

## **2019 Board Candidate Statements:**

### **Elise Carey, owner #275 – three year term ending June 2022**

I have just completed serving a 1 year term on the Purple Carrot Market Co-Op board. Prior to my being elected to the board, I was only an owner for a short time, and relatively new to the Little Falls area. This first year has been filled with much learning and has given me a greater sense of where we are in our journey to opening our market, and where my strengths can be used in being a part of seeing that happen.

I bring experience from volunteering in Co-Ops previously established here in the United States and abroad, pioneering new initiatives abroad, some tech experience, and bring a strong ethos of eating locally grown / produced and seasonally grown food, having a source to obtain such produce, and having a local market where I can have input. ( For some time, I ran a small 'pop-up' restaurant and sourced much of my ingredients from farmer's markets and a local co-op. )

I am interested in serving as a part of ownership development, participating in the running of events, helping to develop our social media presence and help with website development and website content. I am the librarian at the Franciscan Sisters, run the seed library there, and am a local Farmer's Market vendor.

### **Cathy Hartle, owner #4 – three year term ending June 2022**

I am running for a second term on the board of directors because I really want to see the Purple Carrot Market come to fruition for the Little Falls area! Over the last several years I've become much more aware of the importance of healthy foods to our overall well-being, and a part of the nutritional value of foods is their freshness. I also am a believer that this coop market will be a significant asset to our community: the downtown area, our local farmers and producers, and in building and strengthening our community in less tangible ways.

I have a professional background in strengthening organizations, and bring some of that experience to help us grow to the next level. I currently serve as the board president. During this next term I would like to really work on board continuity, systems and succession to help ensure smooth transitions as we continue to grow and ultimately open our market.

### **Cynthia Johnson, owner # 329 – three year term ending June 2022**

\*Return to sustainability \*Reduce capitalism \*Support local \*Feed each other \*Know my farmers, goods providers \*Empower. Interact. Voice \*Educate our younger generations.

In the mid 80's, I was a member of The Good Earth Food Co-op in St. Cloud, MN. I enjoyed the people I met and learned from. I was very interested in health, nutrition, well-being of the body. I have longed for a co-op nearer to my area. I believe there is a need more than ever to have a member owned and local goods sourced cooperative. The loss of so many local farms and ranches in our area, the commercial application of chemicals on our animals, fibers and foods, and the lack of sustainable skills in

the younger people is becoming concerning to all. The knowledge we grew up learning from our backyard gardens, participating in 4-H, working on a farm seems to have gone by the wayside for many with the growth of technology. I believe balance in capitalism, consumerism, and sustainability needs to grow. We have seen the loss of so many individual, non-franchised grocers and goods stores that has negatively impacted many. Yet now many of the corporate stores are marketing a return to the "small store" service that they took away when they flooded the towns with their business. We can support where we wish our food come from, what is or is not applied to them from the ground up. We can educate others to support our local artisans for our home goods and products, clothing. I believe a co-op can feed its members and non members, a co-op can educate its people, not only in its benefits, but in learning from its providers and artisans. I have been self teaching myself how to work with fiber, spinning and weaving in between my previous employment as a 911 operator. I have alpacas, llamas, chickens and ducks. I am currently the "Soil Amendment Supervisor" at our ranch, as well handling the alpacas and llamas, and planter of pollinator food. I have assisted with Social Media pages, preformatted web site management, and have newsletter experience with my previous employments and volunteering. I enjoy learning and sharing information through these channels, as well as in person. I am willing to share these skills with the Purple Carrot Market if there is a place for me.

**Natalie Keane (representing Sprout, owner #167) – three year term ending June 2022**

**What excites you about being a member of the Purple Carrot Market board of directors?** The Purple Carrot is really gathering momentum. As we continue to build ownership, we get closer to achieving the vision of the store, and it's been exciting to see each tick up in the ownership numbers as they come in. Since I work with Sprout's shared use commercial kitchen, it is really cool to be working toward the vision locally produced value-added foods as an offering in the store.

**What skills and experiences would you bring to the board?** I have two years of co-op management experience including buying from both local producers and national distributors. I hold many certifications in food safety and writing food safety plans. I am also growing my skills in website management, marketing, and customer relations management.

**What co-op issues are important to you?** Now that the co-op has its home in the downtown location, I am really interested in how it can act as a community anchor and hub that reverberates vibrancy across downtown. I love how a co-op can start a chain reaction of new entrepreneurs, especially food entrepreneurs.

**Do you have specific goals you would like to accomplish as a board member?** I have been acting as Secretary and I find it fulfilling to document the Board meetings and keep the information organized. It is very important in the sustainability of the co-op that institutional knowledge is retained and accessible to future Board members, owners and staff. I value the transparency this brings to the table, and makes the work more efficient in the long run since it decreases the need for re-work.