

# APSS NEWSLETTER

*The latest news & updates from GVSU's APSS Union & its Members*

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## 2020-2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### **PRESIDENT**

BECKY BAKALE

### **VICE - PRESIDENT**

TAMI JOHN

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HOLLIE RAGO

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MEGAN KOEMAN-EDING

This newsletter is published monthly. For submission information contact

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Visit our website:

[apssgvsu.org](http://apssgvsu.org)

## MEMBER SHARES

**Jenna Stehouwer** - My kiddo's Back-to-School pics! They were less than thrilled about masks, and of course my teenager gave me the "Really, Mom?" look.



## MEMBER SHARES, CON'T

**Julie Noto** - My son has been home schooled since 2nd grade, this year he is entering 8th grade at Jenison International Academy. He is taking his classes virtually and going into school 2 hours each day for in person instructions. So far this has been a perfect transition for him back into public school.



**Karynn Gregory** - Here is a picture of my daughter Emmerson. She started 2nd grade this year. She is at GRPS and they are all virtual, but we still loaded up the backpack and took a “first day of school pic” before headed off to daycare. Of course her little brother needed to get into some pictures too!



**Tami John** - . Here's a picture of my 5th Graders, Chase and Ashton. In-person, 5 days a week! Mom and Dad are loving it!!

*First day of school!*



## MEMBER SHARES, CON'T

**Sheryl Nelson** - My daughter McKenna is starting 6th grade at East Rockford Middle School. The picture on the left is her first day of school, which was virtual. The picture on the right is her actual first day of school in person.



# UNION NEWS



**Shawn Evans** - Hi APSS – A sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to attend one of the zoom ratification meetings on September 8 or September 9 and/or worked with us to ask questions to be prepared and informed in advance of the vote that took place on September 10.

Your vote to extend our current contractual agreement by one year was overwhelmingly positive. Your words of kindness, gratitude, and encouragement are felt by every Bargaining Team committee member.

We are positioned well to return to the task of bargaining our next contractual agreement next spring. In the meantime, your Bargaining Team will continue to work diligently to prepare our interests for the moment when we can sit around a table and discuss in earnest.

We are considering ways which we may reach out to the APSS membership to allow another opportunity for a mini-survey, in light of how the global pandemic has changed all of our lives and our work. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any/all of us at [apssbargaining@gmail.com](mailto:apssbargaining@gmail.com) to provide ideas, concerns, or insights on any contractual language/matter.

On behalf of the APSS Bargaining Team,  
sme

## 2019-2020 BARGAINING TEAM

### CHAIR

SHAWN EVANS

### EX OFFICIO

BECKY BAKALE

### MEMBERS

CHERYL FISCHER

MICHELLE HOLSTEGE

TAMI JOHN

RHONDA LEMIEUX

### LEGAL COUNSEL

JOHN KARAFI

### EMAIL

[apssbargaining@gmail.com](mailto:apssbargaining@gmail.com)

**Becky Bakale** - I am glad to have the fall semester underway. I hope your semester is going well.

Thank you again for the support you shown to the bargaining team with the zoom meeting attendance and ratification vote. Our members are AWESOME! 😊

You should have received your wage letter from HR, if you have any questions please reach out to me.

As we continue to see changes at the University feel free to reach out to your building rep or anyone on the executive board with questions and concerns.

Have a Great month - See you in November!

Becky Bakale-President  
Alliance Professional Support Staff

# UNION NEWS, CON'T

## *Get to know your APSS Executive Board*

For the next several months, we'll be featuring members of our APSS Executive Board, to help everyone get to know us a bit better and put faces to names! This month, we've put the spotlight on Rhonda LeMieux, our APSS Chief Alliance Steward.

