

Board Study Plan 2015

January - Annual Financial Review

Presented by the finance committee.

February - Long-Range Strategic Visioning – Planning Board Study

Where should La Montañita Co-op be five, ten, or even forty years from now?

To develop a vision, we need to understand the issues and trends that will impact our ability to meet our Ends in the years ahead. During Board Study, we will brainstorm and discuss topics, resources and experts that we can use to help us plan and develop our Board Study with the goal of improving our capacity for long range strategic visioning.

March – Chicken or Egg: Is La Montañita’s primary differentiator its product selection or its economic model?

Many food co-ops start because it is an economically viable way to bring otherwise unavailable products to its member/owners. Now that local and organic are mainstream, should La Montañita’s be looking at ‘solving’ current fringe products that are unavailable in mainstream stores (e.g., raw milk, hyper-local, etc.), or do we cede that to smaller players in favor making a bigger economic impact?

April – Food For Change

The movie tells the story of the cooperative movement in the U.S. through interviews, rare archival footage, and commentary by the filmmaker and social historians. This is the first film to examine the important historical role played by food co-ops, their pioneering quest for organic foods, and their current efforts to create regional food systems. Additionally, the film shows how the co-op movement strengthens communities where they are located, enhancing local economies and food security.

May – Member Engagement

What does having an engaged membership mean? If our democracy is a competitive advantage, what do we want our democracy to look like? In this session, we’ll explore what we mean by member engagement and think about how to ensure an engaged membership in the future.

June – Strategic Visioning with Art Sherwood

At the end of this session, Board Members should have a clear idea of the why and the how of strategic visioning, and specifically the process that La Montañita will use.

July – Innovative Distribution Methods with Michelle Franklin and Steve Warshawer

The Board will increase its understating of La Montañita’s value chain and trends and possibilities in distribution and how it can improve access to healthy foods.

August – Local Dollars: models for measuring, models for communicating

Just what kind of an impact is La Montañita having through its commitment to the local economy? How are others measuring those impacts, and how are they successfully communicating the power of the local dollar to their communities?

September – Equity Training

A look at how power and privilege influence our interactions, and how awareness of equity issues can improve the Board.

October – Drought, Climate Change, and Other Existential Threats

What does climate change mean for the New Mexico environment? What will be the result for our agricultural sector? For our demographics? What role does La Montañita have in leading community responses to short and long-term threats to our communities?

November & December – Self vs. Community Decision Making

How do people choose between their short-term self-interest, vs what is best for the community? Can alternative economic models change the formula? Specific topics might include Elinor Ostrom's work on "the commons", game theory and collective action problems, and the role of external costs in decision making. We'll also look at Vincent Ostrom's ideas about democracy and how they apply to co-ops.