



## NOEL LEVAN

**Share a little about yourself. Please provide a few sentences about your hobbies, interests, family and/or career, and community involvement.**

I've gardened organically for about 50 years. I've been a woodbutcher and ceramicist, stained glass artist and sculptor for about as long. I enjoy cooking, playing music and exploring the mountains, valleys and waterways that make up the Shenandoah Valley and beyond. I've been a community activist (to the best of my abilities) and am one of the founders of the Friendly City Food Co-op.

**Why would you like to serve on the board of Friendly City Food Co-op?**

**Have you ever served on a board before, and if so, which one(s)?**

I've been on the board now for three terms. Our co-op is a living example of a business that is being accomplished with a most positive intention, with forethought and integrity. Its focus on well-being is unique, as it strives to support the surrounding community at large as well as its employees. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

**What particular skills, knowledge, and/or life experience do you bring to Friendly City Food Co-op that enables you to support and advance its mission?**

As a founder, I have a unique historical perspective regarding this co-op and its development. I've worked in teams of professionals for most of my adult life, and I am sometimes valued for my ability to bring new ideas into being and to motivate others for their best engagement toward mutual goals. And I care to commit myself to the co-op's ongoing success.

**What experience do you have with Friendly City Food Co-op, Co-ops, and small businesses?**

I'm one of the founders, and an owner, a lender and former/current board member here. I have, for my part, an amicable relationship with several staff members and our General Manager. And from my years as a working member of Roanoke Natural Foods, as a founder at the North Buffalo Food Co-op, and member in the Cambridge MA., Harvest Co-op, I am quite familiar with how co-ops function.

**The item I can't live without at Friendly City is...fresh-ground peanut butter.**