana Cunningham who explained, "Any child

age 14 to 17 can work at the Coop with working papers—which need to be on file at the Coop. They can get these from the guidance counselor at their school (see “how” in sidebar below), bring them to the Coop along with a parent or guardian and we issue a card that says ‘working papers on file’ so we know they can legally work.”

Once again, I thought, Anatole’s parents truly are brilliant. And then I wondered, how many other adults with working-age children are aware of this?

“The policy has existed since the beginning of the Coop,” Cunningham says. “Most parents don’t seem to know about it.”

THIS IS A TRIPLE-WIN! SHE GETS WORK EXPERIENCE, WE GET CREDIT—AND A
BREAK FROM THE CONSTANT NAIL-BITING BRINK OF SUSPENSION

Currently, there are about 230 minors with work papers on file at the Coop. “We mostly have kids coming to work in the summertime,” Cunningham adds. “September to June, fewer kids work.”

Anatole is a high school senior, and veteran “working-papers-on-file” Coop member. Now 17, he started doing shifts at age 14—and has since clocked more than 20.

He says that he enjoys the work. “You meet so many interesting people at the Coop,” he tells me. “And you learn a lot about them by what is in their shopping cart.”

When probed, he admits that this was entirely his parents’ idea. The incentive? “Snacks,” he says. “If I work my shift and shop for the family, I’m rewarded with complete freedom when it comes to buying snacks.”

I spoke to another young worker named William who got his working papers in spring 2025, when he was still in eighth grade. Both of his parents are school teachers who

thought having him clock shifts would be a good way to learn about responsibility, and William says “getting good work experience” was his reason for signing on. He has worked six shifts thus far and says he likes the Coop’s overall “vibe.”

“The customers are also workers, so everyone has filled the same roles,” he explains. “Knowing that makes me feel secure—no one is looking down on you.”



Cunningham says the staff love working with young people. “They’re more willing, even if they’re not as capable! They’re excited to do anything 99.9% of the time.”

There are rules pertaining to what minors can and cannot do. For instance, they must stay on the Coop property, which means they can’t do cart returns. Nor can they work in the basement, or at the checkout. “We don’t want them handling beer,” Cunningham explains. “It’s not a NYS requirement! But that’s unique to us.”

Max, who is currently in tenth grade, has been working for more than a year. When he signed up, his mother Makela came in to work his first shift with him.

‘IT’S A PREVIEW TO WORKING MY FIRST JOB,’ A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SAYS.
‘PLUS, I KNOW MY WAY AROUND THE PLACE BECAUSE I’VE BEEN GOING SINCE I
WAS LITTLE.’

“We did a receiving shift together,” she explains. “The receiving coordinator said it was great to do it that way.”

“It’s a preview to working my first job,” Max says. “Plus, I know my way around the place because I’ve been going since I was little.”

Makela pays Max to do shifts as she and her wife view the work as incredibly helpful for their family. “He takes it seriously,” she says.

Max says he has learned that he likes working with people. “On my second shift, the receiving coordinator said there was another kid who was working for the first time,” Max says. “He said, ‘Show him the ropes!’” Max did—and declares, “He was a natural!”

READ BEFORE DELEGATING:

If there’s a child aged 14 to 17 in your household, here is what you need in order for them to work your Coop shift:

- **Fill out a NY Application for Employment Certificate** found in the guidance counselor’s office at your child’s school. If your child is homeschooled, go to your zoned school. The application can also be downloaded from The New York State Department of Education.
- To complete the application, your child needs a **birth certificate** as proof of age

