

Voter Guide

Please use this guide to aid your decision in casting this year’s ballot. The board’s hope is to provide additional, transparent information about candidates.

	EMMETT DYSART Consultant	AMELIA ENGLISH Outreach and Communications	JACK ROESSLER High School Agriculture Teacher	KEN WEBB Retired
In a sentence, what do you think is the most important role of the board?	I believe the board’s most important role is to provide clear direction and strong oversight so the co-op remains mission-driven, well-led, and responsive to the owners it serves.	The most important role of the board is accountability, assuring the co-op is working towards its Ends in alignment with its values and principles.	To balance the needs of the owners, communities we serve, workers, and growers.	To guide, direct, and oversee the management of the Cooperative and provide a vision for the Co-op’s future.
In a sentence, what do you think is the most important role of individual directors?	The most important role of individual directors would be to show up, be present and hold their counterparts equally accountable to do the same.	Individual directors should bring individual viewpoints to collaborative decisions, balancing their own perspective with championing the needs and goals of all co-op owners.	To be an active listener and voice for all stakeholders to ensure every perspective is considered when making decisions.	To satisfy and comply with the responsibilities and duties of Board membership including being prepared for board meetings, attending all required meetings, trainings and other Co-op events, and providing honest and thoughtful guidance on Co-op matters and decisions.
What top two skills, qualities, or expertise would you bring to the board?	A skill I’d bring to the board is meticulous attention to detail. Having worked in governance policy for a few years I am well versed in bylaws, ordinances and other technical aspects of this kind of work. I am also very sociable and love people and community and would be more than happy to offer my positive energy at every convening :) I’ve also taken Minneapolis’ C-TAP (Co-op Technical Assistance Program) and have a wealth of knowledge on co-ops!	I’m a MAPE union member for my job working in environmental communication - I bring a strong passion for workers’ rights and the environment as well as a depth of communication skills.	A deep understanding of our food system and educating others about it. Experience working on a board writing policies and procedures in an objective way to reduce gaps or misunderstandings.	1) Previous cooperative and board experience, and 2) the ability to provide a community-centered approach to Seward Co-op planning and decision making.
In a sentence, what is your vision for Seward Co-op?	Longevity. My grandmother used this co-op when she was young, I want my children’s children to also use this co-op.	My vision is a cooperatively run business that listens to, and meets the needs of its community, valuing neighbors, employees and owners.	To grow its work in accessibly educating owners and community members in the food system and how the co-op connects growers and consumers.	My vision is for a Co-op that increases its owner base, continues to source more of its product offerings locally, works towards a higher zero-waste percentage of food packaging, and treats and compensates its employees fairly.
How long have you been an owner of Seward Co-op?	Almost 11 years.	I got my own number this summer! I've had household numbers for almost 20 years in various living situations in South Minneapolis.	Since January of 2024 when my wife and I moved to the Seward neighborhood.	My wife, Lisa Marie Pasquale, started our ownership over 30 years ago. The fact that we have a 4-digit ownership number that starts with a “5” gives an indication as to how long we have been Seward Co-op owners.
Have you ever served on a board before? If so, where? What boards do you currently serve on?	Yes, I currently serve on The Black community board as the committee engagement co-chair and the fundraising chair. I also serve on the Downtown Dayton YMCA board. I’m on the YAB (Youth Action Board) for the University of Minnesota’s Pediatric department of public health. I am on the advisory council for the Cannabis Research Center at the University as well.	I was on the Bedlam Theatre’s board for four years, serving as secretary for two. My undergraduate degree is in Nonprofit Management, and I spent much time learning about nonprofit boards. I spent three years on Ramsey County’s Riverview Corridor Policy Advisory Committee, which was not a board but a collection of elected community members gathering feedback on the proposed light rail extension from Bloomington to St. Paul, including everything from environmental impact to station planning. I am not serving on any boards currently.	Previously served on the school board of the Academy for Sciences and Agriculture, a charter school I worked at, as a teacher representative.	I have served on the board for the Seward Neighborhood Group, I was also Chair of the SNG Community Development Committee for 9 years, and I currently serve on the board of the Seward Civic and Commerce Association. If I were to join the Seward Co-op board, I would leave the SCCA board. Additionally, I am a former 12-year co-owner of Roots & Fruits Cooperative Produce and I began my time with food cooperatives at Greenstar Food Coop in Ithaca NY in the 1980’s.
Do you have any potential or perceived conflicts of interest serving on Seward Co-op’s board?	No. I do not have any conflicts of interest.	No.	I have no conflicts of interest and ensure to disclose any if they arise.	No.