



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – February 2016

Fond du Lac County 4-H Teen Leaders help new 4-H club officers understand their officer roles and responsibilities and how to work as an effective team.

- [4-H Grows...Leadership](#)
- [Job Club Seeking Skills in Personal Financial Management and Communication](#)
- [Campbelsport Community Action Revitalization Efforts](#)

4-H Grows...Leadership

Fond du Lac County 4-H Teen Leaders Association members annually conduct the county club officer workshop to help new 4-H club officers understand their roles and responsibilities. TLA members use their own experience as an officer and a variety of other resources to plan the sessions. In addition to learning specific officer roles, each year a topic is covered that pertains to all officers. This year the TLA members chose to focus on teamwork. To aid in their teaching role, Denise Retzleff, 4-H Youth Development Educator, provides instructions on how to plan, teach and reflect.

Twenty-two officers attended the program taught by 6 teens. At the close of the program every participant was able to record at least one thing they learned and would be able to use in their officer role. In reflecting on their own leadership, TLA members were able to describe what went well with their session and why, and what could be improved.

In reflecting upon what they learned from this leadership experience, comments from TLA members were:

- *I will remember that clubs and their members are different but in positive ways.*
- *This gave me more experience in speaking in front of a group.*
- *Next time I will be a bit better organized.*

After the workshop each TLA member committed to contacting the officers who attended their breakout session as a way to continue to support them. Additionally, TLA will start a new Facebook page solely for club officers to communicate and offer support and ideas.

Job Club Seeking Skills in Personal Financial Management and Communication

Forward Services, a private non-profit organization operating in Fond du Lac County, contacted Fond du Lac County UW Extension Family Living for educational assistance in the areas of personal financial management and communication skills for their job seeking clientele. [Forward Services](#) provides employment, training and support services to unemployed community members, including W-2 and FSET (FoodShare Employment Training) participants. Michelle Tidemann began a bi-monthly educational series in January, 2016 for the “Job Club” program participants at Forward Services. Tidemann educates “Job Club” members on the benefits of a

monthly spending plan and how to set up a spending plan through determining monthly income and expenses. The second educational topic of communication focuses on the process and components of basic communication and use of “I” messages as a communication skill to build better communication relationships. These two topics will be taught at Forward Services throughout the 2016 calendar year.

Campbellsport Community Action Revitalization Efforts (CARES) “is a group of people who are looking to create and promote a positive business environment to support the families who choose to live here.” CARES leaders are proud of the area’s highly regarded K-12 school system, space in the industrial park, and additional capacity in the water utility to take on more customers with high water needs (such as cheese production or breweries). They are also aware that unused capacity is a strain on current residents’ tax bills. A long-time area employer, the historic St. Joseph’s Convent retirement home for the School Sisters of St. Francis, also recently closed.

CARES asked the Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corporation (FCEDC), the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and UW-Extension to plan a community meeting which would engage more residents in thinking about the future. After several months of planning together, more than 50 residents attended the event on Feb. 25. They discussed what they’d like to see in five years, learned current facts about the area, and then identified actions they felt were most important to do next and where they could contribute time, talent, or passion.

With emphasis on creating a positive image of the community and sharing the pride they have for it, participating leaders identified a need for a position, such as Village Administrator, to work full-time on community improvement. They also expressed much willingness to continue the work of CARES as a hub of communication and activity, coordinating the FFA, Chamber of Commerce, Village Board, Lions, Fire Department, Athletic Association, and others toward the same goals.

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