



North Coast Co-op
Member Action Committee (MAC) Minutes
September 14, 2016 – Ten Pin Building, Arcata

MAC Members present:

Mary Ella Anderson (Board), Jolie Harvey (Employee), Cheri Strong (Board and Employee), Patty Cleary (Member & Speaker), Christine Brockway (Employee), Adrian Bruce (Employee), and Kiya Villarreal (Employee & Notetaker)

At 6:05pm Kiya Villarreal welcomed everyone, introductions were made and consensus process reviewed.

Review: Consensus to approve August meeting minutes.

Member Comments:

Jolie on volunteer opportunities - Co-op is sponsoring an HSU event, hosted by WRRAP (Waste Reduction and Resource Awareness). Tabling opportunities are available for this HSU WRRAP event on Saturday Oct 15th from 5-6pm. Connect with Jolie Harvey if interested in tabling. Mary Ella will bring the schedule to the BIG ideas meeting to spread the word.

Guest Speaker: Multiple Chemical Sensitivity MCS

Focus on topic of artificial fragrance exposure. For the purpose of this talk, “fragrance” refers to all petroleum based synthetic fragrance and artificial fragrances. Physical properties of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity has not been scientifically explored as of late but previous research has occurred. Fragrance is one of the top irritants that trigger negative effects for people experiencing MCS. Epidemiology studies that have studied MCS have been helpful for developing protections under ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). Currently the Co-op does have a fragrance policy in place to create a safe workplace and shopping place within the Co-op environment however enforcement is lax. Fragrance exposure causes those with MCS to suffer from side-effects such as skin irritation, difficulty/painful breathing, various neurological symptoms, and oxidative stress. Education regarding this condition is vital to open the discussion to various alternatives and better practices.

Recommendation to Board: To survey both the synthetic fragrance laundry products and synthetic-fragrance-free products we carry.

Recommendation to Board: Request HR to review fragrance policy and its enforcement amongst employees.

Annual Membership Meeting. Discussion included:

Schedule has been approved by Board. Volunteer opportunities available for both members and employees. The volunteer opportunities/scheduling list is available on MAC packet, contact Jolie Harvey or Cassie Blom if you wish to sign up.

Speaker Program: Discussion included: TABLED

Advocacy. Discussion included: TABLED

Agenda Items for next meeting: Reviewed potential agenda items and prioritized as follows:

1. Review Board Recommendations
2. Feedback from HR
3. Feedback from radio/print PSA

Review Roles & Responsibilities: Consensus reached that Kiya will be facilitator and reporter for October board meeting. Cheri will be the next Board reporter.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 12 from 6-7pm at the Ten Pin Building Mezzanine in Arcata.

Consensus reached to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm

Committee Recommendations:

1. To survey both the synthetic fragrance laundry products and synthetic-fragrance-free products we carry.
2. Request HR to review fragrance policy and its enforcement amongst employees.