



CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSOC., INC.
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AUGUST 2022

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A Message From The President

The City Council unanimously passed the economic portion of our contract Monday evening. The negotiations were contentious at times, as well as time consuming, but we were able to agree upon a three-year contract that provides good raises, a much-enhanced longevity program and more protections for our members. As anyone that has experience in negotiations knows, it is a give and take scenario. I believe our union did well with the end result and we truly appreciate the patience you have shown.

Over the past years, the legal committee has been researching various enhancements for our union, some feasible and some not. But look for ideas to be brought before the membership when the iron is hot!

Tentatively, you may see the retroactive pay in your account around August 26th, but that is not set in stone. So don't post-date any checks.

I thank you for all you do.

Dan Sladek
President

General Membership Meeting

CSPA's next General Membership meeting is on August 3rd at 5:00PM at the Union Hall.

Additionally, Elections Voting can be done at the Union office between 7:00AM & 4:30PM on August 3rd. Members not voting prior to 4:30PM, can do so at the General Membership meeting.

As always, pizza and pop will be served. The cash prize drawings are now at \$250.00 & \$150.00. Do not miss your chance to win!

Healthcare & Benefits

Officers

Dan Sladek

President

Kim Cherry

Vice President

Sarah King

Treasurer/

Benefits Officer

Executive Board

Jennifer Baker

Michelle Kocsis

Heather Roush

Kimberly Stevenor

Tom Zocolo

In-Person Seminars Returning

OPERS has started to hold in-person seminars once again this summer. Members that are nearing retirement (within 5 years) are able to sign in to their OPERS online account and register for the '2022 Ready to Retire' seminar. Upcoming dates include July 27 (Perrysburg), August 10 (Dayton) and August 24 (Akron). Registration for the seminar is required so be sure to get signed up.

Pet Insurance

The City of Akron recently announced that they have partnered with Embrace Pet Insurance to offer discounted pet insurance to employees. The policy is customizable to fit your budget and also includes pet telehealth 24/7 from PawSupport. Employees can receive a 10% discount by visiting the website: <https://www.embracepetinsurance.com/city-of-akron?orgcode=80182650> or by contacting Embrace at 1-800-940-4889

Sarah King

Benefits Officer

Election Biographies

Dan Sladek

Running for President (Incumbent)

Greetings brothers and sisters of the CSPA Union. I am asking for you to Re-Elect me as President.

I began working for the City of Akron in July of 1995 as a dispatcher in the 911 center and continue to do so. In addition to working for the City of Akron, I worked thirteen years as a Police Officer for the Village of Lakemore. For almost 15 years, I have been a Detective for the Summit County Sheriff's Office, specializing in digital forensics, where I assisted in convicting drug dealers, child molesters and murderers.

I have extensive training and experience in Collective Bargaining, Arbitration, Grievances, Crisis Intervention, and Labor Law. With the training, legal and political experience I have obtained through my positions with CSPA, I remain committed to handling the various issues that are routinely presented to our union brothers and sisters.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve the membership of our Union and respectfully ask for you to vote for me,

Dan Sladek for President!

Michelle Kocsis

Running for President

I am a current employee of the Safety Communications Center and have been employed in this position since August 2014. I have been a member of the CSPA Union Executive Board since August 2019. Prior to my employment with the City of Akron, I was employed by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office in Florida where I worked as a dispatcher for 3 years and a road patrol deputy for 9 years. I was a high liability trainer for FDLE and regularly trained officers in CPR, first aid and NCIC. I believe my years of experience working in civil service and the exposure I've received to union matters over the past 3 years has provided me with valuable skills that would help me excel as the Union President. I believe the union should be transparent, open to ideas, suggestions, and most of all open to changes. I believe in protecting the best interests and rights of our employees in all departments. I am asking for your vote to be your next union President.

Election Biographies (continued)...