### **Rhonda LeMieux, APSS Chief Alliance Steward**

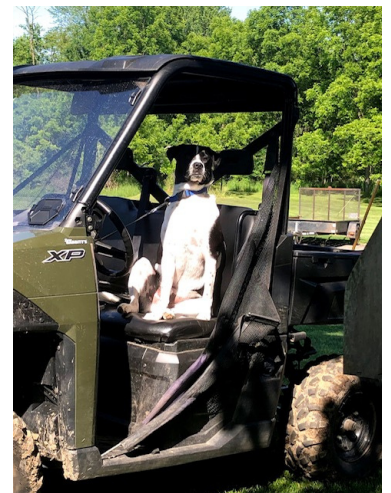
*Athletic Administrative Assistant*

My career path has led me in many directions over the years and I feel that all of my experiences have prepared me for my next adventure. My first career was a Registered Radiologic Technologist. I worked in California, Kentucky, and then Grand Rapids. Then I became a stay-at-home mom with my boys and during that time I had a very successful career in direct sales for over 11 years, was employed by my church as the Director of Religious Education, and then found my way to GVSU. Now in my 11th year, I currently work in Athletics as the Athletic Administrative Assistant. I've been in this department for 3 years.

My involvement with the union started six years ago, first as a building rep, being a part of the bargaining committee for the last two contracts (now in my third contract negotiations), then as the Vice President for two years, and for the last two years, serving as the Chief Alliance Steward.

My husband, Randy, retired this year after many years at General Motors. It coincided with GVSU shutting down so for a while, he really didn't know how retirement felt because I was home and found many projects to work on!! Our dog, Louie, loves having him home with him during the day and I love that he is there to work on my "honey-do" lists!! Family has always been the center of our lives. Together Randy and I have 2 boys (25 & 28 years old), and my family also includes 2 stepsons, that have given us 2 fabulous grandsons!! Having grown up with 4 brothers, and with all of the men in the family, I love having my daughter-in-law and the boys' girlfriends around!! Our home is located on the original family homestead in the country and we love when our family and friends come to visit. With many acres of land around us, we enjoy trail rides on our Polaris Ranger and we've gone on the trails up north too. Many of our weekends and vacations are spent at our cottage. It is truly my happy place!

My words that I live by: "I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again." William Penn



# BENEFITS AND WELLNESS



## GVSU Open Enrollment and THRIVE

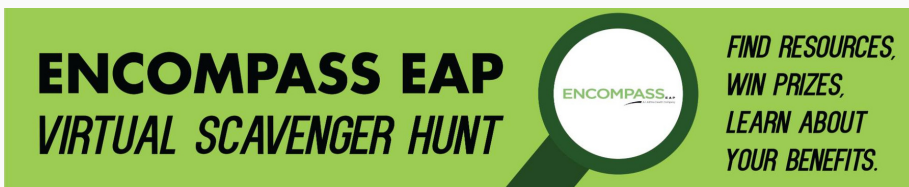
[GVSU Open Enrollment](#) begins October 20 and runs through November 4. Mark your calendars!

The [THRIVE @ GVSU program](#) will be open for registration via the Open Enrollment system for benefit eligible members.



## Get Moving Team Challenge 2020 Registration Now Open

You may have noticed that you've been spending much more time on the good ol' World Wide Web lately. With COVID-19 separating us physically, our computers and phones have been more important than ever to keep us connected at work and at home, but they may also be working to distract us from our healthy life goals. Thankfully, the Get Moving Team Challenge is here to help you step away from your computer and get active to meet your wellness goals! [Learn more about the challenge.](#)



## Encompass EAP Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Check out the [MyLifeExpert.com scavenger hunt](#) to help you become familiar with the site and useful resources and tools on resilience, career and finance, family and support systems and more.

## New Mental Health and Well-Being Index for GVSU Services

There is a new mental health and well-being index of all GVSU supported mental health and well-being resources and programs for students, faculty and staff. It is searchable based on need and is very comprehensive. [Check out the GVSU Mental Health and Well-Being index.](#)



# HR WORKSHOPS

## GVSU Moms Network (all campuses)

**Tuesday, October 20**

**12:00PM - 1:00PM - Zoom Meeting**

Join GVSU faculty and staff parents and caretakers for monthly discussions, presentations, and fellowship. We strive to create a positive place and space for learning, sharing and balancing professional and caretaking responsibilities.

When you sign up in [Sprout](#), you'll receive the Zoom link.

## GVSU Elder Care Support (all campuses)

**Wednesday, October 21**

**12:00PM - 1:00PM - Zoom Meeting**

An authentic space for elder care givers to connect with each other, share stories, and talk about resources.

When you sign up in [Sprout](#), you'll receive the Zoom link.




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## The following workshop has been approved for PSS Development Credit:

### 1) Queer & Trans 101: A Training for Allies

Presented by Jen Hsu-Bishop

Approved for **Non-Technical** credit

Are you interested in learning how you can grow as an ally to the LGBTQIA+ community?

