

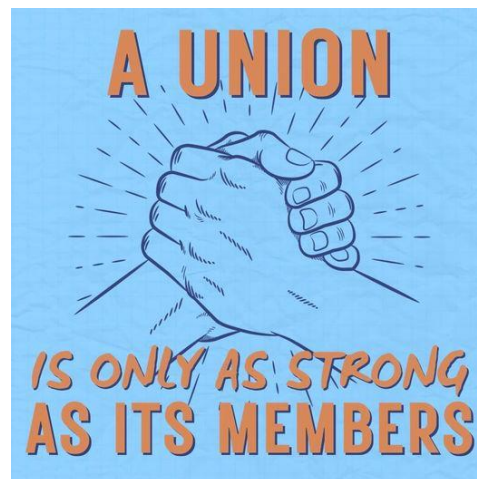
# SVSU SSA Newsletter

May 2024



## Happy May Day!

May Day, also known as Labour Day or International Worker's Day, was born in the US out of the 8-hour workday movement in 1886 Chicago. 16-hour shifts were not unusual for the industrial-era America. May 1, 1886, was the date that the American Federation of Labour set for workers nationwide to go on strike demanding an 8-hour workday. The multi-day strike is known as the Haymarket Affair of 1886. The strike became deadly on May 3rd when a bomb went off killing several police officers and civilians. Four anarchists were found guilty of conspiracy of murder and sentenced to death. August Spies and Albert Parsons, two of the men found guilty, yelled these words that resounded across North America, Mexico, and UK: "Let the voice of the people be heard!" followed by "The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are strangling today" (*The Haymarket Tragedy*, by Paul Avrich in 1984)



"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." – Pelé

## How Your Union Is Working for You

We spoke with a fellow support staff member who talked with us on how the union has personally benefitted her. She begins by telling us that she landed the job of her dreams with SVSU just 6 months prior to covid. During covid, a lot of staff members were working from home. It was during this time that some departments were unexpectedly forced to downsize. In this case, another Union Staff member with higher seniority was displaced due to their job being eliminated, which gave the other more senior staff member the right to bump this newer support staff member from her current position. She was very nervous that she was about to lose her job, but our union stepped in and was there to explain to her the options she had.

She was given the choice to stay with SVSU and be bumped down one level to a new position or she had the choice to be laid off. She chose to take the position one level lower as it was certainly a better option than being laid off during covid.

The union was there for her and worked right by her side to help facilitate her transition during this scary and stressful time. Ultimately, in an unexpected turn of events, a coworker of hers decided to retire and the person of seniority who was displaced and had bumped her from her dream position ended up taking the retiring coworker's position, so she was able to keep her own dream job. Even though she was able to retain her dream job, she had the support of the union to help reduce her stress and give her peace of mind during the very scary and uncertain time when she was facing displacement. Had our staff member worked for a company outside of SVSU, she likely would have completely lost her job with that company just as many people did during covid.

### Did You Know

**Article 23.300** - all union members receive 4-hr religious time any time of the year.

**Article 22.110** – use 3 or less sick leave days in a year you receive an additional personal day. – make sure doctor time is coded as sick doctor time and not sick time!

**Article 22.111** – after accumulating 65 sick leave days and you want your additional personal day as described above, contact HR no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>

### Save the Dates

May 1st, SSA May Day!

Summer Picnics in June/July – dates coming soon!



- **When:** May 1st
- **Anytime between** 11:30 to 2:30
- **Where:** President's Courtyard
- **2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Shift:** Tues, Apr 30th at 10:30 - 11:00 at Wickes 108

**SSA May Day  
Event!!**  
Join Us for Lunch

## Workday Update

Workday is Coming!  
Stay up to date on Workday at SVSU.

An introduction and general information can be found at [Workday - SVSU](#).

Updates will be communicated as they become available....stay tuned.



