Extension Council Elections to Be Held October 10

It is once again time to elect representatives to the Shawnee County Extension Council. Voting will take place on Tuesday, October 10th, at the Shawnee County Extension Office, 1740 SW Western, from 8am - 6pm. Enter the upstairs meeting room from the outside upper west door.

The Extension Council election gives all Shawnee County residents, 18 years or older, the opportunity to elect Extension Council members for a two-year term. Twenty-four elected Shawnee County residents make up the Extension Council, which is charged with the responsibility of working with Extension Agents to develop and conduct educational programs in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, Community Development, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Six members serve on the program development committees (PDC) for each of those areas. Extension staff and council members appreciate your support and hope you will take time to vote in the upcoming election.

Extension Council Election Candidates

Agriculture & Natural Resource

**Chad Bullock** – Chad is the Managing Member of Premier Farm and Home LLC, in Topeka, Kansas. He has a degree from KSU in Agriculture and a secondary in Natural Resource and Environmental Sciences. Chad has volunteered with Shawnee County Extension before and served as Board President in 2015.

Chad has volunteered or spoke to a variety of institutions including extension and Kansas Pest Control Association. He has also presented to a variety of grade schools on growing seeds and planting herbs.

Chad sees a lack of basic skills for growing things in our community. As our community becomes somewhat disconnected from our Agriculture roots, Chad notices a need to educate in order to develop basic horticultural skills and interests in the residents of Shawnee County.

**Mike Steinert** – Mike is a Life Science Educator at Washburn Rural High School. He teaches subjects on Honors and AP Biology, Biotechnology and Biomedical Research. Mike and his wife are former owners of Glaciers Edge Winery and have lived in Shawnee County for 32 years, during which time they raised two, now adult children.

Mike feels we need to make 4-H relevant to youth that are not part of the stereotypic demographic (i.e. those that live on or directly related to agriculture). He feels extension needs to find a way to compete with their eyes and minds of youth. From the outside looking in, it appears those programs are dwindling.

**Francis Kelsey** – Francis is a farmer in the Silver Lake and Rossville areas. He has been involved in various community organizations for the last 40 years. His experience in extension started as a 4-H member and had continued over the years. Francis currently serves as a member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources PDC.

Francis has been engaged in learning his whole life, starting as a 4-H member and continuing through various extension meetings and programs. Francis feels learning is a life long process.

Francis feels as though we are moving away from the traditional role of extension and leading into some of the needs of our local community. Food insecurity, water, healthcare, urban gardening are some of the topics that Francis would like extension to address.
Community Development PDC

Sherri Scheideman – Sherri is employed by Stormont Vail Health for 27 years currently as a Clinical Informatist Manager Revenue Cycle IT. She is involved in Stull Community of Faith Church. Sherri has previously served on the 4-H PDC, Shawnee County Extension Council Board and currently serves on the Shawnee County FairBoard.

Sherri was a 4-Her, as was her daughter. She was a club leader at Auburn 4-H Club, where she assisted the county wide sewing group for 4-H. Since serving on the Board she has seen the benefits of education and having the resources to offer adults and youth to grow outstanding leaders and business owners. These leaders and business owners grow and strengthen our community, country and world.

Sherri sees all program areas of the Extension can help improve the issue of food deserts. Extension should offer programs with solid leadership skills to help the various non-profit group in the community to function to their fullest. Programs for business to gain skills in management and leadership to grow and be profitable. Assistance or resources for the aging as our community needs to adapt to this growing population.

Angela Dailey – Angela is currently the Director of Human Resources at Capitol Federal Savings Bank. She currently serves on the Community Development PDC. Her involvement in the community includes being the President of the Rotary Club of South Topeka and both children were involved in Shawnee County 4-H.

When Angela’s children were in 4-H, she became a Master 4-H Volunteer to guide 4-Hers with their record books. She also oversees training and development at Capitol Federal.

Angela believes our community could continue to address inclusion. We already know this is a need and is being addressed.

Jarvis Doleman – Jarvis is currently the Director of Operations for Child Care Licensing in the State of Kansas through Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He has worked as a program manager for Omni Circle Group for their young mentoring program, Young Minds Determined To Be Great. He has also coached youth basketball for a number of years. He has experience with extension in the past by assisting with the youth entrepreneurship challenge.

Jarvis sees extension serving as a hub for youth development as well as a great collaborator for other youth programs and youth development. The programs that extension and 4-H offers is not well known around many communities. He thinks it would be great to help advocate for extension and to help bridge the gap within various communities.

Family & Consumer Sciences PDC

Laura Moore – Laura is employed at the Kansas Attorney General’s Office as a Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator. She had previously served on the Shawnee County Extension Board and PDC. Laura is a volunteer for the Shawnee Heights Middle School PTO and Shawnee County Recreation as a soccer coach.

Laura’s career includes educating youth and those that work with youth of suicide prevention resources. Laura feels that healthy eating is important and leadership skills in the youth population through 4-H is vital.

Shari Schawo – Shari is the program coordinator at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library.

Shari teaches digital literacy classes promoting basic computer skills especially to adults and seniors. She mentors the summer learning teams to provide educational and entertaining programming to all ages.

Shari feels basic digital literacy skills at all ages is needed.

Natalie Moreland – Natalie is a school librarian at Logan Elementary school, Girl Scout Leader and Kansas Youth Chorale board member.

Natalie has extensive experience in Girl Scouts, programming through the library, and participant in the Bonner Leader’s Program in college.

Natalie feels that there are opportunities to build environmental literacy, i.e. awareness of watershed districts, invasive species, lawn and garden practices that create wildlife habitat, etc.
4-H Youth Development PDC

Rick Miller – Rick is a nearly life-long Shawnee County resident. He is a registered professional engineer and has worked for the Kansas Department of Transportation for over 35 years. His experience with Extension has been predominately related to 4-H including a community club leader in Auburn, project leader in both dog and photography, and other activities.

Rick’s experiences include non-4-H activities that were mostly around coaching youth sports. This included ages 4-18 baseball, softball, and volleyball. Rick also has experience in the 4-H area in coaching gavel game teams, helping kids develop and perform skits, and helping with strategies for activities like public speaking.

Rick’s focus for Extension education will be to continue to provide and improve opportunities for 4-H youth and families including leader development skills. He is pleased to think about young people who grew through the opportunities the 4-H program provided and are now productive members of society. He also will look for ways to grow “member development”.

Jill Rice – Jill is an Associate Pastor, Hi-Crest NIA President, and SENT Topeka Volunteer. She hosted a 4-H Youth Program in summer 2024, partnered with 4-H on youth programming through City of Topeka Way to Work Program and hosted extension tables at community events.

Jill oversees Family Ministries programs at Fellowship Hi-Crest. They service over 60 children and teens weekly through different programs. Jill plans and hosts community building events in southeast Topeka that serve over 2,000 people annually. Their largest is the Azura Summer Fireworks Extravaganza.

Jill feels that students and kids are falling behind in education and social/emotional experiences. When they leave school, they are less prepared for entering the workforce. 4-H and youth development help support, fill gaps, and provide life-giving resources and experiences that students desperately need.

Jeremy Poling – Jeremy is self-employed. He worked as an IT person for 20 years. Jeremy has been a 4-H club leader for 5 years. He is on the staff at CUMC, leadership team on Topeka South Rotary and 4-H activities through the last 10 years.

Jeremy has experience as an Adjunct Professor at Washburn, where he teaches marketing and sales. Jeremy sees opportunities for engagement, not in just 4-H youth but for all Shawnee County youth.

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