

Troy Community Food Cooperative

Board of Directors

Wayne Metsch, President
Barbara Jones Higbee, Vice President
Dennis Sullivan, Treasurer
Mary Muller, Secretary
Mary Brand
Alix Duggan
Peter Grimm
Lucy Larner
John Tomer

General Manager: Eric Paul

Brief Bios

Mary Brand, Chair Human Resource Committee, Co-chair Membership Committee

Mary is a Troy supporter, having lived here since 1970, and owned two businesses in Troy. She believes in the need for better access downtown to local, healthy affordable foods. Mary is a strong supporter of the Troy Farmer's Market and believes that the Co-op is a natural progression in the expansion of our community resources.

Alexandra M. Duggan, Chair Building Committee

Alix is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree. She worked at TAP Inc., Troy's local community design center, and then began her own business as an architectural design consultant. Alix has lived in Troy since 2000.

Peter D. Grimm, Membership Committee

Peter is a lifelong resident of Troy and a resident of the downtown neighborhood for over 30 years. He was a pioneer of the gentrification movement for the downtown brownstones. A founding board member of several local organizations, Peter currently serves on several steering committees and successfully fund raises for their causes. He has a food service background of more than 25 years, managing a full service restaurant with over 100 employees and starting a successful catering business. Peter is currently the special projects manager for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Elected to the Rensselaer County Legislature in 2005, he is one of six at large legislators representing the City of Troy.

Barbara Jones Higbee, Vice President, Chair Finance and Capitalization Committee

Barbara is a lifelong Troy resident who has helped establish or strengthen a number of non-profits in Troy. She is helping the Troy Food Co-op find the sources of finance and the expertise required to create a strong downtown food co-op. Barbara has been involved in developing commercial and multi-family residential projects for over 25 years, and is a consultant to non-profit groups developing and refinancing senior housing. She has served on numerous boards, including Northeast Health, TRIO, Inc., USS Slater, and the Troy Supervisory board (appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo.)

Lucy Larner

Lucy has lived in Troy for 15 years and managed the Downtown Council of Troy from 1990-1995. She is a development and marketing communications specialist and currently Executive Director of the New York State Museum Institute, a nonprofit organization that supports the educational programs and temporary exhibits at the New York State Museum. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company; her past board service includes the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Capital District Community Gardens, the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, and the Junior Museum.

Wayne B. Metsch, President

A recent Troy resident, formally of Averill Park, Wayne has had a psychotherapy practice with an office in Troy for most of the past 25 years. In addition, he is the director of Social Work at the Capital District Psychiatric Center, a position in which he has gained administrative and HR experience. Wayne brings 12 years of board experience to the Co-op, having served on Joseph's House Board, including as president.

Mary Muller, Secretary, Co-Chair Membership Committee

Mary is a retired foreign service officer who came to live in Troy in 2003. She works part-time at Market Block Books in downtown Troy. A trained librarian, Mary also serves as president of the Library Board of Trustees, vice president of the Upper Hudson Library System, and as a board member of the League of Women Voters.

Dennis Sullivan, Treasurer

Dennis Sullivan has lived in Troy for five years. For most of his career (about 30 years) in financial reporting, accounting and finance, he worked in the financial services industry. He's a CPA and received his MBA from Columbia University. Before retiring and permanently relocating in Troy, he was the Chief Accounting Officer for Prudential Financial.

John Tomer

John is a long-time resident of Troy. He was a Professor of Economics at RPI for seven years and is currently a Professor of Economics at Manhattan College where he has been a member of the Faculty since 1983. John and his wife, Doris, have been active volunteers with many organizations in Troy.

Eric J. Paul, General Manager

Eric Paul has been the General Manager of the Troy Community Food Cooperative (TCFC) since March 2008, and since then has led TCFC in all phases of its development. He has over five years of operations and management experience in the food cooperative industry, as department head (Cheese, Specialty Foods, and Meat) and in point of sale administration, marketing, outreach, and work with committees of the Board of Directors.

While a department manager at Honest Weight Food Cooperative in Albany, NY, Eric founded the Cheese and Specialty Food Department, which became the flagship department for the store. He led it to 160% growth during his 4.5 year tenure. Eric was responsible for all product research, for buying, and for developing the wholesale distribution network for the main cheese and specialty supplier in White River Junction, VT, who was not servicing the Capital District at the time. Eric also worked on administrative special projects, including a task force exploring expansion into the towns of Hudson and Saratoga, NY. In addition, he oversaw implementation of a point of sale system and a food cooperative industry-wide purchasing and marketing program.

In May 2008, Eric completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Classical Studies at Bard College.