Sarah King

Running for Vice President

I am seeking election as the Vice President for CSPA. I started with the City in late 2012 and have been actively involved with the union since 2013 when I became a member of the executive board. Currently, I am the Treasurer and Benefits Officer but have also served as the Secretary during my tenure.

I understand the day-to-day operations of the union. I have worked on and participated in all aspects of the grievance process which also includes arbitration. I have worked on multiple contracts and have been a part of the negotiations committee (most recently with the current negotiations). I have also attended multiple training courses and conferences to help build upon my labor relations knowledge. There have also been many late nights of preparing grievances, putting together negotiations data, reviewing emails and testimonies for arbitration, and talking to members on the phone. I take my duty of loyalty to the union very seriously - I have always acted in the best interest of CSPA and our members by upholding the rules of our constitution and contract.

I am respectfully asking that you vote for me as Vice President so that I may continue to serve you and the needs of CSPA.

Election Biographies (continued)...

Jennifer Baker

Running for Treasurer

I am seeking election as the Treasurer for CSPA. I have served on the Executive Board since August 2021. In that time, I have attended The State Employee Relations Board Academy (S.E.R.B) and familiarized myself more with the functions of the union. I started at the City in March 2021 as a Buyer I in the Purchasing Department. Prior to that I worked in the food industry for over 15 years as a Buyer. I believe my strengths in communication, organizational skills, and willingness to learn new things will allow me to serve the members of the union.

I respectfully ask you to vote for me for Treasurer.

Yolanda Davis

Running for Treasurer

My service for the City of Akron began in March 1989 in the Purchasing Department. I currently work as a CSR in UBO and was promoted to lead CSR in February 2018. I request your vote for the treasurer position with the CSPA. I have been an active member with CSPA for over 33 years. I am currently the treasurer of the Akron Parent Pee Wee Football and Cheer (since January 2019). I am also currently completing my accounting degree at Stark State University. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to serving the CSPA membership.

Election Biographies (continued)...

Martha Chandler

Running for Secretary

Hello Members, my name is Martha Chandler and I would like to ask for your support for the position of Secretary for the 2022-2025 CSPA elections. I have been with the City of Akron in Planning/AMATS since July 2005 - currently as an Accounting Technician. I also ran my own non-profit (Martha's Mutt Movers) for 10 years. Throughout my career with the City I have been required to keep detailed records and have a high level of accuracy. I believe my 17 years of experience will allow me to be an organized and efficient Secretary and make a very positive contribution to our Membership. Your support is appreciated.

Kim Cherry

Running for Secretary

Hello Fellow, C.S.P.A. Members!

I am a 27-year employee with the City of Akron Each one of those years have been spent working as Safety Communications Technician, a.k.a 9-1-1 dispatcher, for the Akron Police & Fire Departments.

I have been married to my husband Eugene just shy 26 years. We have a blended family that includes a daughter, Jazmine, a son, Xavier, 2 granddaughters, Kaliah, and Akira, and two grandsons, Quentin, and Landon.

I became a member of the C.S.P.A. in 1996. My interest in running for the Executive Board became peaked by attending our General Membership meetings and watching how the Stewards in my department oversaw disciplines and grievances. I quickly understood the reasons why having and participating in our Union was a vital component to being a City of Akron employee. I became actively involved with C.S.P.A.'s Executive Board in 1999. I have served as a Union Steward, Secretary, 2nd Vice President, and Vice President. I have also had the pleasure of being a part of my 5th contract negotiation team.

My Union related training includes training from The State Employee Relations Board Academy (S.E.R.B.), The Labor Arbitration Institute, and the Labor Relations Information System, all which focus on contract negotiations, contract interpretation, employees' right, grievances, and the arbitration process.

My continued goals in remaining an Officer of the C.S.P.A. is to continue to make sure our members are well represented in all aspects of our Collective Bargaining Agreement. This will allow me to continue to serve and advocate for you as our union member.

