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CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Although it may not seem like it, spring is right around the corner. That means it's almost time for our annual Spring General Membership Meeting (GMM), held this year on **Sunday, May 17 at 5:30PM.** One key part of this meeting is our Board of Directors elections. We will have 5 open positions; all candidates will have the opportunity to speak to the membership at the General Membership Meeting.

Board members must participate actively in the affairs of the cooperative including: regular attendance at board and management circle meetings, review of pertinent information and data, and overseeing the management of the Stevens Point Area Cooperative. Board members are in a position of trust with the cooperative and must not abuse this relationship to enrich themselves. If a Board member acts in good faith, is careful and deliberate in their actions, and avoids financial self-dealing, they will encounter no difficulties in fulfilling their legal duties to the cooperative. The special characteristics of a cooperative business require that the directors be sensitive to the needs of the members and make sure the members are educated so that they can exercise their rights. Compensation for serving on the Board of Directors includes a 20% membership discount.

Eligible candidates must be members of the SPA Co-op and attend at least one BOD meeting prior to the election at the GMM. Remaining BOD meetings before the GMM include: **Tuesday, March 24th 2020 at 6:00 pm and Tuesday, April 28th, 2020 at 6:00 pm.**

Candidates must submit their written nomination including a 150-word biography and photo to Communications@spacoop.com by Sunday May 10, 2020. Candidates and their biographies will be added to the website as they are received. Write-in nominations will be accepted at the GMM. Nominations received before April 1st 2020 will also be included in the May/June newsletter. One vote per membership. Absentee voting by those unable to make the GMM will take place in-store and online between Monday, May 11 and Saturday, May 16th. The official election will take place at the GMM on Sunday May 17th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/12	Snowball Effect: Healthy Kid Snacks - 6 p.m.
3/24	Board of Directors Meeting - 6 p.m.
3/31	Quarterly Inventory - Store closes at 6 p.m.
4/12	Easter - Co-op Open Regular hours
4/28	Board of Directors Meeting - 6 p.m.
5/10	Board of Directors Nominations Deadline
5/17	Spring General Membership Meeting (GMM) - 5:30 p.m.

CONTACT US

715-341-1555

info@spacoop.com

www.spacoop.com

HOURS

Monday–Friday
7am–8pm

Saturday–Sunday
8am–6pm

3RD ANNUAL LOCAL PRODUCE CASE PROGRAM IS LIVE!

March 1st is the opening date for sign up for your local produce cases! It may seem outrageous to begin planning for what you'd like to preserve but having this early start date means farmers can add your orders into their field plans. If you're new the co-op or haven't participated before here's how it works:

1. Sign up for cases between March 1st and April 15th and pay $10 deposit for each case, you can do this in-store by filling out an order sheet or online at www.spacoop.com/local-produce-case-program.
2. We'll notify you when your case is ready to be picked up (this is when your remaining case payment will be due).
3. Pick up your produce cases and enjoy!

We are keeping the same offerings list as last year. If you have any questions at all please direct them to melissah@spacoop.com or ask a customer service representative in the storefront.

Produce Item	Drop off time (Subject to Change)	Case Size	Unit	Price **per case** for Co-op Member
Beans	July	5	LBS	$15.99
Beets (Storage)	September	25	LBS	$49.99
Broccoli	July	15	LBS	$43.99
Cabbage - Kraut	August	20	LBS	$22.99
Carrots (Storage)	September	25	LBS	$43.99
Cucumbers: Pickling	July	10	LBS	$45.99
Cucumbers: Slicers	July	15	LBS	$25.99
Onions: Yellow Grade A	October	25	LBS	$39.99
Potatoes: Russet Bakers	October	25	LBS	$33.99
Potatoes: Yellow Grade A	October	25	LBS	$33.99
Sweet Corn	August	24	EA	$16.99
Tomatoes: Paste	August	20	LBS	$34.99
Tomatoes: Slicers	August	20	LBS	$34.99
Squash Variety Case*	October	30	LBS	$45.99

*Expect to get at least 5 of 7 varieties including: butternut, buttercup, acorn, pumpkin, spaghetti, delicata, and carnival

DELI-CIOUS ADDITIONS

CO-TO-GO

Hello friendly Co-op members.

