

PRESS RELEASE

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University of Missouri Extension Welcomes Our Newest Council Members

Kirkwood, MO – April 3, 2017 – University of Missouri Extension is excited to have four new council members on board. Beginning March 1, 2017, Tracey Howe-Koch, Cynthia Jordan, Jane Kerlagon and Veronica Morrow-Reel were elected as the newest council members for St. Louis County.

Each county-based office is governed by its own Extension Council, a volunteer governing board that guides Extension programming, administers Extension county funds and makes personnel recommendations. The council has four purposes:

1. Make recommendations and suggestions to the University concerning the extension programs.
2. Make recommendations and suggestions to the University concerning the appointment or removal of extension personnel.
3. Arrange for and administer the county's share of the cost of the extension services over which the council has jurisdiction.
4. Receive, hold and/or sell real and personal property reasonably required for the extension program.

Highlights of our newest members:

- Tracey Howe-Koch has been very active in the Saint Louis Community, especially in advancing green energy and the environment. She has a Master's in Sustainability from St. Louis University. She volunteers as a Coordinator for Missouri Interfaith Power and Light and works part-time as the Facilities assistant for the St. Louis Symphony. In her spare time, she loves to sew, bake and be in the garden. She also plays the clarinet with the Northwinds Concert Band and the quintet group, "No Strings Attached."

Tracey said, "I am very excited to be a part of the MU Extension Council. The amount of classes they offer the community is truly impressive and show their commitment to their land grant charter. There is literally something for everyone."

- Cynthia Jordan has over 20 years of expertise in Community Economic Development, Civic Engagement, the CRA (Community Reinvestment Act of 1977), Government Relations, Housing, Strategic Sales, Risk Management, and High Impact Strategies. She will soon have a Master's in Business Administration. She has also done volunteer work for Metropolitan Equal Housing & Opportunity Council Board of Directors, the St. Louis Area Foodbank Board of Directors, as well as the Community Action Agency of St. Louis Board of Directors. Some of her awards include a Leadership St. Louis Award in 2013-2014 and a St. Louis Business Journals "Diverse Business Leaders" Award in 2011.

Cynthia said, "This is an opportunity to greater serve St. Louis County and provide research based solutions to solve current challenges."

- Jane Kerlagon has over 40 years of experience in business and education. She managed the largest Arts and Education Grant providing arts to all St. Louis City/County school districts. She is currently an adjunct professor for Webster University in the Business school. She has served as an Educational Advisor for the St. Louis County and City Workforce Boards, as well as a marketing strategist and grant review/writer for the State Community Education Council. She understands the priorities to use leadership skills for strategic planning to meet the needs of the community in regards to business, government and education for economic growth.

- Veronica Morrow-Reel has over seventeen years of experience in the banking industry. Currently, she works as a Community Development Assistant/Loan Coordinator at Citizens National Bank. In 2010, Veronica was appointed by the MO State Board of Education to serve on the Special Administrative Board (SAB) of Riverview Gardens School district. She continues to serve as Vice Chair. In 2012, Veronica, along with fellow Extension Council Member Cynthia Jordan, served with two other bankers to spearhead what is now the Metropolitan St. Louis CRA Association. She is very active in politics and served the City of Dellwood as a former City Collector and Alderwoman. In 2011, Veronica was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel and upon retiring plans to go into ministry full-time. In her spare time, she works with many organizations and she teaches a course called Life Transition and Financial Literacy at the Al Chappelle Community Center in the Clinton Peabody Community Center.

Veronica said, "My personal motto is, I don't want people to perish for a lack of knowledge in any area of their lives. When I saw this description of the UM Extension's purpose on their home page: *"Live and Learn, MU Extension is Missouri's one stop source for practical education*

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on almost everything,” I realized the Extension Council and I have something in common. I accepted the nomination to serve on the MU Extension Council to represent St. Louis County.

The University of Missouri Extension brings the research of the University into communities throughout the state through its research-based programming and services. Programs in St. Louis County are related 4-H Youth Development (including Robotics), Community Development, Business Development, Horticulture (including soil testing), Housing, Nutrition and Health, Financial Education, and Labor Education. For further information, click on <http://extension.missouri.edu/stlouis/home.aspx>.

Additional information about upcoming classes and events at University of Missouri Extension in Saint Louis County may be found online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/stlouis>. Please follow us on [Twitter](#). Like us on [Facebook](#).