

SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION

SVSUSSA@GMAIL.COM



SVSU-SSA.ORG



@SVSUSUPPORTSTAFF



MEMBER CORNER

Meet Jaclyn McLean, an Access Services and Course Evaluations Assistant at the Melvin J. Zahnow Library that has been with SVSU for 3.5 years.

[Read more on page 2](#)



EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Popping Up to Support Our Students

Finals week has come and gone, and campus is once again quiet. But while students, faculty, and staff were rushing to wrap up the semester, we took some time to provide a snack to the peckish masses.

The Support Staff Association set up in the Cardinal Commons on April 28 to wish students good luck on their finals in the form of free popcorn. Hundreds of boxes were passed out and we feel confident we can call this event a success!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Rickert Report
Member Corner
- 3 ESP Bill of Rights
Upcoming Events
Contract Reminders
Work Anniversaries
- 4 Words of Thanks
Earth Day Cleanup

Grievance Reports – May 2026

Grievances

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- Withdrawn: 0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

HR – Complaints/Issues

- In Process: Custodial, mandatory overtime, safety issues
- Resolved: Logistics

STAY UP TO DATE



SCAN ME!



RICKERT REPORT

Support for Support Staff

In April, the MEA held its annual Representative Assembly (RA). This event brings together elected representatives from MEA units across the state to determine priorities for the organization and direct the MEA to work on specific issues important to members. Your representatives to this year's RA were myself, serving as your President, and Kathleen Chantaca-Kubczak, who was elected as your delegate. I will be honest — sometimes it can be difficult to find the motivation to spend three days away from family with more than 300 education employees conducting union business. But this work is integral to the functioning of both our local and the MEA as a whole, and this year proved exactly why that matters.

For many years, Education Support Professionals (ESP) have often felt like an afterthought within the MEA, as much of the focus naturally centers on K-12 teaching units. This year, however, ESP issues figured prominently throughout the agenda, and it was encouraging to see. One major success was the passage of New Business Item 3, which directs MEA leadership to form a committee focused on assisting ESP units with building membership and engagement. ESP members often experience the highest turnover, the lowest engagement, and the largest percentage of non-dues-paying employees. The committee will explore solutions to these challenges, including the possibility of dues reductions for lower-paid members.

New Business Item 4 also passed and directs the MEA to produce an ESP Transparency Report Card. This report will provide valuable information including staffing numbers, classifications, rates of pay, and other data that will help strengthen ESP organizing and coalition-building efforts across the state. Because if you are not at the

table, you are on the menu.

During her remarks, MEA President Chandra Madafferi emphasized the importance of supporting ESP members, the ESP Caucus, and the ESP Bill of Rights at every level of education. The MEA Executive Board will also be conducting a deep dive into ESP governance, structure, and dues in an effort to better support and retain ESP leadership. There continues to be tremendous turnover among leaders within the ESP Caucus, and these conversations are long overdue.

One of the most powerful moments of the Representative Assembly came during the report from ESP Caucus President Roy Freeman. He requested a suspension of business so the Representative Assembly could vote to formally endorse the ESP Bill of Rights. The motion passed, the vote was held, and the endorsement was unanimous.

Then something happened that I will never forget.

Teachers, professors, secretaries, MEA Employees, school aides, custodians, maintenance workers, food service employees, hundreds of people from every corner of public education, rose to their feet in a standing ovation in support of ESP workers. It truly brought tears to my eyes. It was an incredible show of support and solidarity for workers in positions like ours, and I was proud to be there to add my voice in support of ESP members across Michigan.

Not only did all of this happen, but I was also proud to nominate and help elect Brent Faubert as Director by Classification for Maintenance to the ESP Caucus. Soon, we will have yet another SVSU voice helping shape conversations at the state level — and that, my friends, is a very good thing.

Stay strong, stay proud, and always use your voice.

In Solidarity,

deb Rickert
SSA President



MEMBER CORNER

Meet Jaclyn!

Q: What's something people might not know about the work you do?

A: Some people may not know I do the course evaluations (both paper and online!) along with my library responsibilities. The end of the term is my busy season!

Q: What do you enjoy most about being part of the SVSU community or the union?

A: I enjoy the connections in the union that people can build with someone they don't work with directly every day.

Q: Do you have any fun facts or interests you'd like to share about yourself?

A: When I was in college, I played on the Underwater Hockey team! If you're asking, "How in the world do you do that?" — click [this link](#) for a 2-minute video!

The only thing you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.