My name is Brittany K and I've been working at The Co-op for close to three years now. Since day one I've been dreaming of how we can offer "grab and go" options. Finally, my dream is becoming reality. I've lived in Stevens Point most of my life so I know there is a real need for healthy, convenient food made from local ingredients. My plan is to create these products using ingredients we already have and sell in our store. This will be the ultimate creative project since I'll be utilizing Earth Crust bakery's kitchen during the times it is vacant. I will not have a conventional stove so I've been finding really fun ways to cook. Since mid Februrary you have probably seen the new deli items in the dairy cooler! Delicious choices such as wraps, salads, sides, items to accompany your main dishes, snack packs, and even my all time favorite food: soup! YUM! While we work on growing this new department at the Co-op, you can count on vegan and vegetarian exclusive options.

It's been a blast developing this new department and I can't wait to share my food with everyone!

Cooperatively yours,
Brittany K.

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CAN VS. BOTTLE DEBACLE

Greetings fellow beer lovers! Here at SPAC, we have been fielding a lot of customer questions regarding the can vs bottle debate concerning your favorite beers. Will my beer taste better from a can or bottle? Which has a lower environmental impact? Is one easier to recycle than the other? To help us sort this all out, we went straight to the source and reached out to a local brewery and a local recycling expert. Here is what we learned...

On the subject of taste and quality, let's hear from Anello Mollica, owner of Central Waters Brewing Company in Amherst, Wisc. CW is committed to being one of the most sustainable breweries in the nation and being a responsible steward of our environment. Their bottles are sourced from the greenest manufacturer in the country, packaging used is post-consumer recycled cardboard, and their raw goods for beer production are sourced as locally as possible. CW manages their facility using solar energy and LED lighting, while closely monitoring and conserving water and brewing materials, and so much more. All of this effort has granted them entrance into Wisconsin's Green Tier program! For more information on Central Waters environmental efforts and sustainability, visit their website: https://centralwaters.com/sustainability/#page_content. Here's what we learned from Anello!

What main factors made you decide to switch to cans?
AM: Mostly the styles of beers, and consumer market trends. Styles of beers like New England IPAs really only belong in a can- and consumers preference for especially hop forward beers are certainly can.

How did you decide which specific beer to have in cans?
AM: Our hoppy beers was where it started. Then we added 12 packs of Mudpuppy and Honey Blonde, as well as the Rookery Variety pack. When the switch was made for the Rookery, Rift IPA and HHG Pale Ale, sales rose significantly.

Can we expect to see more varieties of your beer in cans in the future?
AM: Yes, we have our high end can series that always rotates styles, and will always be cans.

Are there any beers that will remain in bottles permanently?
AM: Rift IPA and HHG Pale will stay in cans, and all seasonals except Octoberfest - although we make a 12 pack can of Octoberfest. As of now, the other year round beers are staying in bottles.

Why do some cans have stickers on them and some don't?
AM: That is a cost measure. For brands that we do a lot of volume with (Mudpuppy, Honey Blonde, Rift, and HHG) we have them "painted"- that is printed. For brands that are smaller volumes, we use a label. The minimum run for a painted can is a full truckload!

Do the cans you use have a lining in them? If so, what kind?
Yes, all cans have a plastic lining in them- from beverage to food. Until someone invents an alternative- that is all we have to work with.

Does being in a can affect the flavor of the beer?
It is actually better for the beer. Bottles let some light in, cans do not, and light reacts with hops to produce a skunky flavor (remember the swing top Grolsch? Green glass doesn't filter out sunlight, whereas brown does, to an extent. Beers in clear bottles use a chemically altered hop liquid to remove that component). Also- bottle caps allow a small amount of air ingress into the beer, and oxygen is a beer spoiler. Cans allow zero air ingress.

Thanks Anello! Now, let's get some recycling facts from Kelly, from Recycling Connections and the Central Wisconsin Recycling Collective. A recycling advocate and also a beer lover, Kelly works in the taproom at the brewery on the weekends pouring beer for the great patrons of central Wisconsin and beyond.

When Portage County's recyclables are collected they go to the Materials Recovery Facility (or MRF – sounds like "murph") on Highway B in Plover. This facility uses human labor and technology to sort the recycling stream into like-materials so that they can be baled together and sold to a place that will use them as feedstock for manufacturing recycled content products.

When something that is not a like-material makes it into a bale, that bale loses value and the foreign material becomes garbage. For instance, if a flattened milk jug were to end up in a bale of mixed paper it would arrive at the paper mill and contaminate the paper pulp if not pulled out immediately. There is no way to recycle it once it is there, so it would go in the garbage. This creates inefficiencies in the paper-making process.

