SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION

SVSUSSA@GMAIL.COM ✳ SVSU-SSA.ORG ✳ @SVSUSUPPORTSTAFF

PICNIC REMINDER!

The summer picnic is coming up fast! Don't forget to RSVP to let us know you're joining us for food, games, and community.

For SSA members in good standing

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CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

Getting Active with Campus Rec

June 1 marked the first day of Campus Recreation's summer fitness programs. Every Monday from noon to 1pm, the pickleball courts are reserved for SVSU employees to get in some lunchtime dinking. Caitlyn Schoenmeyer, assistant director of Campus Recreation & Fitness is around to show newcomers the ropes.

SSA members Jennifer Pena, Dawn Gillespie, and Kathleen Chantaca-Kubczak got together with some faculty to kick off the summer program!

Grievance Reports - June 2026

Grievances

- In Process: 3
- Arbitration: 0
- Withdrawn: 0
- WON: 1

HR - Complaints/Issues

- In Process: 3
- Resolved: Logistics gained Teri Jo McPeak and Noah Hinds. Congrats!

STAY UP TO DATE

RICKERT REPORT

Persistence Pays Off

Sometimes one of the most important roles of a union is simply refusing to let an issue be forgotten.

For several years, the SSA raised concerns regarding staffing levels in Receiving. Employees worked hard to keep up with campus demands, but understaffing and classification issues created challenges that became increasingly difficult to overcome. Delays in receiving orders and supplies began affecting offices, events, and daily operations across campus.

The problem was never the employees. Receiving staff continued doing everything they could despite limited staffing and growing workloads.

To better understand the impact, the SSA surveyed employees across campus. The responses confirmed what many already suspected: problems in Receiving were affecting departments throughout the university. Armed with that information, we continued bringing concerns and proposed solutions to administration.

Unfortunately, meaningful action did not occur until the situation reached a critical point. Following a retirement and an extended period in which one support staff member was left managing Receiving operations alone, administration approached the SSA with a proposal to transfer a Bookstore employee into Receiving.

After reviewing the proposal and requesting additional information, the SSA recommended a broader solution that addressed both the staffing needs in Receiving and the long-term stability of employees working in the Bookstore. Administration accepted the proposal, and after several weeks of planning and discussions with affected employees, the changes were implemented.

During this process, many members understandably asked for updates. While we appreciated those questions, there were times when we could not share details because discussions involved employee positions, classifications, and staffing decisions that had not yet been finalized.

That can be frustrating for members—and for union leadership as well. However, situations like this serve as a reminder that silence does not always mean inaction. Some of the most important work happens behind the scenes before there is anything concrete to announce.

Today, we are hearing positive reports from Receiving. Backlogs are being addressed, service is improving, and employees are no longer carrying the burden of an understaffed operation alone. This success did not happen overnight. It happened because employees spoke up, departments shared their experiences, and the union continued advocating for change until action was finally taken.

Persistence matters. This is one example of why.

In Solidarity,

deb Rickert
SSA President

MEMBER CORNER

Meet Allison Meyers!

An Access Services Assistant at the Melvin J. Zahnow Library who has been with SVSU for 2 years.

Q: What's something people might not know about the work you do?
A: In addition to my circulation desk duties, I also manage both the Library and SSA's social media accounts, as well as write the SSA newsletter. I'm putting my marketing degree to *work*!

Q: What do you enjoy most about being part of the SVSU community or the union?
A: I've really enjoyed the opportunity to be more involved with the union and support other members since that's really the backbone of community.

Q: Do you have any fun facts or interests you'd like to share about yourself?
A: I love cooking and baking, which has led to me collecting *dozens* of cookbooks. On last count, I had about 87.

What? Like it's hard?

—Elle Woods, *Legally Blonde*

Community Resources

Local Food Distribution Programs

St. John's Episcopal Church will have their next food distribution on June 16th from 4-6p, or until food is gone. Boxed grocery items are distributed on a first-come-first served basis.
123 N. Michigan Ave,
Saginaw, MI 48602

Safe Harbor Kitchen in Bay City provides takeout meals to the community every Monday and Tuesday evening at 5:30p.
For more information, call (989) 894-1189
706 Joseph St,
Bay City, MI 48706

The Greater Midland North Family Center holds monthly grocery giveaways from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Food is distributed in the parking lot in a drive-thru fashion. Pre-registration required. For more info, call (989) 698-7770.

