

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 12 • JUNE 2026

APSS NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES FROM GVSU'S APSS UNION & ITS MEMBERS

photo by Kendra Stanley-Mills

ISSUE FEATURES

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS FOR THE BOARD

How can the Union help when I am having issues with another PSS staff? What is the difference between a Confidential Professional Support Staff and Professional Support Staff?
more on page 2

PRIDE AND JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Check out the list of Pride and Juneteenth areas on and off campus!
more on page 4

ALUMNI EVENTS

Career advising, Traverse City social, Michigan's Adventure, and the Whitecaps!
more on page 5

HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to ALL the graduates this Spring. What an accomplishment!
starting on page 7

INSIDE:

UNION NEWS

PAGE 2

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

PAGE 3

CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

PAGE 4-6

HIGHLIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

PAGE 7-9

EXECUTIVE BOARD & BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

PAGE 10

UNION NEWS



DID YOU KNOW?

ALL APSS members can attend board meetings. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month from noon to 1 PM. Currently, meetings are held in SER and virtually through Zoom. If you would like to attend and can't make it in person, please email your Building Rep and they'll provide you the Zoom link a day or two before the scheduled meeting.

UNION DUES – SUMMER 2026 SCHEDULE

Union dues will not be deducted from your paycheck for June, July, and August (payroll numbers 11 – 17). Dues deductions will start back up in September, beginning with your 9/8/26 check (payroll number 18).



MOVING OFFICES?

If you change office locations, please notify the APSS Membership Director and your Building Representative so we can ensure your contact information and rep are up to date!



QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP FOR THE APSS UNION BOARD

Q How can the Union help if you are having an issue with another PSS employee? Are we better off coming to the building Union rep or Ombuds?

A It depends on the reason for the issue with the other employee. Having a conversation with union representation is a good place to start. They may end up recommending the Ombuds if the issue is a personality clash as there is nothing contractually that the union can do, but it could be a different situation and then there may be something the union can do!

Q What is the difference between Professional Support Staff and *Confidential* Professional Support Staff?

A The definition of Confidential Professional Support staff from the [Handbook](#) is: “a person appointed by the University to work in a non-exempt (covered by federal and state minimum wage and overtime provisions) and a **non-union position** within the Confidential Professional Support Staff classification. Typically, this includes clerical staff members in the Executive Offices, the Legal, Compliance and Risk Management Office, University Developments Office, Budget and Finance Office, and in Human Resources.” APSS members should be aware that if they are applying for or accept a Confidential PSS position, they will no longer be eligible to be a member of the APSS union.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



MAKING PDFS ACCESSIBLE BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Join us for a 30-minute webinar on how to create accessible PDFs using Adobe Acrobat Pro. This training will cover the essential tools and techniques needed to ensure your PDF documents are readable and navigable for all users, including those who rely on screen readers. Participants will learn how to check for accessibility issues, add tags, set reading order, and fix common barriers. Whether you're new to accessibility or looking to refine your skills, this quick session will give you practical steps to make your content more inclusive. Perfect for faculty, staff, and content creators.

- June 10, 2026, 10A-10:30A - Virtual
- June 19, 2026, 11:30A-12P - Virtual
- July 20, 2026, 3:30P-4P - Virtual
- July 23, 2026, 1P-1:30P - Virtual

[Register on Workday Learning.](#)

PODCASTING 101 BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Step behind the mic with confidence in this engaging webinar all about podcasts. Whether you're launching your first show or looking to sharpen your skills, we'll cover the essentials of preparing to be on the microphone—from managing nerves and finding your voice to crafting engaging conversations and staying authentic. We'll also give you a first hand look at the equipment we use at the Bridge to create faculty driven podcasts and how you can best prepare for a recording session.

June 18, 2026, 2P-3P
DCIH 260



[Register on Workday Learning.](#)

ZOOM WEBINAR TRAINING BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Faculty and staff are invited to attend an upcoming Zoom Webinar training session for the GVSU community on June 8 at 3 p.m., focused on understanding and using Zoom Webinars.

