

# 2021 Board Elections Notice of Nominations

This year's Annual Meeting of Members to be held on April 22, 2021 will culminate in the election to fill three (3) board seats.

The Chair of the Board, Christina Oatfield, has appointed a Nominating Committee and that committee has nominated the following (listed by the Committee in alphabetical order):

Hamed, Fadel  
McAllister, Celeste  
Oatfield, Christina

In accord with the Credit Union bylaws, this full official notice is provided to members of Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union along with "brief statements of qualifications and biographical data" for each nominated candidate {Article V, Section 1(c)}, [see page 2 for bios/statements and qualifications]. A copy of this notice and bios is also displayed in the credit union lobby, and from the credit union's website home page, under News and Events, click on "Elections Notice". The election will not be conducted by ballot and there will be no nominations from the floor when the number of nominees equals the number of positions to be filled.

Members not nominated by the Nominating Committee have the right to become candidates "by petition signed by 1% of the members" {Article V, Section 1(b)}; given the size of the membership on November 30, 2020, the minimum number of required member signatures is 85. A petition form, as well as the required forms that need to be submitted with the completed petition, are available from Rhonda Redo, at: [rredo@coopfcu.org](mailto:rredo@coopfcu.org), and or Fadhila Holman, at: [fholman@coopfcu.org](mailto:fholman@coopfcu.org).

Documents that are required {Article V, Section 1(c)} to be submitted along with the petition are:

1. A Bio/Statement of Qualifications, 300 words or less
2. "a signed certificate from the nominee or nominees stating that they are agreeable to nomination and will serve if elected to office"
3. Authorization for background check, NCUA Application, Form 4063a, other forms and supporting documentation as required by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

The above must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 2021 to the following address:

Cooperative Center FCU  
Attention: Fadhila Holman, CEO  
2001 Ashby Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94703

Please note: Petition signors must be 18 years old, a primary member on a natural person share account and in good standing to validly sign a petition or to be elected to the Board. For Non-Natural Person members, such as businesses or organizations, signatures (the same as official ballots) must be accompanied by an official designation of voting rights for the organization (one member/one vote). Petition signatures will be validated by the Teller of Elections (League of Women Voters).

Thank you for your participation in making Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union a vital community institution!

At your service,

*Celeste McAllister*

## STATEMENTS OF CANDIDACY AND BIOS

Below are brief statements of candidacy and bios from the three candidates. A copy of this notice and bios is also displayed in the credit union lobby, and from the credit union's website home page, under News and Events, click on "Elections Notice."

### Fadel Hamed



My name is Fadel and I have lived in the Bay Area since 1988. Like some of the current board members, I joined Cooperative Center FCU in 1999 while I was a student at UC Berkeley. I have always felt a special connection to the credit union and have benefited

from many of its excellent products and services. I recently obtained a car loan from the credit union and was impressed with the interest rate and efficiency of the service provided. After receiving many years of high-quality service from the credit union, I am highly motivated to work closely with its leaders and board members to ensure that the entire Bay Area has access to the same top-tier service that I've experienced.

I am an accomplished executive and have deployed successful strategic and operational initiatives in high-technology and healthcare. Over the last 20 years, I have developed significant expertise in customer success management and operational excellence and worked closely with customers at multiple companies to drive unprecedented satisfaction levels. I am process and metric focused, data-driven but my biggest strength is my love for interpersonal interaction, which I can leverage as a member of the board.

I would be delighted to obtain your vote to serve as a new board member. My commitment to our fellow Cooperative Center members and community is to:

- Serve my role with honesty and integrity
- Share my experience and knowledge for the continual improvement of the Cooperative Center FCU
- Always do what is in the best interest of our members

Thank you in advance for your vote.

Fadel Hamed

### Celeste McAllister



I was first elected to the Board in 2014 and it has been my honor to serve. Over the past 6 years my reasons for wanting to be on the board haven't changed much, however, my world and the world around us has. The job of a credit union board member is to set policy,

provide a strategic plan, guide the credit union in reaching its goals and to support executive management and staff. Just as in 2014, I am willing, able and have the time to work as a Board Director to fulfill these functions. Now in 2021, just as many of our credit union members have done, I have moved away from the Berkeley area. As a Board, we represent all members including those living distantly. While living across the country, I continue to be an active credit union member and an engaged and involved board member. I am most certain that I can and will continue to serve effectively. Like many do these days, we are all attending meetings virtually, over the internet and telephone. Once the risks and restrictions surrounding COVID-19 allow, as was my original plan, I intend to be back in the area every couple of months.

In 2021, our credit union moved, too. We have opened a new branch location and a new headquarters and loan center. I hope to see the both of these new locations soon and I hope you all do, too.

Please take a look at the "About Us" page on the CU website. It will remind you that the Cooperative Center has always been diverse, inclusive and community minded. That was my reason for joining this specific credit union. What about you? Why did you join Cooperative Center? Where does it fit into the stages and goals in your financial life? Do you have a vision for how our credit union might better serve you?

I'd like to continue as a member of the Cooperative Center FCU Board of Directors and I look forward to hearing from you: [cmcallister@coopfcu.org](mailto:cmcallister@coopfcu.org).

### Christina Oatfield



It has been an honor to serve on the Board of Directors of this credit union for the past two and a half years, including my service as Chair of the Board for the past several months. I would like to continue my service on the board to ensure we build on recent

achievements and make it through extraordinary new challenges posed by the pandemic.

Recent accomplishments of the credit union have included finalizing the sale of our property to pave the way for a local nonprofit to create affordable housing at that site (near Ashby BART); relocation of our Berkeley operations to Ashby and San Pablo; opening a new location in Martinez; and paying off some debt we incurred in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

I joined the credit union while I was a student at UC Berkeley. I am a lifetime resident of the Bay Area and for the last several years I have been living just blocks away from the credit union's former location in South Berkeley.

I work as an attorney and my practice focuses on the needs of nonprofit organizations, cooperatives, and small businesses. I obtained my license to practice law through an uncommon path; by studying under the guidance of practicing attorneys (instead of going to law school) and passing the Bar Exam.

Before starting my own law practice in 2018, for several years I worked as Policy Director at the Sustainable Economies Law Center, a nonprofit organization in Oakland, where I led legislative campaigns to advance progressive policies related to local food systems, worker cooperatives, and affordable housing, to support community ownership over the economy.

I have served on several nonprofit boards and steering committees including those of affordable housing cooperatives and food systems organizations.

I humbly ask for your vote.



Cooperative Center  
Federal Credit Union