

1. Elizabeth Gentry
2. Owner Number: 4 44515 03423 3
3. University of Tennessee English Department, Senior Lecturer, 2004-2018  
University of Tennessee College of Law, Writing Specialist, 2009-2015
4. University of Tennessee at Knoxville, MA in English, 2001  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, MFA in Fiction Writing, 1998  
Wheaton College, BA in English, 1995  
Asheville High School, 1992
5. Yes, I am able to work comfortably with email and electronic documents.
6. I have no prior experience with cooperatives or small community-minded business. I do have community involvement from past and current professional and volunteer experiences. In the past, I worked as a community organizer and volunteer coordinator for two progressive nonprofit organizations (one in Virginia and one in Tennessee). I was also interim president of the campus union United Campus Workers #3865. For four years I volunteered with the Knox County Read with Me program, reading to children at Dogwood Elementary School. Currently I am a volunteer urban forester with Trees Knoxville!
7. I shop at Three Rivers Market about once per week.
8. I have no conflict of interest that would prevent me from serving on the Board.
9. A few years ago, I recovered from a health condition largely by changing how I ate. Many of the foods I needed for recovery were only available at the food co-op, where they came with the assurances of product standards and without the price mark-ups of corporate competitors. I would like to serve on the Board of Directors because I feel a responsibility to help ensure the ongoing vitality of a business where members are well nourished and can positively impact local agricultural practices through their buying power.
10. I teach students from diverse backgrounds and emphasize the value of diversity through the texts that we read in both writing and literature classes, where we discuss issues of class, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender, and disability. My valuing of inclusivity also stems from a life-long journey enriched by friends and family members who shared with me their own unique perspectives. I want healthy food to be available to everyone and for the food co-op to be a meeting place for those whose cooking and eating habits reflect a variety of traditional cultural practices or contemporary approaches.
11. Three Rivers Co-op is distinguished from other businesses by management and governance that shares the values of members, including a desire to support local farmers and sustainable farming practices within the regional food shed, which in turn means well-nourished consumers. On a daily basis, members and non-members probably most rely on Three Rivers for its product standards. Setting standards collectively also helps put pressure on those trying to compete in the

marketplace who might otherwise cut corners and costs, and of course provides support and rewards for those whose practices mirror the cooperative's product standards.

12. I began shopping at the food co-op when I arrived in Knoxville in 1999 and became a member sometime after Three Rivers opened in its current location. I would hope to see Three Rivers continue to educate locals about the benefits of membership and also about the origins and standards of its products. Food co-operatives should exist throughout Tennessee, and Three Rivers can help model and support those in other cities who would like to start a cooperative. I am also hoping that strong relationships can help mitigate the consequences of climate change on food production.

13. I have spent most of my working life as an educator with some training in community organizing and volunteer coordinating. I think a lot about language—spoken and written—and the role writers/speakers (in this case, food co-op members and board members, staff, local residents, food producers, etc.) play in communicating both values and information to their audiences. In my professional life, I work autonomously, but I am largely an extrovert and thrive on opportunities to perform tasks with others.

14. The value of equity resonates most with me because systemic and institutional forms of oppression come up often in the classroom as we try to understand what we are reading. Grasping equity requires many people to come to terms with their own origin stories within a larger context. We can learn about those factors that historically at least may have been beyond our control—those advantages or disadvantages—in order to decide what we should do next to create a more just world.

15. I am a naturally curious person who is always interested in learning something new, and so in serving on the Board I would be happy to learn more about the day-to-day operations of the food co-op from those who know them best. But I am more interested in the big picture questions of what Three Rivers can do and be in the community and how the Board can help support the staff and members.

16. My personal style can be described by the following three characteristics: effective communicator, strategist, and detail oriented.