To find more programs providing food assistance or relief to local communities, visit the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan's website at fbem.org/find-food. Or use the agency locator at fbem.org/where-to-get-food/find-a-food-pantry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Picnic 2026
Wednesday, June 17 - 11a-2p

Meet in the Pine Grove Community Center to enjoy games, company, and great food with other Support Staff Association members! RSVP online at svsu-ssa.org/event-calendar

Leadership and the Culture of Civility
Monday, June 22 - 10p-11p
Tuesday, June 23 - 9a-11a, 1p-3p, 4p-5:30p

Presented by Tyrone Holmes, Ed. D. in Wickes 280.
RSVP by **June 16** to the Office of Diversity Programs (989) 964-4068.

Baseball Game Night
Friday, August 14 @ 7:05p

Join other MEA members for the Great Lakes Loons against the South Bend Cubs. Tickets are $12 per person. Scan the QR code to register.
Sponsored by MESSA, MEA, and MEA Financial Services

WORK ANNIVERSARIES!

33	Mike Wenglikowski	10	Kevin Kerbleski
20	Eric Kinne	8	William Kirkland
20	Scott Schaefer	3	Bryan Martin
16	Thomas Hare	3	Melissa Zelnow
14	Jeremiah Franks	2	Jason Bursick
14	Paul Newton	2	Lisa Genow
13	Debbi Abeare-Jacobs	2	Kelly Jordan
12	Jamie Frank	1	Danni Savage

CONTRACT REMINDERS

Summer Dues Pause

In accordance with article 4.600 of the Support Staff Association contract, authorized deduction of voluntary dues is made each pay period from September through June. Dues payments will be paused for the months of July and August.

The Gloria and Douglas Wagener Scholarship

Words of Thanks

In the late Spring of 2016, SVSU lost Gloria Wagener, an employee who dedicated her 42-year career to the students and her fellow employees at SVSU. Gloria's death was a shock to all who knew her. Gloria was not only a steadfast employee, but also a firm believer in the right to organize. She devoted her personal and professional life to fighting for the rights of others.

In 1985, Gloria formed the SVSU Support Staff Association (SSA). In 2012, just before the 50th Anniversary of SVSU, the SVSU SSA funded a $10,000 endowment to create a scholarship for support staff families. In 2016, the scholarship was renamed "The Gloria Wagener Scholarship to honor her legacy.

We're sharing excerpts from some of the thank you letters scholarship recipients have sent us to show what a difference this opportunity can make.

"After I finish my degree, I plan to go into non-profit management and help the community where I grew up. I plan to use this scholarship to help me pay for any expenses that come my way from schooling, like classes, books, food costs, and car maintenance, as I am a commuting student. Once again, thank you for investing in my future and awarding me the Gloria J. and Douglas E. Wagener Support Staff Endowed Scholarship."

—Cody Ruiz

"There were times when my dream of pursuing a higher education seemed impossible, but the financial assistance you have provided me has helped me tremendously and kept me going. Because of what you have done for me, I can follow my dream and graduate with my undergraduate degree in 2028. Upon my graduation from Saginaw Valley State University, I am hoping to proceed to graduate school as soon as possible."

—McKenzie Storch

Executive Board

New and Familiar Faces

After accepting an AP position, Laken Wickon has resigned her role as SSA Treasurer. In accordance with SSA Bylaws (Article X), the Executive Board has appointed Jamie Frank as Treasurer and Allison Meyers as Steward.
An election will be held at the December 2026 General Membership Meeting to fill these positions in accordance with our Bylaws.

JAMIE FRANK
Treasurer

ALLISON MEYERS
Steward

PAC Basket
FUNDRAISER
It's 5 o'clock somewhere

1 ticket - $1
7 tickets - $5
20 tickets - $10
50 tickets - $20

First ticket free

Only at the 2026 Summer Picnic