

**We will all work together for the common good in a cooperative manner.**

**Much good will come of it.**

## **It Will Only Take a Minute**

The Co-op urgently needs your input. We're asking everyone to write down five to ten new products that you think the store should carry and that you feel yourself and others would buy at the store.

Suggested items need not be food but most any products that you feel would be appropriate for Northwind and that you yourself would purchase and so might others.

It is very important that we get new product suggestions from everyone. I want to thank you very much for your help in this little matter; we're trying to offer a better selection of goods to better serve the needs of our members and the downtown Ironwood area.

Please drop-off or mail your list to the store. --LS

## **HELP WANTED**

A committee has been formed to re-write the Bylaws of our cooperative.

This "Bylaws Committee" will carefully examine our existing Bylaws in total and re-write any and all parts of the document to correct inaccuracies, to clarify possibly vague wording, and to bring these rules that govern us more in-line with current conditions and with the needs and wishes of the membership.

When complete the Committee's revision will be presented to our Board of Directors for consideration and input. The General Membership will, of course, vote on these proposed revisions at

some future meeting before any changes are official. All members are encouraged to make their ideas for changes known to the committee chair.

As members of Northwind Cooperative we join together for a common goal. That goal is our Mission Statement. Our Bylaws attempt to specify the direction and guidelines to carry out our Mission. The Cooperative is its members and only its members. It is not the store; that is the co-op store. Neither is the Cooperative its Board of Directors; the Board exists to carry-out the dictates of the Bylaws in order to fulfill the Mission.

We need to have a wide spectrum of representation from the membership to update and re-write our Bylaws. We need people to join the Bylaws Committee who aren't afraid to make their brain sweat a little by working hard in a group setting. We need people who are able to make a commitment to see this project to completion. And most importantly, we need members on this committee who feel they will even enjoy this arduous task. If it ain't fun why do it?

This committee is for members only. It hopes to accomplish its work within six to nine months. Time, date and frequency of meetings will be decided by the committee. This committee is Chaired by a member of the Board who will make timely progress reports at all Board meetings.

**CONTACT: Larry I. Sands, (715) 561-2880** or leave written ideas for him at the store.

## **BOARD ON THE ROAD**

On October 24, Doug Clark, Tim Feldt and Larry Sands attended a day long training seminar for Board of Director members. The workshop was conducted

# **NORTHWIND NATURAL FOODS COOPERATIVE**

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by Emily Anderson, a dynamic and effective leader in cooperative training and development. Common Health Foods Cooperative, our main wholesale food source, sponsored the event at their warehouse in Superior. (Board members Jody DeCarlo and Ed Danoski were unable to attend).

"Building a Strong and Dynamic Board of Directors" was the main focus of the sessions. A lot of material was covered including Board/Manager relations, roles and responsibilities of Board members, understanding and utilizing financial statements, skills for meetings, leadership, communications, planning and performance.

After the seminar representatives of both Common Health and North Farm Cooperative of Madison presented the latest news of plans to merge the two natural foods wholesalers. Negotiations have been on-going for months and appear to be nearly complete.

If the merger does happen its effects seem likely to be nothing but positive for all concerned including our own Northwind. While product selection will increase dramatically, service and prices should remain fairly constant. --LS