

**GRAIN TRAIN NATURAL FOOD COOPERATIVE
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM) • SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018
North Central Michigan College Cafeteria, 5:30-7:30 PM**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Meagan Krzywosinski – President, Lynn Wolf – Vice President, David Heidtke – Treasurer, Mark Blaauw-Hara – Secretary, Paula Welmers, Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Jim Tisdell, John Paul Westbrook (J.P.)

5:30 PM: DOORS OPENED

Dining began and voting via paper ballot moved from the stores to the General Membership Meeting (GMM). Music was provided by the North Carolines and a slide show of notable statistics for the Grain Train in 2017 was projected at the front of the room. The Meeting Agenda, 2017 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.

6:00 PM: VOTING CLOSED AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Election Committee, composed of board Secretary Mark Blaauw-Hara, owner Marla Houghteling and staff member Dylan Taylor, left the room to conduct the vote count. The Election Committee downloaded certified results of the online election from Simply Voting and added to that the paper ballot results.

Board President Meagan Krzywosinski called the meeting to order, determined quorum, and introduced the Board of Directors. She thanked the Grain Train Deli and staff for their efforts in arranging the evening's event and thanked The North Carolines for music/entertainment. She also recognized the entire Grain Train team as well as General Manager Robert (Bob) Struthers for their work over the course of the year.

General Manager Robert (Bob) Struthers reviewed 2017, noting trends in the marketplace, growth by department, and summarizing the achievements over the past year. A number of questions and comments from the audience were addressed at this time as well.

Kate Melby, Communications and Education Coordinator at the Emmet County Department of Public Works, presented the Grain Train with the 2018 Emmet County Recycling Award, commenting on the Grain Train's long history of waste reduction and stating, "We could not imagine a better recycler of the year and your diligent efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle."

Board Treasurer David Heidtke summarized the Financial Conditions Report.

General Manager Robert (Bob) Struthers and Board President Meagan Krzywosinski discussed, "Looking Toward the Future" and the efforts over the past 1-2 years to craft a well-rounded, fitting mission statement. Bob noted that the mission statement is just one of the value statements the Grain Train operates under—the goal being to make a difference in our community, our region and in the world—thus, "Making a difference, one bite at a time."

Further discussion centered on the future of the Grain Train. Bob presented the results of the recent informal survey asking members their views on whether the Grain Train should stay or move out of downtown Petoskey. Meagan addressed the efforts of the board to communicate monthly with the membership via e-mail and the positive comments received.

Discussion of the new Grain Train Market Cafe opening this summer in the Mitchell Street location of the previous Grand Traverse Pie Company was met with enthusiasm and with many comments from the membership. Chef, Paul Ramey was introduced and he briefly spoke about his excitement to be a part of the Grain Train, his passion for local, fresh foods, expressing his own philosophy that, "Every bite is important."

OPEN MEMBER FORUM

A question and answer session with the members in attendance followed.

ELECTION RESULTS

Board Secretary Mark Blaauw-Hara presented the results of the election, with Drew Anderson, John Paul (J.P.) Westbrook and Lynn Wolf elected to the Board of Directors.

Grain Train staff conducted a raffle and presented gift baskets to winning attendees.

A motion for adjournment was made and seconded by the membership.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:25 PM.