

A message from The President



Starting the year off on a positive note is a good way to also improve physical health. Begin with a goal that you are sure you can achieve and get it done! There, now that you have your first goal completed, 2021, will not be a year without accomplishments. Also, do not forget to set other goals that require a little more effort to achieve. Losing weight, being more involved and winning the MEGA lottery are some common goals that people usually put on their list with the weight loss and winning the lottery at about the same odds!

Now that you are on your way to a thinner, motivated, and wealthier you, let's quash this COVID-19 bug and get back on track. Although I am not sure what tracks we will be on, at least the train will be upright. Next, we can start making plans for the remainder of this year, maybe not for the next month or so but after that we hope society will start to cheer up again and more entertainment options will be available. So, go ahead and book that trip for the fall or that cruise for next year and even if your plans would get cancelled, at least you had some dreams for the future that made you happy for a while.

Arbitration update!

The City and CSPA have presented our cases to the arbitrator. The next step in the process is for the briefs to be submitted by both sides on February 12th. We are hoping a decision will be made in late March or early April but as some of you old-timers "Paula Poe-Merrell" know, these decisions may take a little longer.

In Solidarity,

Dan

The February General Membership Meeting is canceled.
This is necessary to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

A message from The Vice—President

2020 was the year of clear vision. Since 2021 has rolled around, I can honestly say that hindsight was 20/20. Last year was certainly a lot different for many of us than we can ever remember with the COVID-19 pandemic, it also made some of us stop and “smell the roses.” We got the opportunity to spend more time at being still. That was different for each one of us, but for some of us, it caused a slowdown of our normal hectic lifestyles. We got to do some things that we did not previously have “time” for. It also allowed for some of us to spend quality family time together, or even more time out in nature. Let us bring the positive things, even if it is just one thing into the new year with us. Let us all remember to continue to slow down and enjoy each day without rushing off into the next moment in time.

My wish for everyone is to have a new year that includes enjoying the small things just as much as the big things all while taking not one thing for granted and enjoying the present of the presence.

Kim

A message from the Treasurer

With our last contract, CSPA negotiated a 3% wage increase effective January 3, 2021. Most of the experts agree that when you receive a pay rate increase you should determine your new take-home pay and then re-evaluate your budget, retirement contributions, and emergency funds. The start of a new year is the perfect time to work on this. January brings opportunity to start fresh and new for the year.

The City of Akron has **three voluntary deferred compensation plans** that are available to employees. Deferred compensation refers to a tax-deferred supplemental retirement strategy an employee pays into while working and collects after retirement. The purpose of deferred compensation is to provide employees with a convenient way to save on a regular and long-term basis, thereby providing for their retirement. For employees who are members of a pension plan, deferred compensation offers savings to supplement their pension.

More information on deferred compensation and contact information for the plans can be found at <https://mycityofakronbenefits.com/deferredcompensation/>

Sarah

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A message from The Benefits Officer

Time Bank



Just a reminder anyone who is interested in joining the CSPA Time Bank can do so until January 31st, 2021. The purpose of the Time Bank is to provide sick leave insurance to the CSPA members of the program. The time is quickly approaching so please do not wait to submit your application. Time Bank applications can be located on the CSPA website, downloaded, and e-mailed directly to MPrunty@cspaunion.com.

Benefits this and that

As of January 1, 2021, the monthly contribution increased for medical benefits with the City. Please take the time to make sure the correct amount is being deducted.

Currently, Unity Health Network is no longer an “In Network” provider for Medical Mutual. Any member who continues to see a doctor with Unity Health Network will be billed “Out of Network”. Please check your current providers status before visiting.

Paladina Health is still open to all CSPA members. It can be tough getting into the doctor right now, but Paladina sure makes its simple. They follow all guidelines regarding Covid-19, so there is no worry there. Several CSPA members have reached out and have advised they really enjoy the care they receive. The best part is, no co-pay!

Continued...

Benefits Continued

Benefits this and that

Recently a member contacted CSPA regarding an issue where the doctor's office billed a facility charge for a tele visit. This was an unexpected cost to our member and therefore warranted an investigation. This issue was brought to the attention of Wendy Weaver and Medical Mutual. It was determined that Medical Mutual is working to correct this issue and members should be advised they do not need to pay a facility fee. This charge appears to be something new. If you find something like this has happened to you, please reach out so CSPA can assist.

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Kim Cherry – Vice President

Sarah King – Treasurer

Megan Prunty – Grievance Chair/Benefits Officer

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