I am, therefore, respectfully, and humbly asking for your continued support by your vote for me as Secretary for C.S.P.A.

Election Biographies (continued)...

Terri Dunn-Parsons (911)

Running for Executive Board

I am Terri Dunn-Parson. I am a dispatcher for Akron Police Department. I am married with two beautiful girls. I currently have two associates degrees; one in Paralegal and the other in Business Software Technology. I also have a diploma in medical billing. I am also a certified CPR trainer. I enjoy reading, watching tv and spending time with my family and friends.

Kimberley Hanson (Purchasing)

Running for Executive Board

My service for the City of Akron began in 2005 in the Accounting Division where I was a non-bargaining employee. In 2017, I became a Buyer in the Purchasing Division and was able to join CSPA. After years of witnessing things like layoffs and furloughs, I am very thankful to be a member and have the support of a union. I believe in the purpose of our Union's mission which is "to promote and protect the interests and the well being of all members". By becoming a member of the Executive Board, I will uphold that mission while continuously working for changes and improvements to make an even stronger union for all of us. I thank you for your consideration and hope to serve you on the Board.

Dave Harper (911)

Running for Executive Board

I have been working in Safety Communications since September of 2019. Prior to my employment with the City of Akron I was employed by Portage County where I worked in Juvenile Corrections for 19 years. During my employment with Portage County I held the positions of Detention Officer, Supervisor, and Training Officer. While working for Portage County, I was one of the initial officers to organize and start a union and served as Union President. My position with the union included contract development, contract negotiations, grievance procedures, and labor relations meetings. I was also a commissioned Police Officer with the Village of Silver Lake and the Village of Hiram, and a Certified Trainer by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy and the Ohio Supreme Court. I believe that my years of experience working in civil service positions and with unions has provided me with valuable skills that would be directly related to a position with the Executive Board of our union. I believe in protecting the best interests and rights of our employees as union members, and providing accountability to the employer for compliance with contractual agreements. I am asking you for your vote to join the Executive Board.

Election Biographies (continued)...

Cynthia Robinson (Utilities Business Office)

Running for Executive Board

Hello, my name is Cynthia Thomas Robinson and I have been a life-long resident of Akron, Ohio graduating from the Akron Public School System and The University of Akron. I am asking for your vote for CSPA Executive Board.

I started my career with the City of Akron August 1, 1994, working in APUB (Water Dept), Income Tax Division, Engineering and back home to UBO (Water Dept). Through the years and departments, I have been able to see and learn a wealth of information.

I grew up in a very union strong family where both of my parents were very active in their unions, including holding positions in the U.A.W. and Local 36 (Philadelphia, PA). I myself have previously served on the CSPA Executive Board, last serving in 2005. My job as mom took precedent by the end of my term. That same little girl that many of you may remember from our meetings will be graduating in December from Case Western Reserve School of Law. Because of being around our union activity, she did an internship with a law firm where she was able to take part in a few arbitrations.

I am asking for your support because it is my desire to fully serve the members of CSPA once again to the best of my ability.

Thank you.

Jonathan Waszkiewicz (911)

Running for Executive Board

I am a current employee of the Safety Communications Center since October 2020 and I am looking to join the Executive Board. Before I began my employment with the City of Akron I earned my Associates degree in Fire Protection Technology and Bachelor degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. During this time I was the President of Fire Protection Society and the Trustee of International Association of Emergency Managers at the University of Akron. After I graduated from college I worked as a meat cutter and became involved with the UFCW Local 880. I have attended every meeting since I have been employed by the City and am looking to become involved with the CSPA to support all members of our Union. My goal is to make sure members of the Union have their contractual rights protected. I wish to help bring needed changes for City employees, I would appreciate your vote. Thank you!

Our Mission Statement

The purpose of C.S.P.A. is to promote and protect the interests and the well being of all members through employment representation with the City of Akron in matters that shall include, but not limited to wages, benefits, working conditions, grievances, and collective bargaining.

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