As part of the university's renewed Zoom agreement, Zoom Webinars are now available to all GVSU faculty and staff, creating new opportunities for hosting large-scale virtual events, presentations, lectures, and more.

This session will cover the differences between Zoom Meetings and Zoom Webinars, how to schedule and configure webinar settings, tips for participant engagement, navigating the host and panelist experience, and live Q&A.

Whether you are new to Zoom Webinars or looking for a refresher, this training will provide practical guidance and tips for hosting virtual events with confidence.

[Register for the Zoom Webinar Training session.](#)

VIDEO EDITING IN ADOBE EXPRESS BY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In this session, you'll learn how to import and organize clips, trim and edit footage, add text and music, apply filters and animations, and customize your video. By the end, you'll know how to confidently create and share standout videos—whether for work, school, or personal projects.

- June 23, 2026, 1P-2P - Virtual
- August 13, 2026, 1P-2P - Virtual

[Register on Workday Learning.](#)

CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

COMMUNITY PRIDE EVENTS

BY LGBTQ+ FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION



[Grand Rapids Pride Fest 2026 - Unapologetically Proud](#)

June 20, 2026, 12P-10P and June 21, 2026, 12P-8P
Calder Plaza, Downtown Grand Rapids

[Holland Pride Festival by OOTL](#)

June 27, 2026, 1P-6P
Kollen Park
240 Kollen Park Dr, Holland, MI 49423



**HOLLAND
PRIDE**
OUT ON THE LAKESHORE



[Hudsonville Area Pride](#)

July 11, 2026
More details coming soon!

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

BY PEOPLE, EQUITY, AND CULTURE

June 18, 2026, 11A-1P
Kirkhof Center 2204 (Pere Marquette Room)

Join us for an open-house style gathering to come together in community, enjoy a shared meal, and reflect on the significance of Juneteenth. More details to come. [RSVP for the Juneteenth Celebration.](#)

Hosted in partnership with the Juneteenth Committee.



[Grand Rapids Community Juneteenth Solidarity Parade and Celebration](#)

June 19, 2026, 12P-7P
Dickinson Buffer Park, 1635 Linden St SE, GR 49507

[More information on the event](#)

[Additional Juneteenth Celebration events](#)

CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS BY ALUMNI RELATIONS



[Alumni Webinar: Ask an Advisor with Katie Cwiakala and Meghan Veltri](#) Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 12P-1P - Virtual

Join us for a virtual "Ask an Advisor" session designed specifically for alumni seeking general career support and guidance. This open Q&A format offers the opportunity to ask questions about resumes, job searching, interviewing, career transitions, and more. Whether you're exploring new opportunities, refreshing your application materials, or simply looking for career insight, this is a great chance to connect and learn from experienced advisors.

[Laker Summer Social in Traverse City](#)

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 6P-8P

Delamar Traverse City, 615 East Front St, Traverse City

President Philomena V. Mantella and Shannon Owen, director for the GVSU Northern Region, invite alumni, parents, and friends of Grand Valley State University to the Laker Summer Social. Enjoy refreshing cocktails, seasonal hors d'oeuvres, and a fun-filled evening with our Grand Valley Northern Michigan friends. Remarks at 6:30 p.m. Kindly [RSVP](#) by June 9



[GVSU Alumni Day at Michigan's Adventure](#)

Friday, June 26, 2026, 11A-8P (Dinner buffet at 4P)

Michigan's Adventure, 4750 Whitehall Rd, Muskegon



Join us for a relaxed summer day at [Michigan's Adventure!](#) Enjoy the park at your own pace, then gather for an early dinner in the pavilion to connect and create shared memories with fellow Grand Valley alumni and friends. Cost is \$40 per person and includes access to both the amusement park and water park, parking, and a full dinner buffet voucher. Children 2 and under are free. [RSVP](#) by June 5

[GVSU Alumni at the Whitecaps](#)

Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 6:30P

LMCU Ballpark, 4500 W River Dr NE, Comstock Park

Enjoy an evening of baseball and Laker connection as the West Michigan Whitecaps take on the Lake County Captains. Your registration includes buffet access for two hours, unlimited soda and water throughout the game, and free parking. The buffet will open at 6:05 p.m. and will include black bean burgers as a vegetarian option. Alcoholic drinks may be purchased individually via credit card.

