

# 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

### **CHIEF ALLIANCE STEWARD**

RHONDA LEMIEUX

### **SECRETARY**

MICHELLE HOLSTEGE

### **BUSINESS & FINANCE DIRECTOR**

HOLLIE RAGO

### **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

JOYCE SULLIVAN

### **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

MEGAN KOEMAN-EDING

This newsletter is published monthly. For submission information contact

**Megan Koeman-Eding** at [edingme@gvsu.edu](mailto:edingme@gvsu.edu).



Visit our website:

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



## MEMBER SHARES

**Kate Knopp** - We did a little Charlie Brown in the pumpkin patch pic for Halloween and his 8 months.



## MEMBER SHARES, CON'T

**Megan Koeman-Eding** - My niece, Jane, was a pineapple for her first Halloween (10 months old). My nephew, Bauer (18 months old), was a bat!



**Diana Briggs** - GVSU's Plague Doctor here to inoculate you!



**Karynn Gregory** - Here is Mal (from the Disney Descendants movies) and a spooky monster.



## MEMBER SHARES, CON'T

*Happy retirement!*

**Cheryl Fischer** - Dear APSS Members,

As I reflect on the many years I have been involved with the COTA/APSS union, I smile knowing that our union should be proud of the many accomplishments we have had. I began my involvement in 1995 and never looked back. I learned as I went along while working with many other dedicated GVSU employees. The positive relationship with GVSU Administration is strong because of our collaborative commitment to keep issues fair and equitable.

I am retiring at the end of 2020 after working at GVSU for 27 ½ years. Twenty-five of those years as the Grievance/Employee Relations Chair and 18 years as part of the bargaining committee. My experiences have taught me communication skills, accuracy, diligence, accountability, patience and most of all caring for one another to make sure our contract was always upheld. The friendships I have made will always remain the best part of the position.

I want to thank all of our members, especially my co-workers, for supporting me throughout the years. I encourage you to take that “giant step” that I did 25 years ago and run for an APSS Executive officer position or a building representative. I will be forever grateful that I did.

I look forward to my retirement and will remember all that I have learned as a part of an incredible union with the utmost integrity.

God Bless You ALL,  
Cheryl Fischer

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**Cheryl Lillibridge** - Cheryl will be retireing on December 31 after 19 years at GV! Cheryl is the Acct/Collect Assistant in Student Accounts.

*Best wishes on your  
next adventures!*

If you'd like to have your retirement or job change announcement in the APSS newsletter, please send it to Megan Koeman-Eding at edingme@gvsu.edu.

