

APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY, VALLEY CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2017

Name: Peter Johnson

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1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors?

I would like to assist with making the Valley Co-op a household name for our tri-state area residents and promoting our local community of farmers and vendors.

2. What experience and expertise would you bring to the Board?

I've worked as an Industrial Engineer for 30 years (JLG, Grove, Letterkenny and Valeo). In this realm, my primary objective has been to pinpoint problems, flush out strategic solutions and implement those solutions in a timely manner. Throughout my career I worked with all levels and departments of the company, from the janitor to the vice president, to complete our projects.

3. What skills you have that would directly contribute to achieving the overall vision of Valley Co-op?

I like to "think outside the box":

- a. Observe a situation
 - b. Bring to light different ideas that may not have been considered
 - c. When told "that will never work", I see this as a challenge and find ways to be flexible and innovative to see a solution.
 - d. Listening to others and looking at situations from their perspective.
4. Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

My entire working life, the pronoun "I" was not part of my vocabulary. In each situation our team members and I worked together to offer various solutions and ways to implement them.

Example:

The Turn Table Project

Problem: The manufacturing of a 10,000 lb steel turntable took 15 hours to manually weld

Solution: Reduce time to 1.5 hours

Team work: With the team that was currently welding the table, we brainstormed and produced a welding cell to solve the problem.

My Compromise: I was pushing for a welding time of 1 hour because I knew it was a possible goal. I compromised on the time due to the excellent points made by our team concerning material handling, downtime and safety constraints.

5. Describe any professional or volunteer experience you have had that would provide insight or skills on the Valley Co-op Board, including having served on a board or a governing committee.
 - a. **Society for Manufacturing Engineers**, Mason Dixon chapter: Secretary and President, 2004-2009. Assisted with arranging chapter events and tours of tri-state manufacturing facilities.
 - b. **Mercersburg Farmer's Market**: Charter board member, Vice President, 2004-2007. Beginning with my wife and two like-minded friends, we grew our board to 8 members and a producer-only vendor base of 10. Market ran for 2 seasons; closure was due to lack of customers.
 - c. **Mercersburg Cat shelter**: Volunteer, 2008-2009, bi-weekly care and feeding of cats.
 - d. **Seniors Helping Seniors** - Vice president/Handyman on board 2009-2014. Assisted with my wife's business of helping senior citizens in their home; worked as a volunteer with her employees for senior citizens in their home to accomplish the following: oversee, construction and installation of wheelchair ramps and/or handrails; put up curtains; drive to appointments; yardwork.
 - e. **Habitat for Humanity's Restore, Hagerstown**: 2016-present, volunteer. Assist customers, guide them with their construction questions; work register; Pick -up and transport donated merchandise from resident's homes to the store.

6. Why do you believe members should choose you to represent them? Is there anything else you would like the members to know about you?

My family has always strived to eat organic, healthy and local products. However, our reach for finding food expands farther than we would like, increasing our carbon footprint. Therefore I want to support all local enterprises in this regard, and the Co-op is an excellent opportunity to create a food sanctuary for Hagerstown and all tri-state residents. My personal info: I'm 56, 6'1", from Buffalo, NY, have lived in Mercersburg PA for 20 years with my wife Laura, my parrot, Looney and our cats. I am a hard worker but very silly.

I hereby affirm that I have carefully read the article *Cooperative Principles Updated* (<http://www.grocer.coop/articles/cooperative-principles-updated>), and that as a director of Valley Co-op I will uphold the seven principles.

I hereby affirm that all of the information provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and agree to have it released to Valley Co-op members as part of the election process.

Signature *Peter B Johnson*

Date 4/24/17