

Nutrition & Wellness Committee member nomination:

Claire Mance

- Age = 39
- City of Residence = Madison
- Employment = UW-Madison Division of Extension Dane County
- Position = FoodWise Healthy Communities Coordinator
- Connection to AAA = Organized Pop-Up Senior Farmers' Market stands outside of senior centers to increase voucher utilization and coordinates a healthy aging series called StrongBodies (that is hosted at many senior and community centers throughout Dane County)

My education and field experience includes dietetics, public health nutrition, and food policy. For the last 8+ years I have worked with the Dane County FoodWise program to promote changes for individuals, communities, and systems to make healthy choices easier for those living with limited incomes. I'm thrilled to be considered for this committee because my work with older adults has really grown over the last 18 months, and I'd love to be able to both share my perspective and also learn from a group of experts dedicated to supporting the health and wellbeing of this growing community. A little bit about my experience: Last year, I supported several senior communities in accessing fresh, local food by coordinating pop-up farm stands at senior centers to decrease barriers to food access for older adults using SFMNP vouchers. Now that the relationships have been made, the farm stands will continue in 2025. I'm also excited to embark on a new endeavor with AARP and the City of Madison to support getting older adults on bikes and becoming comfortable with the B-Cycle bike share system. This effort will kick off during bike week during the first week of June. Another role I play at Extension is helping to grow the StrongBodies strength-training program for older adults. I've helped establish a new program in Cambridge, and I look forward to establishing more sites around Dane County in the coming years. Thank you for considering my nomination!

Nutrition & Wellness Committee member nomination:

Kate Buenger

- Age = 39
- City of Residence = Madison
- Employment: Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin
- Position = Director of Partnerships & Programs
- Connection to AAA = Previous employees on the board from Second Harvest have assisted with researching options for Community Support Agriculture Senior Farmers' Market pilots and making fresh produce accessible at senior centers or local food banks near senior housing facilities. With a recent fire at Fisher-Taft Apartments, Kate stepped in to get involved by ensuring ample food was available, it needed, at the Mt. Zion food bank nearby and made sure that the apartment service coordinator was aware of this, etc.

I am excited about the opportunity to join the AAA Nutrition/Wellness Committee. As a 39-year-old resident of Madison, WI, and the Director of Partnerships & Programs at Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, I am deeply committed to strengthening food access and nutrition programs in our community. In my role at the primary food bank serving the region, I have seen firsthand the impact of nutrition programming and understand the importance of collaboration in addressing food insecurity. I am eager to contribute to this group by supporting existing initiatives, gaining a deeper understanding of the complexities of current programs, and helping to evolve and advocate for additional resources as needed. Equally important to me is the opportunity to learn from those managing these programs administratively so that I can ensure community and partner voices are accurately represented in organizational decision-making. I look forward to bringing my experience and passion for food security to this committee and working alongside others to create meaningful and sustainable solutions.