

Selene Whole Foods Co-op

Newsletter



Mar 2009

Supporting a Local, Sustainable Economy

Minutes from Selene Annual Member Meeting, 8th March

By Debbie Hughes

“Current board president Peter Listino called the annual meeting to order. He had high praise and many thanks for the outgoing board. Peter explained the overview of the last 36 months as rough at times but getting on the right track. *He thanked past permanent General Manager Ira Josephs, outgoing treasurer Dave Minnich, remaining member Jackie Dooley (current vice president), and members of the Interim Board: Rusty and Nancy Neithammer, Sophie Quinn-Judge, Amy Hart, Peter Devaney, and Maura Curran.*

Peter Listino introduced the new General Manager/CEO Carol Sciarra who gave a quick report and update on Selene. Carol also thanked Ira Josephs for his regular help in the store.

Peter introduced the *new candidates for the board, 2009-11: Marcie Bonilla, Maura Curran, Amy Hart, Lori Imbesi, Tu Packard, Victoria Pearson, and Sophie Quinn-Judge.* As was indicated on the ballot *Jackie Dooley's term is 2008-10.*

Peter thanked *Mike Keating* for his quiet essential assistance to Selene Coop over the years and Newsletter Editor *Melinda Parsons* for managing Selene's newsletter midst various ups and downs. He then invited *Nancy Neithammer* to say a few words about volunteer work for the coop. *Nancy reported on a list of working member vacancies needing to be filled. A variety of jobs, inside and outside the store, exist to suit every taste. Sign up with Nancy at 610-565-9549.*

Members socialized and turned in ballots. Peter Devaney received and tabulated votes, then members reconvened and Peter Listino, outgoing President, 2007-09, congratulated *the confirmed Board, 2009-11, which includes all seven folks who ran for office and Jackie.*

A *question and answer session* followed with Peter Listino moderating.

- *Melinda Parsons* asked about the anonymous financial gift for which Peter Listino is the local contact. Peter said he had nothing concrete as of yet to report, but was confident the money would be forthcoming. *He spoke of new ventures which include a café and vegetarian restaurant.*
- *Victoria Pearson* invited those present to reach out to acquaintances to join the co-op.
- *Carol Sciarra* said it costs \$250,000 a year to operate the Selene Co-op store, and Selene is at \$200,000 now.
- *Dick Rainer* offered to donate produce to the co-op from his plot in the Delaware County Community Garden at Rose Tree when vegetables come up in late summer and early fall. Selene is considering this unique and generous offer. The general manager said she would ask Dick to give advance notice to insure Selene will have a balanced produce display during harvest.
- *Nancy said there will be a square dance on May 9th and asked for volunteers to help in preparation.* The Bowrockers, of which the Neithammers are members, are donating their talents free of charge. [See notice on the Square Dance elsewhere in the newsletter.]

Best wishes to the new board members! The annual membership meeting ended with general applause for outgoing board president Peter Listino. The Board wishes to thank Debbie Hughes for taking notes of the Annual General Membership Meeting 2009.”

2009 Membership Renewal Fees are now due!!!

Thank you to the 155 members who have already renewed!!!!

If you haven't renewed please do so now!!!!

Selene Whole Foods Co-op

305 West State Street, Media, Pennsylvania, 19063

610-566-1137; General Manager/CEO: Carol Sciarra;

Newsletter: Melinda B. Parsons (m.boydp@gmail.com)

Hours: Mon-Tues, 10-6; Wed-Fri, 10-7; Sat, 10-5; closed Sundays

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March Board Meeting

By Maura Curran

“The Board of 2007-09 held its final regularly scheduled meeting on first Thursday, March 5, 2008, at the Orange Street Board Room of Peter Listino, Financial Advisor and outgoing President of Selene Board of Directors. The main part of the agenda was devoted to preparing for the annual general membership meeting.”

Square Dance Fund-Raiser, 9th May!

Rusty and Nancy Neithammer and their group, *The Bowrockers*, will provide music for a Square Dance at Media Friends’ Meetinghouse, 125 West Third Street. (See [here](#) for map.) Time: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Saturday, 9th May. Single admission is \$7; family \$15. The Bowrockers give of their professional service freely. The only charge is for the caller, \$100. The Meetinghouse will be rented for \$40. **All money collected at the door over \$140 will be donated to Selene Co-op, which is still working to meet its financial obligations.**

Basement Clean-Up Party and Other Volunteer Opportunities!