Join us for this informative and interactive virtual training. Participants will explore the concepts of gender, sex and sexual orientation; learn about systems of oppression impacting LGBTQIA+ people; and, learn practical strategies to create more inclusive spaces.

The LGBT Resource Center offers numerous trainings per year. Registrations are accepted until we reach capacity or until 5PM the day before the training is scheduled, whichever occurs first. Join us and learn more about your own power to create positive change on our campus, in the community, and in the world.



**Friday, October 16**

**1:00PM - 3:00PM**

**Virtual**

**Friday, December 4**

**1:00PM - 3:00PM**

**Virtual**

[Register on Sprout!](#)

## 2020-2021 BUILDING REPS

<b>CHERYL BRONNER</b>	<b>X13327</b>
STU, 1ST FLOOR	
<b>TAMI JOHN</b>	<b>X12350</b>
CAC & KC	
<b>MATT COLLVER</b>	<b>X15583</b>
CHS & RFH	
<b>BARB ELLIS</b>	<b>X18611</b>
KHS & LMP	
<b>LINDSEY BURNS</b>	<b>X12186</b>
MAK & NLC	
<b>DEB ROTMAN</b>	<b>X12297</b>
AGS, LHH, LSH, & PAC	
<b>HOLLIE RAGO</b>	<b>X13426</b>
CON, JHZ, LMH, & NMH	
<b>KATIE HAYNES</b>	<b>X13006</b>
HHLC, HRY, & PAD	
<b>JOYCE SULLIVAN</b>	<b>X13730</b>
ASH	
<b>AUTUMN DEROO</b>	<b>X15936</b>
EC, KEN	
<b>PATTI MCCARTHY</b>	<b>X16751</b>
DEV, 1ST & 2ND FLOORS	
<b>PATRICK MURDOCK</b>	<b>X19188</b>
BICYCLE FACTORY & SCB	
<b>VICKI HELGESON</b>	<b>X12630</b>
LIB	
<b>LINDSAY BOGI</b>	<b>X13585</b>
STU, 2ND & 3RD FLOORS	
<b>VICKI WENGER</b>	<b>X13898</b>
LOH	
<b>PATRICK PERRY</b>	<b>X16202</b>
DEV, 3RD & 4TH FLOORS	
<b>IRINA GROUGAN</b>	<b>X17606</b>
TC REGIONAL CENTER, HOLLAND, & MUSKEGON	
<b>VACANT POSITIONS</b>	
AH, CUB, FH, MAN, SER	

## MEMBER RELATIONS TEAM

<b>RHONDA LEMIEUX</b>	<b>X13268</b>
<b>CHAIR</b>	
<b>CHERYL FISCHER</b>	<b>X13000</b>

## IMPORTANT DATES

Mid-terms - October 12-16

## UPCOMING ISSUE

Share your Halloween photos with **Megan** at edingme@gvsu.edu by 12:00PM on Monday, November 2. The newsletter will go out a day late in order to accommodate Halloween pics!

## OCTOBER DATES

### BIRTHDAYS

14 - Victoria Stubbs  
16 - Angela Munford  
21 - Sherri Hall  
29 - Cheryl Fischer  
31 - Janine Warfield

### GVSU ANNIVERSARY

4 - Kathy Rice  
6 - Dawn Nagelkirk  
10 - Tracie Samdal  
11 - Jay Zink  
12 - Angela Munford  
12 - Deb Rotman  
14 - Suzanne Rogers  
21 - Christine Adams  
Lori O'Bradovich  
Kathy Bausano

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

2 - Jennifer Stamate-Carey  
3 - Julie DeVecht (33 yrs)  
10 - Maria Jaramillo-Gonzalez (33 yrs)  
19 - Jennifer Glaab (24 yrs)  
31 - Coreen Bedford

**Thinking of You Cards:**  
Do you know someone who is off work because of surgery, illness, or accident? Please let **Deb Barko** know at barkod@gvsu.edu. She will send a card from our Association.

If you would like your birthday, GVSU anniversary, wedding anniversary, job change, and/or retirement notice published in the newsletter, or if you have suggestions for an upcoming issue, email **Megan Koeman-Eding** at edingme@gvsu.edu.