

Approved 5/18/2016

**Grain Train Natural Food Cooperative**  
**General Membership Meeting April 30th, 2016**  
**North Central Michigan College Cafeteria, 5:30 pm**

**Ends Statement:** Grain Train Natural Food Cooperative exists so that our community is inspired to make well-informed healthy choices that support both people and planet.

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**Board Members in Attendance:** John Paul Westbrook (J.P.) – President, Meagan Krzywosinski – Vice President, David Heidtke - Treasurer, Hal Willens – Secretary, Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Paula Welmers, Jim Tisdell, Lynn Wolf, Mark Blaauw-Hara

**Doors Opened at 5:30 pm.** Dining began and voting via paper ballot moved from the store to the General Membership Meeting (GMM). The Meeting Agenda, 2015 Report of Condition, Board Report, and Financial Condition Report were provided to attendees as handouts available on each table. All reports are attached to these minutes.

**Voting Closed at 6:00 pm.** The Election Committee, composed of Board Member Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Owner Susan Conklin and Staff Member Andrew Schneider left the room to conduct the vote count. The Election Committee downloaded certified results from Simply Voting and added paper ballot results to the totals obtained therefrom.

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.** Board President J. P. Westbrook called the meeting to order, determined Quorum, introduced the Board of Directors, and summarized the Board Report. Board Treasurer David Heidtke summarized the Financial Condition Report. General Manager Robert (Bob) Struthers spoke about the changes the region has experienced which have affected the Grain Train, summarized some achievements of 2015, and presented a survey to Members in attendance, which is attached to these minutes.

**Open Member Forum** – Bob answered questions and addressed comments from Members in attendance.

**Election Results** – 2016 Election Committee Chair Allie Greenleaf Maldonado presented the results of the election. A total of 238 verified ballots were cast, 198 of which were cast electronically prior to the meeting. The remaining 40 ballots were cast on paper in the stores and at the GMM.

- Board Secretary Hal Willens was reelected to a three year term with 177 votes.
- Board President J. P. Westbrook and Board Member Paula Welmers were each reelected with 175 votes, one to a three year term and one to a two year term; tie to be addressed at the May Board Meeting.
- Board Member Mark Blaauw-Hara was elected to a three year term with 183 votes.
- Board Member Lynn Wolf was elected to a two year term with 159 votes.

The Board would like to thank candidate Edgar Jacobs for his interest in serving the Grain Train on its Board of Directors.

Staff conducted a raffle for various gift baskets and presented baskets to winning attendees.

**7:30 pm, meeting adjourned.**

# SURVEY QUESTION #1

A. What percentage of your natural and organic groceries do you buy elsewhere?

≤10%    11-25%    26-50%    51-75%    >75%

B. Why?

C. Has this percentage changed in the last five years?

Increased    Decreased    Same

# SURVEY QUESTION #2

When choosing a market, which of these characteristics are important to you. Rank each from 1-5 based on their level of importance to you: (1 = least important; 5 = most important)

- Location
- Convenience
- Customer Service/Friendly Staff
- Cleanliness
- Quality/Freshness
- Natural/Organic
- Product Selection
- Price
- Reliability/Products in Stock

# SURVEY QUESTION #3

How does the Grain Train rank in each of these categories:  
(1 = least important; 5 = most important)

- Location
- Convenience
- Customer Service/Friendly Staff
- Cleanliness
- Quality/Freshness
- Natural/Organic
- Product Selection
- Price
- Reliability/Products in Stock

# SURVEY QUESTION #4

What are the top three items you buy elsewhere?  
Why?

# SURVEY QUESTION #5

A. How often do you shop in the Bulk Department?

- Daily     Weekly     Monthly     Never

B. What three bulk items do you most often purchase?

C. What bulk items would you like to see the Grain Train carry that we currently do not?

# SURVEY QUESTION #5

- continued -

D. Why do you purchase bulk items? Check all that apply.

Pricing     Convenience     Selection

Other \_\_\_\_\_

E. What prevents you from shopping in the Grain Train Bulk Department?

# SURVEY QUESTION #6

Are you shopping at the Grain Train more or less than last year?

More

Less

Same

Why?



## SURVEY QUESTION #7

What are the top three reasons you hear people say why they don't shop at the Grain Train.