

# Candidate Statements 2019

## ERIK HAGSTROM

EDUCATION: University of San Diego

**1. Why do you want to serve on the Grain Train Co-op Board of Directors?**

Passionate about our local coop and people eating healthy.

**2. What are you passionate about?**

**How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?**

Sports, family, Northern Michigan, and people. I run a business and interact with people every day.

**3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team?**

**How did you compromise for the team's benefit?**

I work on teams for a living. I am a digital marketing consultant, so I come alongside businesses and give valuable input.

**4. Do you have other experiences that you believe are related to the work of the Board?**

Serving on previous boards.



## LINDSAY HALL

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability

**1. Why do you want to serve on the Grain Train Co-op Board of Directors?**

I believe that a coop should represent the people it is made up of and serves. The Grain Train is a place of huge potential for people to gather, share and support. I am very passionate about northern Michigan and want the community here to thrive and feel supported. I hope to do my part by representing and contributing new ideas that will benefit the community.

**2. What are you passionate about?**

**How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?**

I'm passionate about living a healthy lifestyle and connecting with place and people. I'm currently working for a local non-profit where I am able to speak for our land, encourage human-nature connection and engage with the community. I love being outside, exercising, and cooking amazingly vibrant food with local fruits and vegetables!

**3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team?**

**How did you compromise for the team's benefit?**

As a new employee at my current job, I am able to offer a fresh perspective and energy. I love to take on projects that require thorough and detailed work which often results in effective organization. I also enjoy assisting others with their projects and offering a hand whenever possible. I compromise by remaining open and flexible.

**4. Do you have other experiences that you believe are related to the work of the Board?**

I've had the opportunity to work for two local non-profits whose work primarily focuses on food and/or environment. These experiences provide me with knowledge of successful board and committee structures as well as on the ground experience interacting with community members, their struggles and their desires.

**5. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?**

As a long time member of this community, I am really excited to share ideas for the future of Grain Train. I am also eager to learn more and hear new perspectives of other board members and coop members. I feel as though I have a unique, youthful voice that would aid in the development of the coop.



# Candidate Statements 2019

## **SAMANTHA MALLEIS**

**EDUCATION:** Associates of Applied Science—Early Childhood Education



**1. Why do you want to serve on the Grain Train Co-op Board of Directors?**

I would like to serve on the Board of Directors because I care that the Grain Train not only survives for generations, but thrives. I believe food has an exceptional ability to heal and connect both people and the planet. The Grain Train has a unique opportunity to create a business that adds immense value to peoples' lives and truly impacts our communities. As a member on the board I would look to find ways for the Grain Train to operate in a model that is sustainable and supports practices that build a healthy business and a healthy community.

**2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?**

My greatest inspirations come from nature and children. It is those inspirations that fuel my passions of creating and maintaining healthy, thriving communities, showing kindness to and healing the Earth, and creating things with my hands. These passions can be seen in my work as a mother, friend, gardener/farmer, activist, and artist.

**3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?**

One of the most relevant experiences of me working on a team is working for the Grain Train for three years. I spent one year working at the Petoskey store, and two years working at the Boyne City store. In that time I believe I contributed organization, exceptional customer service, flexibility, a passion for healthy foods, and a positive attitude. Working in customer service is almost always a compromise, but I did my best to serve both the customer and our organization's interests.

**4. Do you have other experiences that you believe are related to the work of the Board?**

I have also served on one other board, Head Starts' policy council, where I was both a regional representative and one of two state representatives for Northwest Michigan.

## **PAULA WELMERS**

**EDUCATION:** Undergraduate and Graduate degrees from the University of Michigan, Doctorate from Eastern Michigan University in Educational Leadership.



**1. Why do you want to serve on the Grain Train Co-op Board of Directors?**

I want to return to the Grain Train Board of directors because I believe in the importance of maintaining an in-town source for healthy foods, in an environment that is welcoming to the public and respectful of its staff. As a current board member, I want to continue to be involved in the development of our new downtown Petoskey cafe/restaurant, because, like the downtown stores in Petoskey and Boyne City, healthy quality food offered at reasonable cost is important to the health of our community.

**2. What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?**

I love helping others achieve their full potential. I have lived in the Petoskey area since 1974, only recently having retired from a career as an academic and career counselor at North Central Michigan College. At NCMC, I had the enormous satisfaction of helping people launch their careers, or just as often, redirect themselves when their life paths needed to go a different direction.

**3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?**

I was a member of many teams or committees during my entire work career. In my later years, I was team facilitator for a group of 10-15 people, with the aim of training and sharing and consensus-building. I am continually surprised by the quality of problem-solving that comes via listening to many voices rather than relying on a single opinion.

**4. Do you have other experiences that you believe are related to the work of the Board?**

As a public employee, I was always held accountable to the public, so as a Board member for a co-operative business, I am sensitive to serving the needs of many, not just a narrow core.

**5. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?**

I care about the health of our community and our neighbors, whether it's what we are putting into our bodies or the direction we are taking them. I hope you will give me the opportunity to continue this work.

# Candidate Statements 2019

## HAL WILLENS

EDUCATION: MD 1975



**1. Why do you want to serve on the Grain Train Co-op Board of Directors?**

I would like to continue my service to the Grain Train by serving another term on the board.

**2. What are you passionate about?**

**How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?**

I am committed to promoting the value of local, healthy food to a vibrant and healthy lifestyle, and as a vital component of our local economy.

**3. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team?**

**How did you compromise for the team's benefit?**

I have served on the Grain Train board as a collaborative and productive member. We have successfully worked together, entertaining various viewpoints, and reaching productive decisions that reflects our diversity.

**4. Do you have other experiences that you believe are related to the work of the Board?**

I have served for three concurrent terms on the Grain Train Board, and served on this board during the move into the Mitchell St store. I have often called on this experience to bring value to our board discussions.