

APSS NEWSLETTER

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

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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



MEMBER SHARES

Autumn DeRoo - I have no need for New Years resolutions. I intend on staying the same awkward, sarcastic, foul-mouthed delight that everyone has come to know and love.

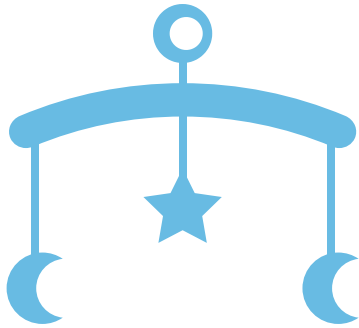


MEMBER SHARES, CON'T

Johanna Swanson - I'd like to announce we've just had our first child!

Adam Joseph Stearns
12/8/2020, 10:17 am

We're overjoyed and exhausted. Everyone healthy too - yay!



HR WORKSHOPS

GVSU Parenting Network: Allendale Moms

Tuesday, January 26

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Bring your lunch and we hope you enjoy an open discussion about parenting. Register in [Sprout](#) for Zoom meeting link.

GVSU Elder Care Network

Wednesday, January 27

3:30PM - 4:30PM

This group is an authentic space for elder care givers to connect with each other, share stories, and talk about resources. Register in [Sprout](#) for Zoom meeting link.

BENEFITS AND WELLNESS

To continue support for employee emotional health and well-being, Human Resources promotes and encourages exploration of the following resources:

[Thrive @ GVSU wellness program](#)

Opportunity for benefit eligible staff to connect with a health coach. They do not have to surf this COVID-19 wave(s) alone, a PH coach can partner with them to help.

[Encompass EAP Mylifeexpert.com portal](#)

Has a number of COVID-19 specific resources and support as well as other general life cost calculators, resource tools and webinars. There is also confidential 24-7 counselor support by calling 1-800-788-8630.

[Conflict Resolution Process](#)

We are also sharing the Conflict Resolution Process website as it is an especially stressful time for many. The site highlights personal, supportive, and formal options to help foster open, positive, and honest communication.

[GVSU Mental Health and Well-Being Index](#)

It's a searchable database that houses all of the GVSU resources and programs available for students, faculty and staff.

New Online Process for Background Checks

When hiring volunteers to assist with university operated programs, faculty and staff must now submit background checks via a new online system.

[Login to the new system](#)

[Tutorial on how to complete the background check online form](#)



UNION NEWS



From the APSS Bargaining Committee

Hi APSS –

As you may have heard, our dear friend, Cheryl Fischer, will soon be retiring from Grand Valley State University. It will be impossible to immediately replace the unique perspective, informed by her years of experience in service to PSS members, that Cheryl has consistently brought to the bargaining table. Cheryl was always able to naturally connect the implications of our contractual language to the actual lived experiences of our membership. I will miss her wit and her vision. Still, our shared work continues, as we are scheduled to resume bargaining in 2021.

Please let Becky Bakale, APSS President, know if you are interested in consideration for the vacancy on the Bargaining Team. There is a brief application which will need to be completed, and considered by the APSS Executive Board prior to appointment. More information about the selection process can be found here – Section 6.03: Bargaining Committee.

The APSS Bargaining Team has scheduled an initial meeting in January 2021 to continue/complete our initial assessment of potential interests from the survey data received last year. We are also preparing a brief check-in survey for distribution soon. Please provide feedback as you are comfortable in that survey. You are also always welcome to provide direct feedback to the APSS Bargaining Team through apssbargaining@gmail.com, or through a direct email to any Bargaining Team members.

I hope that you have a rejuvenating, relaxing, and peaceful winter break.

On behalf of the APSS Bargaining Team,
sme

2019-2020 BARGAINING TEAM

CHAIR

SHAWN EVANS

EX OFFICIO

BECKY BAKALE

MEMBERS

VACANT

MICHELLE HOLSTEGE

TAMI JOHN

RHONDA LEMIEUX

LEGAL COUNSEL

JOHN KARAFI

EMAIL

apssbargaining@gmail.com

UNION NEWS, CON'T

Get to know your APSS Executive Board

This month, we've put the spotlight on Joyce Sullivan, APSS Membership Director.

Joyce Sullivan, APSS Membership Director

Academic Department Coordinator - *Sociology*

I have worked at Grand Valley State University since 2002. I started in the Athletics Department, and moved to the Sociology Department in 2004. While working in the Sociology Department, I decided to enroll in a few classes. This eventually led me to earning a Bachelor's degree in 2011 majoring in Sociology. Besides working at GVSU, I have worked as the Secretary to my Condo Association since 2005. Since I like working with people, and am grateful for our union, I became a building rep for the Alliance of Professional Support Staff in 2010. In 2016, I decided to run for the position of Membership Director.

I believe my parents inspired me to get involve since they were both active in their communities. Unfortunately, they have been passed away for a long time now. However, I am fortunate to still have all of my brothers and sisters. I love the picture my sweet sister-in-law made of us now and then! Wow, how time flies! I use to always enjoy being the youngest in the family. But, now that they have all retired before me and are living it up down in Florida, I don't really like being the youngest! 😊 However, I'm excited and hopeful I'll be able join the retirement gang in Florida in just 2-3 years!

Besides my siblings, I was blessed with two sons, Jason and Joshua! Jason is married to Erica Baker-Bringedahl who also works for GVSU. Jason and Erica gave me two beautiful grandsons, Trey and Brayden. Joshua just got married last year to my sweet new daughter-in-law, Rachel. I'm hoping that Joshua and Rachel will someday give me a granddaughter! Nothing like bringing on the pressure, LOL!

Family means the world to me, so I'm very excited that I will be celebrating my 60th birthday with my children and some of my siblings on Captiva Island, Florida on January 11th. We have rented a house right on the ocean. It will be a joyous week of celebrating with all those I love! I already know I will not want to leave! But, again, I have to remember just a few more years until retirement!



UNION NEWS, CON'T

If any of you are interested in knowing what it's like to be on the APSS board, please contact me. It's usually a good idea to begin by becoming a building rep. I hope some of you will consider this idea. It's a good way to get involved, and to have your voice heard. In the years that I have been working with the union, I have immensely enjoyed getting to know many PSS members, and it has been a pleasure to serve as the Membership Director!



Happy New Year
 from your
 APSS E-Board

2020-2021
BUILDING REPS

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

MEMBER RELATIONS
TEAM

RHONDA LEMIEUX	X13268
CHAIR	
VACANT	

IMPORTANT DATES

MLK, Jr. Day - January 18
Classes Start - January 19

UPCOMING ISSUE

Share your self-care tips and hobbies with **Megan** at edingme@gvsu.edu by 5:00PM on Wednesday, January 27.

JANUARY DATES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Luke Madden
- 2 - Robin Burris
- 3 - Shelby Harrison
- 4 - Hollie Rago
- 11 - Joyce Sullivan
- 11 - Johanna Swanson
- 12 - Connie Wiers
- 16 - Barb Hackley
- 16 - Jennifer Stamate-Carey
- 18 - Becky Bakale
- 20 - Vicki Wenger
- 22 - Sheryl Nelson

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

- 2 - Tami John
- 2 - Luke Madden
- 2 - Lolita Salindong
- 3 - Aubrey Dull
- 5 - Craig Hammerlind
- 6 - Sara Walker
- 10 - Bonnie Hudson
- 12 - Erica Baker-Bringedahl
- 26 - Tracy McLenithan
- Becky Bakale
- Robin Burris
- Tina Lee
- Michelle Holstege

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 10 - Barb Hackley (40 yrs)
- 14 - Connie Wiers (6 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.