Could you tell us about what happens to aluminum and glass when recycled in Portage County, and a little about what the process looks like?

KA: At the MRF workers pull recyclables off a moving belt. Each worker pulls out certain kinds of recyclables and puts them in a designated bin. A magnet above the line is used to pull off steel cans, followed by an eddy current (kind of like a reverse magnet) that whips aluminum off and into its own bin.

Aluminum is baled and (most often) sent to a manufacturer in Kentucky. Currently there are no accessible markets for us to sell glass (referred to as "crushed glass"). When it makes it to the MRF it is one of the first things to be separated, using a series of screens that allow the glass to fall through while moving other recyclables onto the rest of the sorting process. Glass that is recovered at this time is used as alternative daily cover (ADC) at a landfill. By law landfills are required to cover the active area after operating each day with a material that will control odor, prevent blowing litter, minimize dust, etc. Glass is an appropriate material with which to do this, which is referred to as "beneficial reuse." Additionally, glass can be used in ways similar to gravel for the laying of roads at a landfill. Glass from Portage County's MRF is used as ADC at the Cranberry Creek Landfill in Wisconsin Rapids. It has been this way for about 10 years.

Do sticker labels on beer cans affect the recycling process?
KA: *Yes.* Our MRF in Plover uses eddy currents and magnets to separate metals from the recycling stream. Stickers on aluminum cans do not inhibit the eddy current's ability to detect the aluminum. They will still be recovered, baled, and sold to manufacturers. However during the de-inking process of recycling aluminum, the sticker will not be removed. This means that the entire can, with sticker, will be discarded as trash (i.e. not recycled). *Because of this, it is essential to remove the sticker before putting the can in your recycling bin.*

Do labels on glass beer bottles affect the recycling process?
KA: No. Because the labels on glass bottles are most often paper their impact on the recycling process is negligible.

Which is more environmentally friendly, glass bottles or aluminum cans?
KA: I would encourage readers to consider the manufacturing implications and post-life management of both materials and decide for themselves which is better. This is a hard thing to determine because there are up and downstream effects to everything. Aluminum cans are made from bauxite, a material that must be strip-mined from tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Glass is made from silica, a resource that has dramatically increased mining operations throughout the Midwest and especially Wisconsin (admittedly this is due to the increase of hydraulic fracturing as a means of recovering hydrocarbons, which requires the use of silica). Glass cannot be recycled in our county right now, but aluminum can be. Does that make aluminum better? Considering that it comes from tropical environments, and silica is mined relatively locally, does that mean that glass is actually better? will ever be available. The ideal solution is to eliminate the need for packaging. At about 20 miles on rolling country roads, a bike ride to the brewery with reusable growlers in tow is the best one could do. If/when that is not an option, and in lieu of detailed life-cycle analyses of glass and aluminum, we simply have to make the call ourselves.

What do you find people are most surprised to learn about recycling in our community?
KA: People are disappointed to hear that glass does not get recycled into more glass products. While I understand this disappointment, and also feel it myself, it is important to recognize the reasons for this and think critically about each of our own place in the equation. Glass is extremely heavy, making it expensive (and environmentally taxing) to transport. As it moves through the channels of resident-to-MRF it will break and could eventually become a fine particulate matter that is hazardous to human health. These and other factors make it a difficult material to manage. People are also disappointed overall to learn the details of what gets recycled and what doesn't. It turns out that single stream recycling, introduced to Wisconsin some 10 or 15 years ago, eventually taught residents to put all of their plastic, paper, and metal products into their recycling bin regardless of whether or not the receiving facility could recycle them. It was instituted to increase recycling rates, which it does, but it also made the whole process a little too easy to be taken advantage of. This is why we've started the Central Wisconsin Recycling Collective to help people understand how to recycle right. Always ask questions!

Thanks, Kelly! These interviews gave us a lot to think about when it comes to cans vs bottles. When possible, it seems the best way to enjoy your favorite beer is to head over to your local brewery with a reusable growler and when that's not an option, make sure to peel the labels off your beer before you recycle. Check out the complete interviews loaded with great information in our online newsletter at spacoop.

We'd like to thank our kind friends at Pisarski Funeral Home for being thoughtful, generous neighbors for many years!

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NEW PRODUCTS AT THE CO-OP

Pamela's Not Xanthan Not Guar :: A great thickener, binder, or stabilizer for those sensitive to xanthan and guar. Made of potato starch and psyllium.

