

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

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- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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Grand Challenge: Community Vitality

Title: Community Board Leadership Series

Why is this issue important? Vibrant communities need community boards with members who have the tools and knowledge to run their respective board effectively to have a positive effect on the community, whether the board membership is elected or appointed.

How was this issue addressed? K-State Research & Extension used video-conferencing and hands-on activities at local sites to provide statewide training. Topics were:

- Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members
- Understanding Fellow Board Members and Conflict Resolution
- Fundraising, Fiscal Responsibilities, Legal and Ethical Issues, and
- Strategic Planning

Thirty-three members of 15 local boards attended one or more of the four workshops.



What was the impact?

- Before training, 38% felt prepared to serve as an effective board member. After training, 100% felt prepared to do so.
- There was a 57% increase in the number of participants who understood the legal and ethical issues that affect boards.
- Before training, 64% indicated they could effectively manage conflict in their board meeting. After training, 100% agreed they could effectively manage conflict.
- Before training, 43% strongly agreed they could help their organization move forward with a strategic planning process. Following training, 93% agreed they could help move the process forward.

Because of the Board Leadership Series, our small grassroots non-profit is now equipped with the knowledge to run more productive meetings and ensure sound fiscal practices. Throughout the series, I particularly found helpful exploration of the expectations of an organization's Board of Directors, and how to communicate those expectations to current and potential members to grow a deeper engaged and autonomous group of leaders.

—Juliet Swedlund, Topeka Doula Project