[www.svsu.edu/workday/workdaytimeline/](http://www.svsu.edu/workday/workdaytimeline/)

## SSA Executive Board

### President:

**Deb Rickert** - Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (Zahnow Library)

### Vice President:

**Kathleen Chantaca-Kubczak** - Student Life Center (South Campus)

### Corresponding Secretary:

**Jessica Klein** - Campus Financial Service Center (Wickes Hall)

### Recording Secretary:

**Maggie Willett** - College of Education (Gilbertson Hall)

### Treasure:

**Dawn Gillespie** - School & University Partnerships (Gilbertson Hall)

### Campus Facilities Stewards:

**Craig Langmaid** - Maintenance

**Brent Faubert** - Maintenance

**Chris Sheets** - Custodial

**Carolyn Roberts** - Custodial

### Secretary/Clerical Stewards:

**Ann Garcia** - College of Business Management (Curtiss Hall)

**Kelsey Lipinski** - College of Health & Human Services (Bachand Hall)

**Amy Zastrow** - College of Science Engineering & Tech (Pioneer Hall)

**Jaime Frank** - Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid (Wickes Hall)

**Kimmie Bromberg** - Campus Financial Services Center (Wickes Hall)

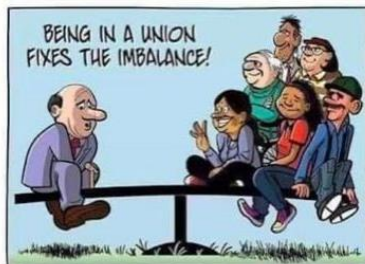
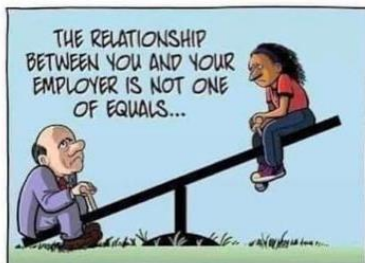
## Bargaining Update

Contract negotiations so far can be characterized as cordial, with both sides engaging in constructive dialogue primarily focused on addressing contract housekeeping items.

However, it is important to note that while the discussions have been productive, we have not yet begun the economic discussions. The bargaining team is preparing to address economic matters in upcoming sessions.

You can be sure that the administration is also looking at how much support we receive from our members at this time and can guide their acceptance or denial of our proposals. We hope to see you at the May Day celebration in the Courtyard today!

As negotiations progress, the fabulous Crisis Committee will continue to keep you informed. Your support and solidarity are invaluable while we work towards our next contract.



# MEA News



## Annual Golf Outing

scheduled for June 10!  
3535 Forest Road Lansing, Mi  
48910

Sign up form at:

[mea.org/golfouting/](http://mea.org/golfouting/)

**Delta professor, Amy French**, seeks change through history – if you haven't read the story yet of a local in the MEA Voice Magazine, here is the link: [mea.org/delta-professor-seeks-change-through-history/](http://mea.org/delta-professor-seeks-change-through-history/)

## 2024 Summer Conference:

Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport  
Hotel on July 16-18, 2024.

All members in good standing are eligible to attend.



# May Anniversaries

Name	# of Years
Beach, Kristine	24
Chantaca, Kathleen	26
DiRusso, Anthony	13
Lanza, Kathleen	23
Losee, Jeffrey	23
Ohara, Caren	3
Opheim, Sharon	24
Rasmussen (Janke), Sandra	18
Ross (Borchard), Amy	24
Weiss, Jennifer	10
Demand, William Jr.	35
Monville, Brooke	1
Peters, Dale	2
Smith, Stephen S.	6

## Former SVSU employee gifts \$650K posthumously to scholarship – Gloria Wagner Scholarship



If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your input is vital, and we encourage your active participation in this bargaining process as well as the everyday process.



[www.svsu-ssa.org/](http://www.svsu-ssa.org/)

[www.facebook.com/groups/SSARules](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SSARules)

<https://www.svsu-ssa.org/>