

GRAIN TRAIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Candidate Statements 2026

SUZANNE PERRY

EDUCATION: BA - Communications, Michigan State



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

I've worked in business strategy and corporate communications for my entire career. I have a passion for serving my community using the skills I have honed.

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

I endeavor to create a cultural and experience center for Little Traverse Bay called Bay Tripper. I'm a few years into planning and focused now on fundraising and execution of the plan. It's a community project, nonprofit, that touches everyone around our Bay, but it doesn't exist yet! I'm working on it sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly but committed to its creation.

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

I'm experienced building business stories around a table of executives. I'm usually in the position to wrangle the collective information into a cohesive, actionable story or plan. As a thought leader in the room I contribute to the shape of the strategy both from the lens of internal and external stakeholders and weigh the competing or complementary concerns of all those groups, considering cost, risk, time, resources, and personalities too.

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

I belong to both area Chambers of Commerce and belong to the Sunrise Rotary Club. I'm fairly well connected to the business and cultural leaders in our community. I have a deep love for the area and a devotion to health and natural products (even worked for a consultancy that specialized in nutrition and natural products!), small business, and culture character preservation. I come from an advertising and marketing background, as well. I've been exposed to multitudes of business strategy tools, methods, and schools of organization. My specialty is internal communications and business reporting, mostly through boardroom and ballroom presentations. I have a little bit of exposure to all sorts of industry, grocery is not one of them but I know a bit about distribution and I know a lot about marketing.

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

Sometimes I speak in the community about topics of interest such as AI, cryptocurrency, personal branding. I love infographics and data and simplifying complex information for easy understanding. I encourage you to find me on LinkedIn under Suzanne Perry, PMP.