



August Board Meeting Recap – submitted by Cheri Strong

There was a good size turnout for this month's meeting. During the **member comment period** numerous members had positive things to say about Vince Graves-Blandford and expressed shock and displeasure about his termination from the Arcata Store Manager position. Several people requested reconsideration of this decision. During member comment period the Board was hand delivered confidential envelopes in connection with Vince Graves-Blandford's termination.

Neither the Board nor management can comment on personnel matters. Board President Colin Fiske wants everyone to know that the Board welcomes comment and that we take concerns seriously. Some member comments included a fear that the Co-op was going to turn into a "cookie cutter" business. Colin spoke on behalf of the board stating that the board does not want to see the Co-op become just another cookie cutter business.

A petition to suspend funding to **KHSU** was discussed. It was decided that the Co-op would first make an effort to communicate with the new station manager before taking any action.

The proposal for the **Food for All Program**, presently known as the Co-op Access Program (CAP) was discussed. Under the current proposal the senior discount would go away to fund the Food for All program for lower income customers--moving from an age-based to a needs-based discount program. There was lengthy discussion about whether eliminating the senior discount would make good business sense. During this discussion it was brought forward that there isn't a clear picture of Co-op finances and that a decision on this proposal should wait. Additionally, one person wondered if Food for All is the right name for the program. The Food for All program proposal will be on the September agenda for further discussion.

The Five-Year **Strategic Plan** was approved and will be presented for membership adoption at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 21.

Get involved by attending Board meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 6 pm at the Ten Pin Building at 793 K Street in Arcata. We love to see you there, and hear your thoughts regarding our Co-op.

If you want more details about what happened at the Board meeting, the full minutes of the meeting will be included in next month's meeting packet. You can get a copy of the Board packet at the customer service desk about a week before the board meeting, or by email if you request it by emailing board@northcoast.coop.

Please vote in the upcoming election and attend the **Annual Membership Meeting on October 21**.