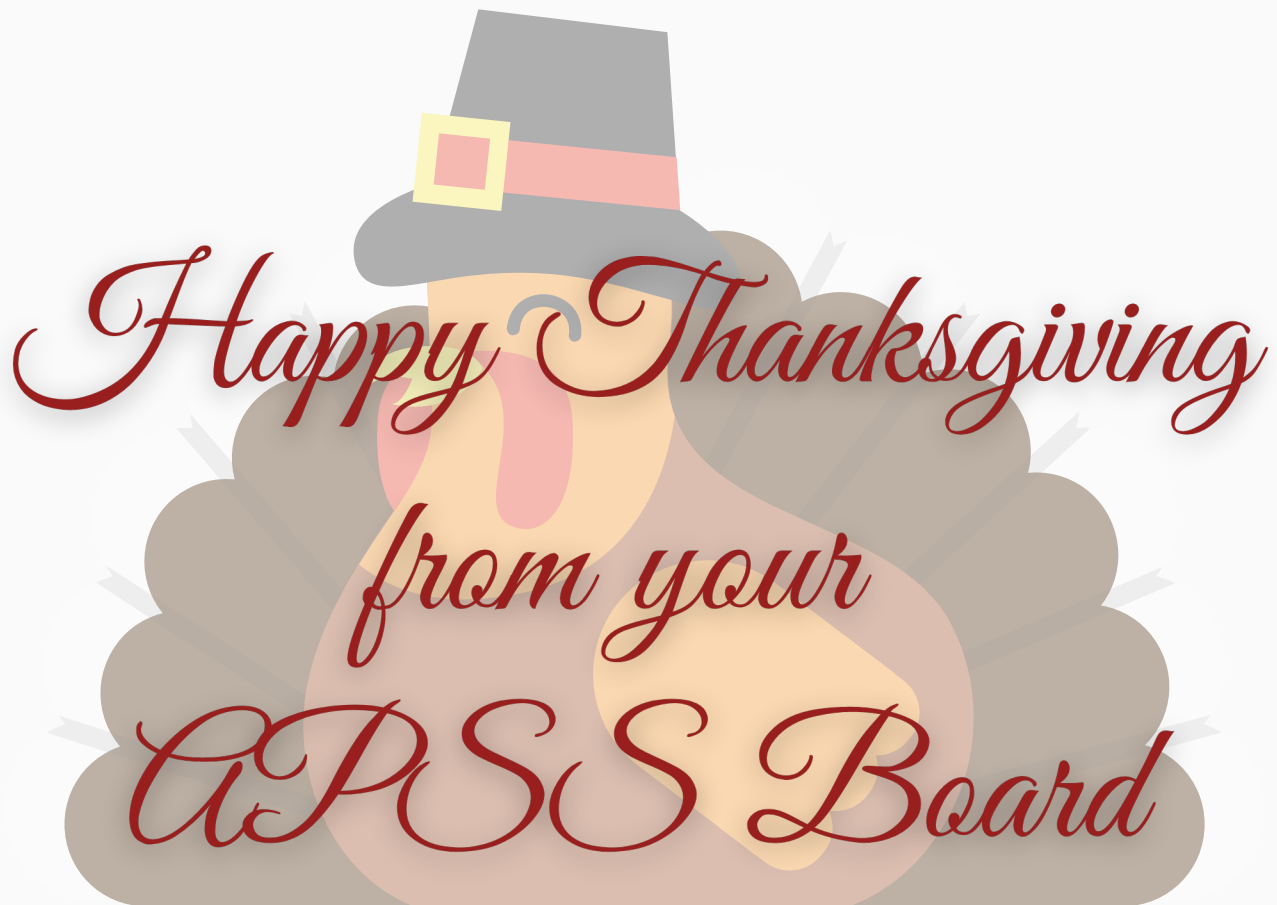
## UNION NEWS



**Becky Bakale** - Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of:

Toni Postema (College of Health Professions) who passed away on October 9, after battling a short and progressive struggle with ALS.

Pamela May (Facilities Planning) who passed away on October 5, after her battle with metastatic breast cancer.



# 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 Michelle Holstege, APSS Secretary

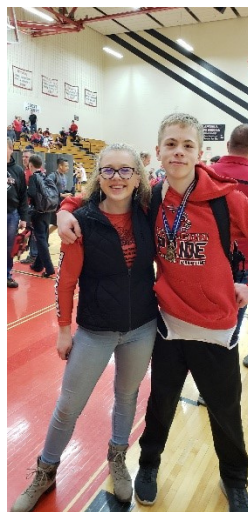
### **Michelle Holstege, APSS Secretary**

*Facilities Services Administrative Assistant*

My name is Michelle Holstege and I have been your union secretary for a long time! I began at GVSU in 2000 as a temp then officially hired in July as the first person in the new DeVos Center. During my time at GVSU I have worked in a couple different offices including Records, Career Services and now Facilities Services as the Administrative Assistant. I have been in Facilities for just over 13 years and love the work I get to do. It is never dull to say the least. This year seems so different due to Covid – our group has been back on campus since May, and I cannot get over how quiet the campus is. I miss the hustle of students running to class and just being present.

I have been married for almost 28 years to my high school sweetheart Kevin. We have 2 wonderful kids, Jess is a senior at GVSU and graduating in May, and Cam who is a sophomore at Allendale. I have spent a lot of time at various sporting events for both of my kids. I am a DIE HARD wrestling mom! It just gets in your blood and I love every nail-biting minute of watching my son wrestle.