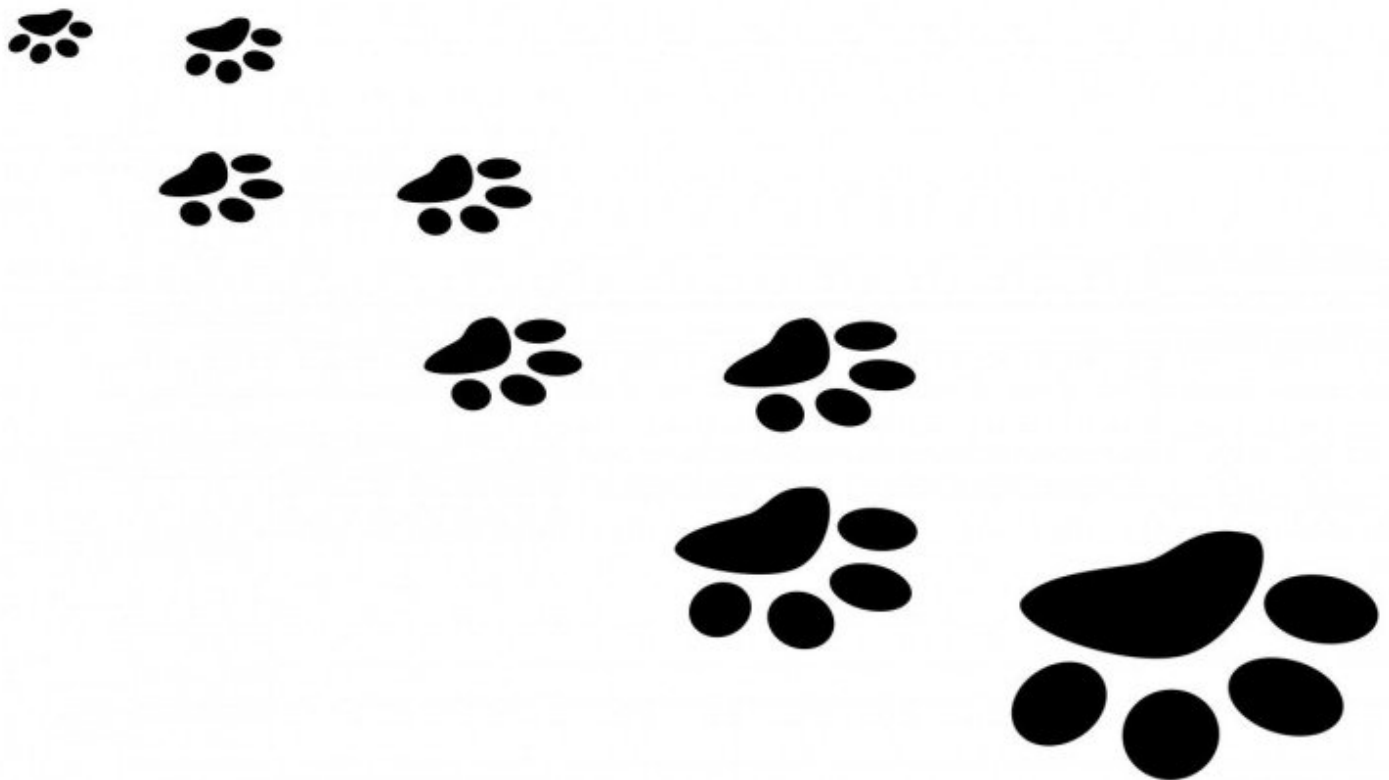
and a **doctor's note** stating that the child is fit for employment.

- Once the application is approved by the counselor, the parent must accompany the child to the Coop to **get the child's own dedicated Coop card and number**. Prior to this fall, the minor's card had the name and photo of one of their Coop member parents or guardians along with a "work papers on file" declaration. That policy has just recently changed so the child can now get their own personal card, with their photo on it. This allows the child to both work shifts and shop. On that note, if your child has an old card with your photo on it, please have them come get a new card with their photo.
- The child must **bring their card when they work**—as the "work papers on file" identification makes their labor legal in the state of NY. As for their Coop "committee" it will be designated as CHILD.
- **Important note:** any child of a Coop member is entitled to shop at the Coop, with or without working papers. If you would like your child to shop independently, bring them to the office to get their own Coop card.
- For those who want to work, once the child's paperwork is on file at the Coop, the adult they're "working for" can **sign them up for shifts** using the adult's number.
- **Once a minor turns 18**, they can continue working shifts for their household as they're no longer required to do their own work shifts as they had historically had to do. That new rule was passed in 2023, as it was too difficult for kids who went to college to keep up with their Coop work commitment. Now, if a college-aged kid (between 18 and 22) lives at home, they must *join* the Coop as a member, contribute the \$100 investment fee—either all at once or via a payment plan—and join the work-exempt "Youth Committee."
- **Important caveat:** the "Youth Committee" simply means the member is between the ages of 18 and 22. It does not require shifts. Also, it does not require that the "youth" live with Coop members. So anyone aged 18 to 21 can join the PSFC, get a membership card that designates them as "Youth Committee", and therefore shop without working shifts. When that person turns 22, they are required to start working shifts.

Liz Welch is a journalist, memoirist, and book collaborator.