[RSVP](#) by June 5



CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS



FINANCE FISCAL YEAR END DEADLINES BY GVSU PROCUREMENT SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION

DATE	DESCRIPTION
JUN 8, 2026	Last day to submit Tech Acquisition quote orders Internal Service Deliveries for Technology Acquisition quote orders must be submitted and approved by your cost center manager no later than 12:00 p.m.(noon) on Monday, June 8, 2026. If the items ordered have not arrived at campus by June 30, the ISD will be moved and billed in the next fiscal year.
JUN 22, 2026	Last day to submit Tech Acquisition orders for catalog/stock orders Internal Service Deliveries for Technology Acquisition catalog/stock orders must be submitted and approved by your cost center manager no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Monday, June 22, 2026. Pending stock availability, catalog/stock items ordered before Monday, June 22 at 12:00 pm (noon) will be billed in the current 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Orders for fiscal year 2026-2027 will be accepted on July 1, 2026. Please visit the [Technology Acquisition website](#) for guidelines and policies.

PURCHASING AND INVOICING

DATE	DESCRIPTION
JUNE 1, 2026	Requisitions for future dated purchases open for FY 2026-2027
JUNE 26, 2026	Last day to submit expense reports for FY 2025-2026
JUNE 30, 2026	FY 2025-2026 requisition deadline. All requisitions for FY 2025-2026 will be closed at 5:00pm on June 30, 2026 regardless of status. ALL purchase orders with inactivity of 13 months (inactivity as of 5/31/2025) will be closed (regardless of obligation balance remaining) on June 30, 2026.
JULY 2, 2026	Last day to submit invoices with a purchase order number to Accounts Payable for FY 2025-2026
JULY 14, 2026	Last day to approve invoices in Workday for FY 2025-2026
JULY 15, 2026	FY 2025-2026 purchase orders with remaining balances will be rolled to FY 2026-2027

Visit the Fiscal Year End site at <https://www.gvsu.edu/purchasing/fiscal-year-end-181.htm> for additional information and reminders.



HIGHLIGHTS



Annie Valkema, Development Services. Development Services student employees, Rosie and Serah, were celebrated at GVSU's ceremonies this spring. They are pictured here with the Gift Processing and Compliance team.

Cindy Warner, Psychology Department. "Here is a photo of my daughter Grace Warner for next month's newsletter. Grace will graduate from Jenison High School on March 21. She will be attending GV in the Fall and going into Occupational Therapy."





HIGHLIGHTS



Betsy Wessels, CLAS Undergraduate Advising Center. “I am sharing a proud Mom moment. My daughter Megan just graduated with her master's in social work from GVSU!”



Luke Madden, Records and Registration. “My partner, Brandon, graduated from the MSW program at the end of the Winter 2026 semester. His hope is to be a school social worker working with intermediate- to middle school-aged students. Here are a few pictures taken at Commencement, his graduation celebration, and some taken on campus by our friend Katie, owner of Love;Photography. I’ve known her for close to 20 years and she’s an absolute wonderful human! She’s done photoshoots for us multiple times, including my graduation photos when I earned my master’s degree, and I think she truly captured Brandon’s spirit in these photos. I highly recommend her! It was a long road to get to graduation but I’m so incredibly proud of all he accomplished throughout his program and how resilient he was the whole way through and I’m truly grateful we got to celebrate his accomplishments with friends and family!.”



