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48,000 US Cooperatives Celebrate National Cooperative Month



Outpost Owners Gear Up To Vote

During the month of October, cooperatives across the country will celebrate Co-op Month in many ways. In Milwaukee, Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative will be encouraging their owners to have a voice in the running of their business by holding their annual board of directors election.

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their member owners. Comprised of members of the community, owners actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the ownership. In co-ops, owners have equal voting rights (one owner, one vote).

"Cooperatives are different from other forms of business because of the principles that guide every cooperative, define their unique democratic structure and express their direct accountability to their member owners," said Sheldon Petersen, CEO and Governor of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. Petersen said the lives of more than 120 million Americans are improved daily by cooperative private businesses that generate more than \$500 billion in annual economic activity.

With a strong commitment to running their business in an environmentally conscious manner, Outpost's board has committed to holding its election in a "green" fashion.

- Owners have the option to vote for board candidates online
- Electronic voting reduces the impact of paper production on the planet and if Outpost's nearly 14,000 owners vote online it is equivalent to not driving 1,865 miles in an average passenger car and not burning 881 pounds of coal
- It's convenient!

For more information on Co-op month visit www.co-opmonth.coop

For more information on Outpost Natural Foods visit www.outpostnaturalfoods.coop

Approaching its 40th anniversary serving the greater Milwaukee area, Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative operates three successful locations at 100 East Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, 7000 West State Street, Wauwatosa, and 2826 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, Milwaukee. Co-owned by nearly 14,000 individuals from Southeastern Wisconsin, it employs over 270 people, as well as publishes a free monthly food and wellness magazine (*The Exchange*). Outpost projects annual sales to exceed \$25 million by its fiscal year end, and is one of the largest cooperatively owned natural food grocers in the country.