—Albert Einstein



STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

ESP Bill of Rights

In April of this year, the MEA Representative Assembly unanimously voted to endorse the ESP Bill of Rights; a motion that spurred a standing ovation from the hundreds of attendees. Support for the ESP Bill of Rights is support

for education support professionals across the state, to live up to the idea that **one job should be enough**. We contribute to the success of our students and our institutions, and our rights should appropriately reflect the hard work we do.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Executive Board Meeting Thursday, May 14 - 12:00p

Board meetings are held every second Thursday of the month to discuss union members. Any member can attend, but cannot vote. Contact Deb if you're interested in attending.



Building Bonds Beyond the Clock Wednesday, June 10 - 4:45-6:00p

Mingle with your coworkers off the clock! Enjoy good food, drinks, and great conversation. Be there!

Bay City Country Club, 4:45p



Summer Picnic 2026 - SSA ONLY Wednesday, June 17

Celebrate the summer and do some networking at the annual summer picnic. Details to come.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES!

- 28 Kathleen Chancata-Kubczak
- 26 Sharon Opheim
- 26 Amy Ross
- 25 Kathleen Lanza
- 25 Jeff Lossee
- 20 Sandra Rasmussen
- 15 Anthony DiRusso
- 9 Sharon Hugo
- 9 Kari Rasmussen
- 5 Carrie O'Hara
- 2 Allison Meyers



CONTRACT REMINDERS

SUPPORT STAFF SICK LEAVE

In accordance with articles 22.110 and 22.111 of the Support Staff Association contract, employees who would like to receive an additional personal day, instead of being paid out as described in the contract, must notify the Office of Human Resources **no later than June 1**.

Please email your request to benefits@svsu.edu.



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.

Recipients of the Gloria Wagener Scholarship have been sending in letters of thanks to all members of the Support Staff Association. We're sharing excerpts from some of the thank you letters we received to show what a difference this opportunity can make.

"I am becoming involved with the Theodore Roethke House and the Hoyt Library. Meetings with the Red Poets Society start soon, and I am considering other student organizations as well. This scholarship eases the stress of financing my education, and allows me to focus more on my classwork and extra curriculars. I am glad to be on campus not only as support staff, but also as a student."

—Vincent Karpovich

"I knew music was what I wanted to do since I joined band in middle school, and I am happy that I get to work toward making this dream a reality. After I get my degree, I hope to inspire other students in the same way that my band director inspired me. I want to create the same kind of environment that I had as a beginning band student."

—Brandon Manke

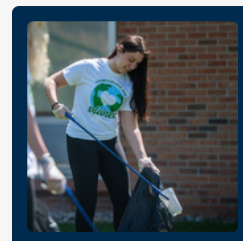
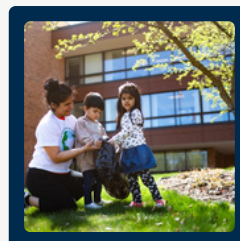
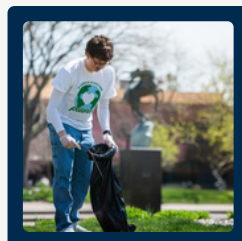
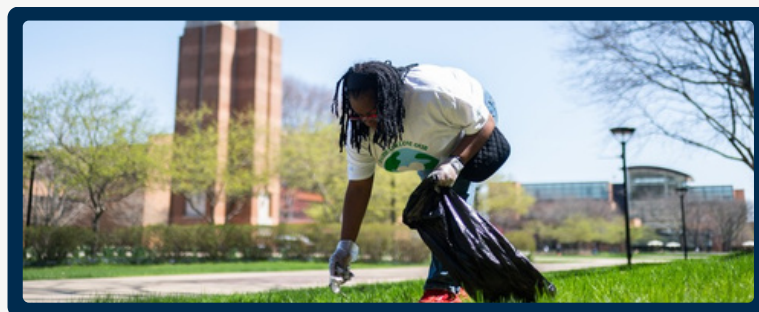
"This scholarship will help make a difference in my life as it covered the remaining cost of my tuition and helped me go to SVSU for free. I am so grateful for this scholarship and the help it gave me."

—Ella Brow

Earth Day Cleanup

Making a Difference Together

We want to thank everyone who took time out of their day to participate in the campus-wide cleanup on Earth Day (April 22). This year, we teamed up with Cardinal Volunteers to help create a greener campus for everyone!



SVSUSSA@GMAIL.COM



SVSU-SSA.ORG



@SVSUSUPPORTSTAFF