HIGHLIGHTS



Keri Roth, Admissions & Recruitment. "This is right outside my desk and I am eagerly awaiting babies!"



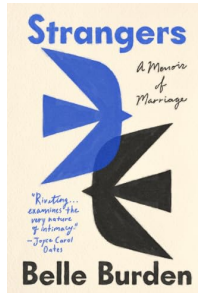
Tami John, Facilities Services. "My mint plant from the PSS Development luncheon is growing so well!"



Maria Love, Housing & Residential Life. "I got married on a sandbar at Coco Plum Beach - Great Exuma, Bahamas!"

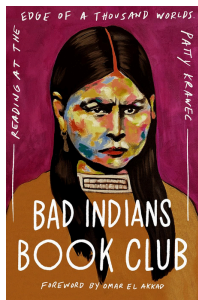


Book Recommendations by Susan Dix, Financial Aid:



Strangers by Belle Burden. "Who knows what the definition of marriage is? It's different things to different people. Often times, partners are not on the same page and don't know it, or one knows it and the other is oblivious. This memoir is about one woman's journey through the sudden dissolution of her marriage. The writing is clear and true and a picture of imperfectly steering through devastation. I admire Belle Burden and her honesty."

Bad Indians Book Club: Reading at the Edge of a Thousand Worlds by Paay Krawece, Omar El Akkad (foreward). "I may or may not be the intended audience for this book, but it feels inclusive and instructive. This book will intentionally hit differently with individual readers and that's a good thing. The book recommendations are wide ranging and support a global perspective. I have read some of the books mentioned and have added many to my want-to-read list. I highly recommend this book."



The Doll Collection: An Anthology edited by Ellen Dalow. "This is a very captivating short story collection which I would expect since one of the contributors is Joyce Carol Oates. There were more than a few stories that scared the bejeebers out of me. These are not evil dolls, just some seem more sentient than they had ought to be. I loved them all."



2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

TAMI JOHN

VICE-PRESIDENT

BRIAN DENUYL

CHIEF ALLIANCE STEWARD

RHONDA LEMIEUX

BUSINESS & FINANCE DIRECTOR

KATIE HAYNES

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

KELLI DYKSTRA

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

RAYSHENA WILSON

SECRETARY

MICHELLE HOLSTEGE

BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

L DETTLING

MAK

BARB ELLIS

KHS & LMP, STU 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

CHERYL BRONNER

STU 3RD FLOOR

KATE KNOPP

FH, MAN

VICKI WENGER

LOH, NMH

ASH GODIN

DEV 3RD-5TH FLOORS, SCB

NICOLE BROWER

LIB

RAYSHENA WILSON

DEP, DEV 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

JENNA BENCH

CAC, KC

IRINA GROUGAN

TC REGIONAL CENTER, BATTLE CREEK CENTER, MUSKOGON

KATIE HAYNES

HHLC, HRY, PAD

TRACY LONDON

CON, HON, JHZ, LMH

DENISE GROSS

CHS, DCIH, RFH

MARISA VREDEVOOGD

ASH, AGS, LHH, LSH, PAC

BRIAN DENUYL

AH, CUB, SER

TREENA GILBERT

BIK, CEC, IDC, KEN, WAT

CAMPUS DATES

GVSU.EDU/EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS

11TH - DENISE GROSS

12TH - KELLI DYKSTRA

17TH - BRIAN DENUYL

18TH - CARRIE SHOUP

22ND - HALEY YOUNG

24TH - SHYCEKA ARMSTRONG

GVSU ANNIVERSARY

1ST - TAMMY BRASIC

7TH - SHERYL NELSON

12TH - CELESTE LAREAU

12TH - L DETTLING

30TH - JULIE CARBINE

22ND - RAFAEL JUAREZ-YUEN

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

1ST - KATE KNOPP

6TH - KYRA VANOOST



SHARE SOMETHING NEW YOU HAVE TRIED RECENTLY FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY. FOR SUBMISSION INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.