Bob's Wheat Germ :: Now available in packaged grocery. Find it in the baking aisle!

Siete Chips, Fuego flavored and Ranch :: The chips you know and love have more delicious flavors. Both vegan and paleo!

Bob's Organic Dark Rye Flour :: You asked for it, we got it!

Bob's Tapioca Pearls :: Made from the cassava plant, use it in pudding or for thickeners.

Date Lady BBQ Sauce and Sweet Chili Sauce :: Mmm, so many possibilities! Sweetened only with dates, made with no natural flavors, no gluten, dairy, or soy.

Bo's Bones Honey Peanut Butter :: Made with award winning honey and organic peanut butter..your pup deserves it!

Natural Vitality, CALM gummies and capsules ::
The same easily-absorbable magnesium we know and love, now available in gummies and capsules.

Beauty Full Day, Clear Face Wash, Clean Mud Mask, and Clear Toner :: Update your facial care routine and give your skin the love it deserves using these outstanding new ORGANIC products. Always made responsibly with minimal ingredients, right next door in MN!

Meet The Herbs Halfway, Girlfriend's Monthly Balance and Moon Blossom Roll-ons, Crimson Moon and Red Tent Moon Salves :: Beautifully hand-crafted, essential oil blends and salves to support symptoms of PMS. Made locally by a certified aromatherapist.

Potosi Cave Amber Ale and Snake Hollow IPA :: Remember, all profits go to charity. Cheers!

Nona Lim Sippable Bone Broth, Pho Beef and Chicken Coconut Lime :: In a convenient heat & sip container, perfect for an on the go lunch.

BACK AGAIN WITH A NEW LOOK

Midwest Juicery Juices, 7 Flavors of produce goodness :: All organic, cold-pressed, and low on sugar... find these healthful drinks in the produce cooler with brand new packaging and pricing!

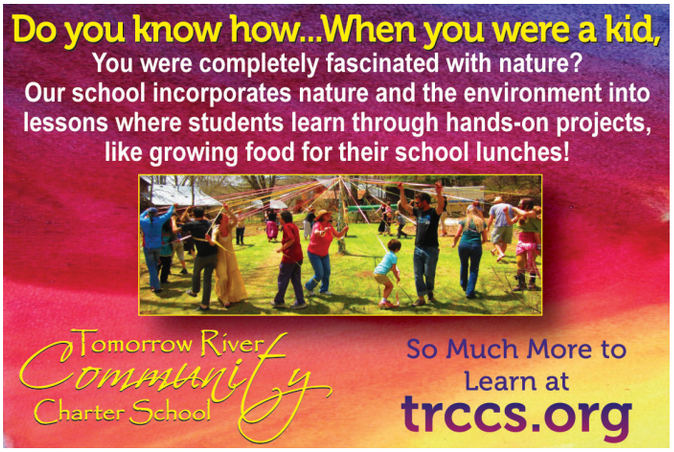
Marieke Gouda, 5 flavors :: Award winning cheese on the national and world levels, out of Thorp, Wisc. Smooth, creamy, and flavorful.

Dr. Praeger's Huevos Rancheros Breakfast Bowl :: This gluten-free, soy-free take on a Mexican classic is packed with protein and perfect for those mornings when time is tight.

Earthbound Farm Organic Kabocha Squash :: We may have had to say goodbye to Earthbound's Butternut Squash, but in its stead rises the Kabocha Squash; pre-cubed to make your dinner prep a snap!

Alden's Organic Ice Cream Pints (New!), Crushin' On Cookies & Mint, Road Trip Dark Chocolate Almond :: Ice cream crushes are officially a thing, and these flavors are bound to be yours.

American Flatbread Pizza, Revolution :: This flatbread pizza acquired its name by being American Flatbread's first pizza made with tomato sauce; it earned its name by its mouth-watering blend of mushrooms; caramelized onions; and mozzarella, asiago, and parmesan cheeses.



Q: Where Does (3 X 3) + a great way to get involved = 25%?

3 hours per week, 3 weeks of your choice per month earns you 25% off your Co-op purchases, plus other Co-op perks.

A: Stevens Point Area Co-op Working Member Program

cinnamon roll~breads~pastries~cookies~muffins~wheat-free options

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Have a suggestion? Have an idea? Feel free to email one of our board members with your thoughts!

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MARCH

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