A DOG DAY AFTERNOON AT THE COOP

October 28, 2025



A PACK OF COOP CANINES SAT AND WAGGED FOR MEMBER-PHOTOGRAPHER JACKSON KRULE

Words by Anita Bushell and Photography by Jackson Krule

October 28, 2025

They sit or they lie down on the sidewalk, patiently waiting for their human to return.

If the timing is right, they meet others like them during Canine Rush Hours (after school, when parents and their children stop by for a quick shop with their dogs in tow; or when people grab a few things before dinner while taking dogs for their evening walk). “Sometimes there is a whole pack out there!” says Elly Dittmar, Membership Coordinator and dog admirer.

A beat-up aluminum dog bowl lives by the bench near the entrance. Sometimes a walking shift worker fills it; other times a dog owner is moved to do so. It’s not a scientific system, and there’s only one rule: Dogs must be secured to the bench, and away from the door. “I think it would be great if we could add a dog shift,” said a Coop member named Ronna, whose dog Shelby accompanies her to and from the Coop. “Everyone would want that job!”



PHOTO BY JACKSON KRULE

ALL TIED UP

“The Coop is the only place I would ever tie her up. She’s safe.” – Ronna, Shelby’s

owner



AT YOUR SERVICE

"Millie likes coming to the Coop if it's not too crowded. She has some human friends who she's gotten to know. She also knows the aisle where the treats are!" - Rebecca, Millie's owner



FIERCE ATTACHMENTS

"I hope he doesn't take too long. I wonder what they sell in there..." - Miranda, waiting for her owner

Anita Bushell is a freelance writer and native New Yorker. She recently published One Way to Whitefish, a novel.

Jackson Krule is a New York based photographer. He graduated from The Tisch School of the Arts at New York University in 2014. He is currently the Senior Visual Producer at The Players' Tribune.

CHAIR COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

October 28, 2025



October 28, 2025

The Chair Committee administers the monthly General Meetings of the Coop. The Chair Committee oversees the execution of meeting agendas as set by the Agenda Committee.

We seek members with extensive experience in developing, maintaining and facilitating hybrid virtual and in-person meetings. Selected members may either serve on an ad hoc tech committee to design hybrid meetings, and/or stay on as permanent members of the Chair Committee to run the virtual component of GMs.

Applicants should have at least a minimum of three years of Coop membership before applying for this committee, experience working shifts at the Coop and excellent attendance.

The Committee meets monthly at the General Meeting. Additional work and meetings outside the scheduled time will be required.

If you have the relevant work experience and Coop tenure and are interested in serving the Coop in this capacity, please email your resume and a letter explaining your interest in and qualifications for this important Committee to psfcchair@gmail.com. Please put "Chair Committee Application" in the subject line.

Deadline for Applications: November 15, 2025

Diversity Statement: We seek an application pool that reflects the diversity of the Coop's membership.

NEWLY FORMED FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

October 28, 2025



October 28, 2025

The Family Support Committee was voted into existence at the September 30, 2025 - General Meeting and now seeks to assemble a dedicated team of diverse members. The goal of the Family Support Committee is to come up with ways to return the Coop to its former, more family-friendly model similar to when childcare was an option for shoppers and those doing their shifts. As a committee, over the course of one year, we plan to survey current members, analyze work slot patterns and collaborate with Coop leadership to introduce new policies that better support families.

We are eager to incorporate a broad range of voices and perspectives, with a particular emphasis on engaging parents, as this committee aims to address their unique needs as they navigate work and parenting.

When the Coop's childcare program ended around the time of Covid, we first fought to bring it back, but due to many outside factors it became nearly impossible to make childcare a part of the Coop again.

Scheduling, managing and completing shifts is no doubt a challenge for any adult with a full-time job; but for working parents, especially those with children aged 0-12, it can be nearly impossible. As members of the Coop for over 17 years, Brian Russ and Lauren Belski, who proposed this committee, have seen the frustrations parents went through when the Coop ended its childcare program. We know many families who had no choice but to leave the Coop completely.

The Family Support Committee is seeking 4-8 new members and members will be awarded workslot credits for their work. Meetings will take place every six weeks and be conducted either online or in person when possible. Members will be allocated specific tasks, and will be required to conduct research or compile findings outside of meeting times.

