

2019 University of Missouri Extension Council Candidate Bios

As provided by the candidates

Fay Aubuchon, St. Peters — I have lived in St. Charles County for over 20 years. I have worked at St. Charles Community College since 2007 and am the Associate Dean for Workforce Programs and Services. I have more than thirty-five years of experience in both Education and in the Private sector and I have held a variety of positions including Training Manager, MIS Director, and Safety Director. I am currently the Chairperson for the University of Missouri Extension Council of St. Charles County, and I work with the Urban Region East for the University of Missouri Extension Council. I take pride in helping to bring UM Extension research and knowledge to St. Charles County residents.

We are working hard to bring awareness of our programs to the county.

I hold a Master of Science in Human Resource Management from Lindenwood University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Maryville University. I live in St. Peters, Missouri with my husband, Norvel, and have two beautiful daughters, Mary and Rachel, and four grandchildren. I love gardening, sewing, and taking the grandkids on adventures. When I'm not working, I am cooking, cleaning, or planning the next adventure.

Kurt M. Johnson, Augusta — Kurt M Johnson was raised in Rochester NY, into a family who introduced him to the joys of outdoor and agricultural pursuits. One grandfather ran the State pheasant farm and preserve, and the other was a Professor of Botany at Rutgers University. As a life-long Boy Scout, from Cubs to scouts to various leadership positions, I learned the value of the outdoors and preservation of our ecosystems

I currently am President of several businesses, all of which serve the Food and Agricultural industries in the US and Canada with diagnostic services or products. After 30 years in the business, I have worked with Extension personnel on various projects in almost all 50 states and 8 provinces.

My wife and I moved to Missouri (Augusta) in 2010 with the purchase of a Laboratory here, and have enjoyed the lifestyle in St. Charles very much. I firmly believe in becoming part of the community I live in, and would be delighted to serve on the MU Extension Council.

Tom Nagle, St. Charles — I have lived in St. Charles for a little over forty seven years. I have been married to Linda for forty nine years. We have three adult children and five grandchildren. I have volunteered over the years as a special deputy sheriff, rescue and recovery SCUBA diver, scoutmaster, youth athletic coach and on advisory boards for the St. Charles School District. I have a BSE degree from Central Methodist University. We have been members of Calvary Mid-Rivers Church for 43 years where I serve as an usher and video camera operator.

I am currently a Master Gardener and Missouri Master Naturalist. Both these volunteer organizations are sponsored by MU Extension. I have served as an officer of both and between the two volunteer in excess of five hundred hours per year. A few years that number has been close to nine hundred. I also volunteer at Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, The Missouri Community Forestry Council and am a member of the Agriculture Advisory Board at St. Charles Community College.

Kristen Sherry, O’Fallon — Kristen Sherry was born and raised in St. Charles County, living and working in different parts of it throughout her life. She has been employed with the St. Charles City-County Library for over 10 years and is currently the Library’s Outreach Services Manager. In this role, Kristen is frequently speaking to and presenting educational programs to a variety of community, family, and social service organizations. She has developed and received grant funding for new initiatives that have allowed the Library to increase access and remove barriers to Library materials and services for customers who are unable to easily visit their local branches.

Kristen lives in O’Fallon with her husband Matt and her three children, two dogs, and two cats. In her free time, she enjoys cooking with her kids, reading a good book, and spending time outside with her family. Kristen loves theatre (especially musicals), singing as loud as she can in the car, and listening to her two oldest children play the violin.

Dr. Julie Turner, Foristell — Dr. Julie Turner earned her Doctorate of Philosophy in Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, her MA in Adult and Continuing Education at Michigan State University, and her BA in Sociology and Religion at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Dr. Turner has nearly twenty years of experience in education and nonprofit leadership, having served as a K-12 teacher and administrator, fund development/grant writing expert, and serving in a variety of leadership capacities through organizations such as Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Greater St. Louis, Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation, and Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Turner is a Professor of Nonprofit Administration at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at Lindenwood University. She has served on the United Way of Greater St. Louis Tri-County Board of Directors and on the Youth Development Allocation Panel and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Community Council of St. Charles County, Thrivent Financial Regional Board (Heartland Division), Vision St. Charles, and volunteers with Lutheran High School St. Charles County. Dr. Turner was recognized as “Professor of the Year” by the Lindenwood Student Government Association; received the "Emerson Award for Teaching Excellence" in 2015 and the "Lindenwood Service Award" in 2018.

Julie and her husband live in west St. Charles County with three daughters - two of whom are in college. In addition to being very involved in her community and church, Julie plays golf and recently participated in the Master Gardener Certification Course offered by UM Extension.

Roy Zirges, Lake St. Louis — Roy retired in 2007 after 17 years with the I.R.S, as an information technology specialist. He and his wife have been residents of St. Charles County for 35 years and residents of Lake St. Louis for 17 years. Roy received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, IL. Currently he is volunteering in the Child of God Lutheran School library, does tutoring in reading, is a Trustee of the homeowners association of his subdivision, secretary to the University of Missouri Extension Urban Regional Council, Vice Chairman of the Foundation Board and Treasurer of the Extension Council. He also serves as Chairman of the Tree Board for the City of Lake Saint Louis Parks Department. Roy also has also evaluated and scored medical research proposals on an on-going basis for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). He has also written a TRIM grant which allowed the homeowners association to replace diseased and dying trees and scheduled seminars on tree and lawn maintenance for residents of his subdivision using Missouri Extension programs. He has also assisted with science and technology grant writing for Child of God Lutheran School. Roy understands the benefits education brings to people's lives and the community. Roy has served 10 years on the Council and is seeking another 2-year term.