

# NOTICE REGARDING 2018 ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**This year's Annual Meeting of Members to be held on July 26, 2018, will culminate in the election to fill two (2) board seats.**

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

Ipsheeta Furtado | Deborah Matthews | Celeste McAllister | Jess McCarter | Christina Oatfield

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 below for bios/statements and qualifications. A copy of this notice and bios is also displayed in the credit union lobby and available from the credit union's website homepage: 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 current size of the membership on April 30, 2018, the minimum number of required member signatures is 129. A petition form, as well as the required forms that need to be submitted with the completed petition, are available from Debbie Crowson at [dcrowson@coopfcu.org](mailto:dcrowson@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 the candidate is 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 to Fadhila Holman no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 11, 2018, to the following address:

Cooperative Center FCU, 2001 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703

Please note: Petition signers 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, 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.

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

**For a full timeline, including a special "Meet the Candidates" mixer, please refer to [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org).**

## MEET THE NOMINEES:



**Ipsheeta Furtado** - Thank you for your consideration of my application. I have been a member for over 10 years and joined the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union (CU) when I arrived at Cal, during my freshman orientation week. My family has long banked with credit unions through the corporate affiliation or locale and I strongly believe it is the best financial partner someone can have.

During my career, I've gotten more immersed into the frontiers of finance, starting with responsibility for the back office operations of a broker dealer to, most recently, offering a factoring product to small businesses via my internet-based financial service company. I have familiarity with regulatory compliance, treasury management, and underwriting practices. Primarily, I believe my community engagement and technology experience will contribute a unique perspective to the Board. I want to see the CU continue to support families, students, and business owners in the Berkeley community and hope to provide my perspective and experience to its leadership.

In particular, I am encouraged to recently hear that mobile banking will be provided to members and I am happy to serve as a resource for optimizing our online services as well. I spent 5 years providing software consulting and development services to local non-profits, businesses, and startups to diagnose and plan their technical roadmap. Additionally, I'm interested in defining some of the branch programming that has been surveyed for financial literacy and planning via in-person workshops. I am a strong believer that access, both online and offline, is integral to the success of the CU and look forward to help steer member engagement.



**Deborah Matthews** - The Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union is a leader in providing members with cost effective credit options and financial stability for every hard-earned dollar. My introduction to the Berkeley credit union was in 1981. I became a shopper at the Co-Op grocery store located in central Berkeley on University Ave. The Co-Op provided a quality family market for both members and non-members.

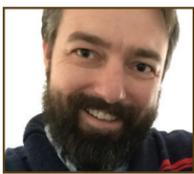
The credit union is a unique financial institution focused on members and community. I support the strategic growth in annual revenue, shares, reserves, membership and services. As a real estate broker, I am in the current 2% of African Americans holding this title here in the East Bay of Northern California. I look forward to utilizing my 25 years of real estate expertise and business success to support the credit union's goal of building affordable housing here in South Berkeley. It takes financial responsibility, equitable policies, fair zoning and planning, along with community engagement, to provide quality housing for working and low-income families with annual incomes below \$30,000.

Let us celebrate the Financial Literacy programs here at the credit union! Studies have shown when we understand finances, our purchases are rooted in positive decision making, from auto loans and home buying to long term retirement investments for our senior years.

The board directly affects the credit union, it is important that we weigh policy options thoughtfully. Accurate analysis will illuminate the costs, benefits, trade-offs and support informed board decisions. I am firmly committed to the credit union mission, vision, seven cooperative principles and financial literacy training. I respectfully request your vote to serve you providing effective leadership, open to addressing membership concerns. I believe every member of Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union deserves to have a positive experience. Thank you for your vote.



**Celeste McAllister** - I would like the opportunity to continue on the board and be a part of the exciting times and changes coming to the credit union. I have been on the board for the last 4 years and was Vice-Chair for 3 of those years. This year I stepped down as Vice-Chair to care for my mother, however, going forward I will have more time for the CU. Prior to coming on the board I worked in corporate, small and non-profit environments. I've been the paid Executive Director of a non-profit as well as Chairman of the Board of Directors and various committees as a volunteer. I've lived in Berkeley for the past 10+ years with my mother in a home that has been in our family since the 1940's. My educational background includes a BA in Business Administration and graduate work in Public Administration. I have expanded that knowledge with training for credit union boards and certification. The directors have been working well together and I think I bring a unique view and add to the diversity of the board. I would appreciate your vote, support and input as we continue to carry out the Cooperative Center FCU mission.



**Jess McCarter** - My name is Jess McCarter and I have been proud to serve you as a member of the Board of the COOP for the last 3 years. My business, Easy Creole, is a proud part of the local community. I am also the President of the Lorin Business Association, a group of for profit and not-for-profit businesses that serve the local community. I was blessed to welcome a new child into my family this year and am the proud father to 6 month old Maxwell. It is an exciting time for the COOP as well. We are updating our core processor to introduce mobile banking and catch up to the 21st Century. We are financially strong after years of losses. And we are looking towards redeveloping our land to make space for affordable housing and to pave the way to be financially stable for years to come. I hope you will vote for me to continue this vital work for the COOP, for the community and for you.



**Christina Oatfield** - I would be delighted to join the Board of Directors of the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union. I joined the credit union when I was a student at UC Berkeley because I wanted to support a local financial institution instead of large banks. My passion for cooperatives began around that time through my experience living in and serving on the Board of the Berkeley Student Cooperative. Since then I co-founded a student-run grocery cooperative. After college I began working for the Sustainable Economies Law Center where I have worked on law and policy matters pertaining to cooperative housing and worker cooperatives. Through my work with the Law Center I have also had the opportunity to learn about community land trusts, among other important legal models for resisting gentrification and for facilitating community ownership of land, housing, and other vital resources.

I also work on legal and legislative matters related to small business access to capital and have seen how financial institutions can both hinder and help small businesses and organizations' capital needs.

I recently took the California Bar Exam after finishing my participation in the California's Bar Law Office Study Program (an experiential alternative to law school where students study under the guidance of practicing attorneys).

I am a lifetime resident of the Bay Area and for the last few years I have been living a few blocks away from the Credit Union. I have been very active in neighborhood organizing efforts to implement land use policies that promote environmental and social justice in South Berkeley.

I hope to use my legal background and my experience with cooperative and community-based organizations to serve the members of the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.