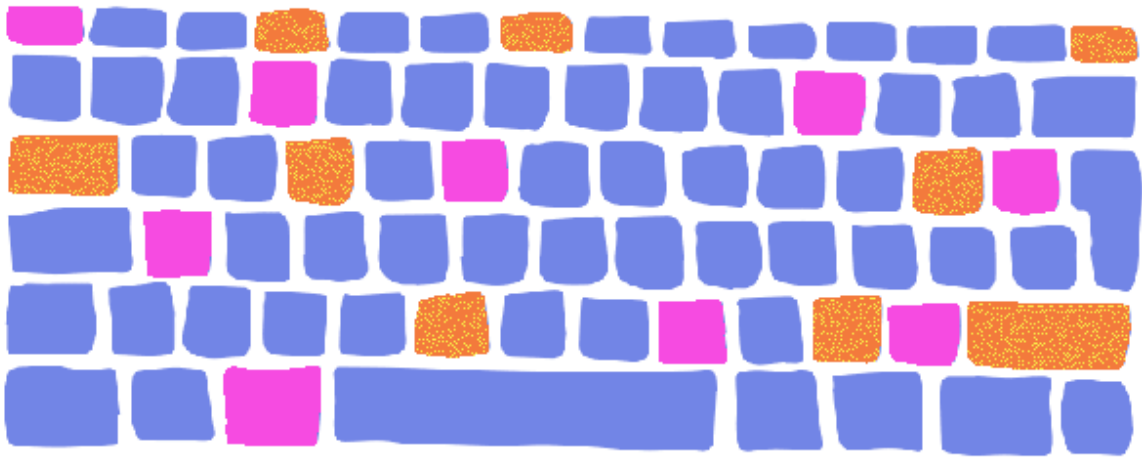
In one year's time we aim to report back to Coop leadership team with a solid four to five actionable changes in policy that will relieve the stresses of being a Coop member while also being a working parent.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Family Support Committee, please send an email to Lauren Belski (lauren.belski@gmail.com) and Brian Russ (bruss81@gmail.com). In your message, please explain your family situation, why you would be interested in joining this committee and a few ideas you may already have brewing.

OCTOBER 28, 2025

October 28, 2025

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



CARRYING OUT THE WILL OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Dear members,

I write as an individual board member, not on behalf of the Board.

During the September General Meeting, a majority of the Board voted to enable hy-

brid General Meetings to fulfill our mandate to carry out the will of the membership while remaining in legal compliance.

Here is the background: Members discussed the proposal for hybrid meetings (#884) in September 2024, sharing enthusiasm, support, concerns and technical questions. While many proposals are voted on shortly after they're discussed, this vote was delayed. General Coordinators claimed they needed a larger venue and couldn't secure one. They ignored recommendations by Agenda Committee and board members, including holding a meeting virtually. In an unprecedented stalemate, the Board was unable to receive the will of the membership through normal mechanisms. Joe Holtz called this a "governance crisis."

At the April 2025 GM, the Board voted to enable all members to vote on Hybrid via electronic ballot (a referendum). Holtz told the authors of #884 that their measure must be a bylaws amendment, which requires a two-thirds majority to pass. However, the legal team determined that was unnecessary. A strong majority—66.43% of members—voted for hybrid GMs. The Board had a clear legal duty to carry this out, despite the circuitous route.

I sincerely regret that this process has left some members feeling blindsided. In the future, when board members have discussion items, I recommend we publish them alongside the rest of the GM Agenda, as we did in September.

When normal protocols fail, we must bring our creativity and collaborative ethic to bear. Proving we can work across differences is increasingly important in this political and cultural climate. I hope and believe the Coop can be a rare example in this regard.

In cooperation,

Tess Brown-Lavoie

Vice President, PSFC Board

General Manager Joe Szladek Responds to Brown-Lavoie:

I want to clarify a few points from Tess Brown-Lavoie's letter about hybrid General Meetings (GMs). I appreciate Tess's engagement and commitment to open dialogue.

Tess wrote that the General Coordinators "claimed they needed a larger venue and couldn't secure one." The need for a larger space was not a claim but a practical reality we communicated to the Agenda Committee for months. The proposal became linked to a boycott of Israeli goods through emails circulated by a member group, *PS-FC Members for Palestine*. In one such email, the group wrote: "*Hybrid GMs will also let us finally vote on boycotting Israel.*" Based on experience with previous contentious topics, we knew our regular meeting space could not safely or fairly accommodate the expected turnout.

We did secure two larger venues—City Tech and a church auditorium in Sunset Park. City Tech later canceled after receiving messages from individuals outside the Coop, and the church withdrew after learning of the topic and possible demonstrations. We kept the Agenda Committee informed and continued searching for alternatives.

