

GRAIN TRAIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Candidate Statements 2026

BENEDICT GYARMATI

EDUCATION: BA, University of Michigan, 2014 | JD, Wake Forest School of Law, 2018

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Grain Train Co-op?

Grain Train Co-op is a community institution. As someone who shops there nearly every day, I am interested in contributing at the governance level, helping guide long-term adherence to the Co-op's Ends rather than simply being a consumer.

What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I am passionate about strong local institutions that strengthen communities. I prioritize shopping locally and supporting businesses that align with sustainability and stewardship. Grain Train embodies those principles, and participating in the governance of such an institution is a natural extension of my values.

Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

In my professional work, I regularly collaborate with clients, experts, and attorneys to resolve complex matters that require coordination, trust, and communication.

Typically, I aim to offer my careful analysis on issues and encourage thoughtful discussion. Without conceding principles, I have often adjusted approach, timing, or presentation style to maintain cohesion and thereby ensure the accomplishment of the broader objective.

Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

Yes. My professional background as an attorney requires fiduciary responsibility, sound judgment, and disciplined decision making. That experience translates directly to the work of the Board, where oversight and accountability are essential.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

As someone who relies on Grain Train as part of my daily life, I care greatly about Grain Train's long-term vitality and role in our community. If elected, I would approach service on the Board with consistency, preparation, and support for the Co-op's mission.

