

2023 Board Elections Notice of Nominations

This year's Meeting of Members to be held on April 27, 2023, will culminate in the election to fill three (3) board seats.

The Chair of the Board, Celeste McAllister, has appointed a Nominating Committee and that Committee has nominated the following, listed in alphabetical order:

Laura Cullom
Deborah Matthews
Michael J Thompson

In accordance 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 lobbies, and from the credit union's website home page under News and Events, click on "Elections Notice".

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, 2022, the minimum number of required member signatures is eighty-four (84). A petition form, as well as the required forms that need to be submitted with the completed petition, are available from Rhonda Yates, at: ryates@coopfcu.org, and or Fadhila Holman, at: 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 8, 2023 to the following address:

Cooperative Center FCU
Attention: Fadhila Holman, CEO
634 Ferry Street
Martinez, CA 94553

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 be elected to the Board. For Non-Natural Person members, such as businesses or organizations, signatures (one member/one vote). Petition signatures will be validated by the Teller of Elections.

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

Fadel Hamed

Nominated Candidate Biographies



Laura Cullom

I am submitting my request for a seat on Cooperative Center FCUs' Board of Directors to continue my service for this credit union. I began serving on the Supervisor Committee a little over 1 year ago and will happily continue to serve there but I have credit union Board experience and feel comfortable in that capacity. I was born and raised in the Bay Area. My husband and I have raised two daughters here and have five grandchildren.

My 30-year career started in the Oil Refinery in Martinez as a Payroll specialist and then lead to a position in Health and Safety as an Industrial Hygienist for the last 19 years of employment before retiring in 2018. My first credit union experience began as a member of the Avon Refinery Federal Credit Union around 1990 and I started my service on their Credit Committee by reviewing all loan requests. Then joined their Supervisory Committee and served for 2 years before joining that Board of Directors as Treasurer, serving for about 5 years. This experience included helping with changing the credit union's charter membership, name changes, management changes and finally helping through its final merging year with Unify FCU. I appreciate your consideration for my seat on the Board.



Deborah Matthews

As a qualified finance expert and experienced leader I pledge to my bring leadership skills and expertise in finance to the table when making decisions on behalf of our Cooperative Center Credit Union. I am confident that I can make a positive impact on our organization's future.

My experience has taught me how to effectively manage a team, make tough decisions, and ensure that all financial regulations are followed. My professional career reflects a demonstrated track record in leading successful large-scale transformation initiatives, optimizing financial management processes in complex, business environment. I currently serves on the EAH Housing Advisory Committee, the EAH organization operates a housing development budget of 1.2 billion dollars | 1.8 billion dollars in developed housing.

I served more than 25 years as a City of Berkeley Commissioner: former Chair, Zoning Adjustments Board | former Chair, Housing Advisory Commission | and former, Vice Chair, Planning Commission. I delivered affordable housing, (including the Higby Building, where the Berkeley Branch is currently located) , and critical policies to ensure equity and inclusion for a better Berkeley that serves everyone. While at Merritt College for 10 years, I lectured real estate class study that prepared community college students for lucrative financial occupations.

My career as a real estate broker and business owner for more than 27 years has opened doors for working families to their forever homes and wealth building throughout the bay area. I am committed to professional real estate guidance for long-term homeowners, who are in need of quality life solutions; preparing for retirement, home downsizing, reducing monthly expenditures and creating lasting budgetary legacies for their children and grandchildren.

I am a board member of Oakland and the World Enterprises, I currently serve on the lead team for a \$92 million dollar housing development project right now "under construction", located in West Oakland, for extremely low-income, formerly incarcerated men and women. This project when completed in 2025 will provide housing and business training opportunities for "re-entry" local citizens to become self-sustaining and proud members of the community.

I would be honored to receive your vote to serve on the 2023 Board of Directors, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.



Michael J Thompson

As a newer member of the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union since 2013 and a resident of Berkeley since 2008, I have seen and experienced how institutions such as credit unions help bridge ever-widening financial gaps for the working class. Today more than ever, we are shrinking in numbers and being forced to relocate due to gentrification; yet we are fortunate that Cooperative Center FCU has provided financial opportunity to many. The successes to date of keeping Berkeley accessible and diverse, while economically strong and prosperous, are in great part due to the local institutions that sustain the more fair and equitable neighborhoods we want to live in. I would be honored to contribute my best efforts in furthering that mission. I have worked at UC Berkeley for over 20 years, my latest role as a building and project manager for central administration (VC Admin Division).

I have a BA in Business Management and I currently serve on the Zoning Adjustments Board for the City of Berkeley. My goal is to represent this board in an informed, accountable, and progressive way, yet very much from the lower-middle class, upwardly striving perspective.