Tess also wrote that the GCs "ignored recommendations... including holding a meeting virtually." We did not ignore those ideas. The GCs simply do not have the authority to move a GM online outside of a declared public health emergency. That authority rests with the GM and Board, and we have always respected that boundary.

Finally, when the Board voted on April 29, it did still believe a bylaw amendment was required for hybrid GMs. However, on May 23, Joe Holtz informed members that legal counsel had since advised otherwise and that only a simple majority was needed. The Board then had about ten days to adjust the referendum before it was mailed but did not do so.

PROTECTING THE COOP

Dear Coop members:

At the September GM, four of the five elected directors voted to authorize hybrid meetings, tasking the Chair Committee—apparently without its consent—to figure out implementation. This action violated established procedures as well as the trust of the membership. That they have now done this twice should concern all of us. They appear increasingly emboldened to act independently of the General Meeting and at their own discretion.

This situation arose because a group of Coop members believe it is appropriate to exploit the Coop's reputation in support of a movement that seeks to end the existence of the State of Israel.

I suggest three actions to end this quagmire and refocus on what the Coop does best—food.

1. **Hold a referendum** asking the membership:

“Do you want the Coop to continue using its resources to discuss joining the BDS movement?”

Responses: Yes or No.

Issue this referendum without any further explanation or commentary.

2. **Hold a referendum** on the 75% supermajority for boycotts, combining the two related items currently in the agenda queue. Each side may submit a statement of up to 200 words. The arguments have already been published in the *Gazette* and can be restated succinctly.

3. **Hold an open discussion** to brainstorm how to protect the Coop when highly contentious issues are introduced. We currently have no process for vetting agenda

submissions or requiring opposing sides to meet. Our discussion format is inadequate for complex issues: there is no opportunity for a prepared counter-presentation, no control over who speaks, no mechanism to verify information, and no opportunity for rebuttal.

Let's make the Coop fun again.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mazor

IN PROTEST OF BOARD POLITICAL ACTIVISM WITHIN THE COOP

To the Members:

I have been a member of our Coop for 35 years. My current workslot is serving as secretary. My primary activity as Coop secretary is recording General Meeting minutes. Effective upon my submission of the September GM minutes to the Coop office for member circulation, I will resign as secretary in protest of the uncooperative, self-seeking and destructive actions of our current board of directors.

This Board is using the Coop as a political tool and a resume-builder. These people are blind and uncaring about the havoc they wreak. They think they have the right, but they are wrong. We don't have a board to set Coop policy. Membership along with the coordinating staff are sufficient for this purpose.

I will also be suspending my Coop membership.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Tobier

FOOD CLASS: A COOKIE PARTY!

October 28, 2025

The Park Slope Food Coop Cooking Squad Presents

A COOKIE PARTY

November 19 @ 7:30 pm

— Bake three different cookies in one hour —

NO MIXER NEEDED!



Thumbprints



Lemon Crinkles



Crystallized Ginger
& Molasses

Class is FREE,
online, and
open to all!



Meet Camille, your cookie chef!

Three fun facts about Camille:

- 1 Camille bakes cookies and eats cookies.
- 2 Camille has been a member of the Park Slope Food Coop for 22 years.
- 3 Camille has been on staff for 18 years.



TO REGISTER:
foodcoopcooks.org/rsvp
IG: foodcoopcooks

IG: camillecooks1

Join us with Guest Chef Camille to make “Three Different Cookies” on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. EST as part of the Coop’s monthly cooking series. The class will be streamed online via Zoom. We will be making Thumbprints, Lemon Crinkles, and Crystallized Ginger and Molasses Cookies!

ABOUT THE CHEF

Camille has been a member of the Coop for 22 years and bakes and eats cookies! She has also been on the Coop staff for 18 years. Follow her on Instagram @camille-cooks1.

RSVP, PARTICIPATE AND FOLLOW

Sign up for classes, download recipes, and find shopping lists to cook along from home at foodcoopcooks.org. As classes are added, they will show up on the Squad’s home page. Check back regularly for updates! Follow the Cooking Squad on Instagram at [instagram.com/foodcoopcooks](https://www.instagram.com/foodcoopcooks) for more content including shopping sessions with guest chefs!

TEACH A CLASS

Though cooperation is at the heart of the Coop’s mission, so is food! The Cooking Committee is looking for guest chefs to share their food expertise, traditions, and special treats. Members receive FTOP credit for preparing and delivering classes. Tell us what you want to teach at foodcoopcooks.org/contact.