I love to cook as my co-workers know, so in a usual year – they would be my taste testers for salsa, zucchini breads and soups in the fall! This year I decided to go back to gardening (thanks Covid). I grow what I need to make homemade salsa. I grow 6 different varieties of tomatoes, 9 varieties of hot peppers, summer squash and zucchini. I have canned 6 batches of salsa with my record this year being over 5 ½ gallons in one batch. Needless to say, our family loves salsa!



# BENEFITS AND WELLNESS

## GVSU Open Enrollment and THRIVE

[GVSU Open Enrollment](#) began on October 20 and runs through November 4.

[Thrive @ GVSU 2021 program](#) registration now open!

Thrive @ GVSU is a voluntary, confidential and free program open for benefit eligible faculty, staff, spouses and household members:

Trained coaches from Priority Health provide a confidential sounding board for a variety of physical, emotional, social, and other hurdles and help you reach goals. The three-month program is open to all medical benefit eligible faculty and staff and covered spouses/household members. Investing in your wellness helps improve your life now and in the future. [Learn more about the program and sign up online.](#)



## Voting Release Time Guidelines

GVSU is supportive of our faculty and staff taking paid time to take care of their mind, body, and the communities in which we live and serve. Because of this, new guidelines allows GVSU employees paid time off to vote in Presidential elections if there isn't enough time for the employee to vote outside of working hours. To learn more, visit the [Voting Release Time Guidance for 2020 Presidential Election](#).



# HR WORKSHOPS

## How to Retire Happy and Informed Virtual Seminar

**Monday, November 9**

**12:00PM - 1:30PM**

As you think ahead to the years of retirement, the door closes on one stage of life and a new door opens up to a sea of opportunities to consider. Plan your new beginning by being well informed.

Attend this workshop to explore your options with regard to Social Security and Grand Valley medical plan options.

Representatives from, GVSU Human Resources, the Social Security Administration and Advantage Benefits Group will be on hand to present and to answer questions. All are welcome, including partners and family members.

Sign up in [Sprout](#).

## GVSU Moms Network (all campuses)

**Tuesday, November 17**

**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. All meetings are virtual.

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

## Women's Commission Meeting

**Thursday, November 19**

**3:00PM - 4:00PM - Zoom Meeting**

The discussion will center on the theme "The Invisible Burden of 'Second Shift' Work," which focuses on kin-keeping, invisible work, and the "second shift" many parents (usually mothers) feel – it is largely an open discussion rather than a presentation. Email Jennifer Palm at [palmj@gvsu.edu](mailto:palmj@gvsu.edu) for the Zoom link/passcode.

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

### 1) Interfaith 101

Presented by Kevin McIntosh

Approved for **Non-Technical** credit



In 2015, the Interfaith Youth Core and the Association of American Colleges and Universities put out nine practices for interfaith excellence and included in them "building interfaith competence and capacity among staff and faculty members." This session will attempt to help with this competency and will explore what interfaith is and how participants can become interfaith leaders. This session will explore key interfaith concepts such as pluralism, religious literacy, and others.

At the end of the session participants will:

Be able to define key terms around interfaith

Learn more about religious literacy

Think about when their identity around religion is the most salient

Monday, November 9

**10:30AM - 12:00PM**

**Virtual**

**\*\*waitlist\*\***

[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

Daylight Savings Time Ends - November 1

No classes - November 25-27

University closed - November 26-27

## UPCOMING ISSUE

Share your holiday recipes/holiday traditions with **Megan** at edingme@gvsu.edu by 5:00PM on Wednesday, November 25.

## NOVEMBER DATES

### BIRTHDAYS

5 - Lolita Salindong

7 - Jo Ann Boon-Shelton

7 - Julie Noto

19 - Sue Palazzolo

22 - Rhonda LeMieux

22 - Ericka Orduña

Rivera

28 - Tammy Tabor

### GVSU ANNIVERSARY

3 - Carrie Shoup

6 - Amanda Reader

7 - Sue Palazzolo

11 - Shawn Evans

14 - Ronda Huster

17 - Sandee Snyder

23 - Coreen Bedford

26 - Cheryl Lillibridge

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

3 - Cheryl Lillibridge (41 yrs)

18 - Sara Walker (15 yrs)

26 - Rafael Juarez-Yuen (4 yrs)

Cheryl Fischer (43 yrs)

### 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.