By Maura Curran

“On Saturday, 21st Feb 2009, working members gathered to clear out the basement to make room for much needed storage requested by Gen’l Manager/CEO, Carol Sciarra. On hand were *Peter Devaney, Rusty Neithammer, Peter Roskiff* and *Marcie Bonilla* to push a refrigerator up to the basement exit. Volunteers *Dick Rainer, Victoria Pearson, Debbie Hughes*, and *Maura Curran* cleared the shelves in the basement while upstairs *Marcie Bonilla* cleaned shelves and *Nancy Neithammer* washed bins.



Debbie Hughes and Maura Curran will clear the trash in the basement again on **Monday, 16th March, to make way for the actual clean up crew on Saturday, March 21.** Heading the volunteer sign-up sheet is *Dick Rainer*, who labored mightily (!) during the February pre-clean-up. General Manager Carol Sciarra wants the place spic-and-span before she removes bags of grain and flour from the back area of the store to the basement. Carol aims to use every foot of storage so as to make space for a small coffee bar. **“We need to increase sales daily,”** she said. **“The way to bring in customers is to have a nook or coffee bar to get them inside the store.”** Carol, a certified food handler, owned a catering service in Wallingford for years.



Carol Sciarra was too busy collecting money from a steady flow of shoppers to assist with the basement cleanup. She cleared over \$1100 that day! *Jolie Shamlian* is continuing work on the window display. Next project is basement cleanup. *Nancy Neithammer* is overseeing job skills, and *Victoria Pearson and Norman Carter* are coordinating volunteer jobs in the store. **Telephone Nancy at 610-565-9549 to offer your skills!”**

Selene is Open to Donors

By Maura Curran

“The freezer broke down on Tuesday, March 10th. It was repaired that afternoon for \$400. Outdated items were tossed, and a new display of fresh, frozen items appeared. Such emergencies occur. The one before was an electrical short, with an electrician member coming to the rescue.

Selene gratefully accepts money donations for such emergencies, and contributions of any amount.

To help us continue our forward momentum, please renew your 2009 membership now.

We will no longer automatically decrease the amount of annual dues as the year progresses. Your renewal or new membership gives Selene Co-op needed cash flow, helps us through tough economic times, gives you an 11% discount, and keeps us on track to a secure Selene future.

We encourage those of you who can, to consider the advantage of member loans at 4% interest. Meanwhile, we are stocking the old, dying cooler with fresh produce and the fridge with safe, fresh milk, a bucket of tofu, and dozens of safe, fresh eggs. We are keeping to our mission of supplying foods & products that uphold fair trade, to obtain products as close to their local source as possible, and to support organic growing practices for our health and that of our earth. We also are keeping within budget and ordering frugally. Our PECO electric bill is now three-quarters paid. Our major suppliers are almost all paid up to date. One paid-up supplier has extended credit.”

Gluten-Free Foods at Selene!!!

If you have celiac or if you have food allergies, there’s no need to drive to Springfield to get gluten-free food. We have many such items—e.g., DeBoles Multigrain pasta, Tinkyada brown-rice pasta, crackers, chips, bread, & more.

Amy Hart, 1-Woman Selene Advocate!

“Amy Hart continues her Friday deliveries of Selene products to customers in Swarthmore, also finding time recently to make 100 copies of Selene’s draft brochure at Media Copy Center. Brendan, there, folded the brochures & Amy is distributing them in Swarthmore and Media. After she spoke with Brendan about the benefits of Selene membership, he told her he would become a member! Meanwhile, he gave Amy several Celtic CDs for the store to put customers in a buying mood! She urges members to shop, a lot or a little, at Selene every week. To remind members to renew their membership, Amy telephoned 58 folks in February. In the store, Amy selects soaps and lotions suitable for Selene, arranges a display from Syracuse Cultural Workers, displays ceramic art. (Can anyone donate sturdy display racks for the ceramics?) In addition to her work on publicity, delivery, music, card and ceramic display, Amy Hart, a multigenerational teacher in clay, has also spearheaded a fundraising drive involving low interest member loans and direct donations of any amount to Selene.”