

# Staff Congress Newsletter



## Chair Chat



**Xavier Scott**  
Staff Congress Chair

Happy September! Autumn is upon us, and the leaves are already starting to turn. I can feel a sense of excitement from staff and students, anticipating the cooler weather and the fun holiday events that come each Fall. Students are starting to hit their strides, and we are finally getting back to normal after our long summer. There has been lots of progress this month. In our September meeting, we finished updating the Staff Congress Bylaws, assigned members to our subcommittees, and elected subcommittee Chairs. We proudly presented eleven excellent Staff Salutes, possibly our highest number of salutes in a single month! At the end of September, the minimum wage at MSU will be increased to \$13/hour. Additionally, the University will be closed on October 6th for Fall Break, giving us an extra vacation day!

With all this progress and good news, I hope you're all as enthusiastic as I am to be involved with all the exciting events planned for our campus and local community. Go Eagles!

## September 2023

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# Campus Announcements

*The following events are scheduled for this month at the Morehead State University residential campus. If you have announcements that you would like to share with the MSU Staff community, please send them to [h.tuerk@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:h.tuerk@moreheadstate.edu).*

- Sept. 14-16: ASTRA-Con 2023
- Sept. 15: McBrayer presidential lecture
- Sept. 15: Family Weekend
- Sept. 30: MSU Open House
- Oct. 5-6: Fall Break for Students - University Closed Oct. 6
- Nov. 4: Homecoming

## Human Resource Announcements

### Anthem Member Services Contact Information

- Member Services: [833-571-0830](tel:833-571-0830)
- Precertification: [877-814-4803](tel:877-814-4803)
- Provider Services: [800-676-2583](tel:800-676-2583)
- 24/7 Nurseline: [800-377-4770](tel:800-377-4770)
- Medical Coverage While Traveling (Blue Card): [800-810-BLUE \(2583\)](tel:800-810-BLUE(2583))
- Rx Express Scripts: [844-472-2324](tel:844-472-2324)
- Pharmacy Help Desk: [800-922-1577](tel:800-922-1577)
- Vision Member Services: [866-723-0515](tel:866-723-0515)
- Employee Assistance Program: [800-865-1044](tel:800-865-1044)

### Let's Talk About Benefits

In the most recent employee benefits survey, some responses to the survey questions made us aware that additional information about benefits should be shared to educate and/or dispel some misinformation. The executive council of Staff Congress has agreed to support our efforts to provide education to the campus community using their monthly newsletter as a communication tool. Over the course of the next several months, the Office of Human Resources & Payroll will use those survey results to share relevant information about employee benefits.

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## Kroger Pharmacies

The most frequently mentioned area of dissatisfaction that survey respondents expressed was related to no longer being able to fill prescriptions at Kroger pharmacies. We certainly appreciate the convenience of filling/refilling prescriptions while you shop or as you drive by on your way home. We were notified in the fall of 2022, that effective January 2023, Kroger Pharmacies would no longer be part of the Express Scripts network of pharmacies. In that notification, Express Scripts shared that continuation under their terms and rates would result in employees paying more for pharmacy services than other comparable pharmacies in the network. We received information detailing how removing Kroger from the network would impact on our employees and their dependents. Approximately 275 out of 811 employees used a Kroger pharmacy (20.71% of employees at that time).

Employees should have received communication from Express Scripts in December 2022 via USPS. Additionally, Vice President Fister-Tucker sent an email to the campus community in mid-December 2022 in case your snail mail might not have been received.

To locate a participating pharmacy near you, go to [express-scripts.com](https://express-scripts.com) and log in. After logging in, click on “find a pharmacy.” Please be aware that you may also be able to use their convenient home delivery service. Please note that you may still use the Kroger pharmacy, but you will not receive in network pricing.

## Weight Loss/Weight Management

There were several variations of concerns on the employee benefits survey, related to weight loss in general. Specifically, there were requests for weight loss medication coverage, approvals for bariatric surgery, and weight loss programming.

Because we recognize the connection between being overweight and the increased risk of developing other health related problems, in October 2022, MSU added weight management medications to our prescription formulary. These include, but are not limited to: Saxenda, Qsymia, Contrave, and Adipex. These medications require prior-authorization, Body Mass Index (BMI) in the overweight category, and behavioral modification programming. Consult with your medical provider and Express Scripts to determine if you are eligible to use any of these weight management tools.

Due to the numerous risk factors that may contribute to complications associated with bariatric surgery, Anthem declined to include weight loss surgeries in our medical policy.

In February 2022, we added the Wondr Health program to our list of benefits. Wondr is a weight loss program that recognizes the intersections between losing weight, sleeping better, stress management, and other factors. It is a skills-based program, offered at no cost to MSU employees,

spouses, and adult dependents who are enrolled in our medical plan. An additional eligibility factor is your BMI. To learn more about the program and to join the waitlist for the next class, go to [wondrhealth.com/Morehead State](https://wondrhealth.com/MoreheadState).

Finally, Express Scripts has implemented a weight management care value program, at no cost to the University or patients. The program provides participants with tools to encourage healthy lifestyles and also supports convenient access to anti-obesity medication. Highlights of the program include:

- 1) A digital connected scale, at no cost, offered to members who meet certain criteria
- 2) Specialized clinical support from Express Scripts pharmacists and option to consult virtually with primary care physicians from MDLIVE

Contact Express Scripts for more information.



**wondr** | **Live Well, Work Well @ MSU**  
Rewarding Health, Changing Lives

## Don't fall for diet trends

You can block out the diet noise, enjoy your favorite party foods, and still lose weight—at no cost to you.\*

Morehead State University is offering you Wondr™, to help you learn science-based skills to build lasting weight loss habits today—the skills diet culture won't teach you.  
(Spoiler: It doesn't involve giving up your favorite party foods.)

**Space is limited.**

Learn more at [wondrhealth.com/MoreheadState](https://wondrhealth.com/MoreheadState)

Apply between 9/4/2023 - 9/17/2023.  
The program begins 10/2/2023.

\*Restrictions and eligibility info can be found at [wondrhealth.com/MoreheadState](https://wondrhealth.com/MoreheadState)



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# Staff Salutes

The following salutes were submitted for this month. If you know of a worthy candidate, you can submit your suggestion on the [Submit a Staff Salute](#) page.



## DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Reason for Nomination:

I don't believe any of us fully know the lengths that the IT staff have gone to with restoring the essentials functions and tools we need to keep campus running smoothly during the recent outage. They are greatly appreciated and acknowledged for their dedication, time, and support to all of us as we are able to open our campus for the fall semester! Thank to each of you!!!

## DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Reason for Nomination:

I know IT was recognized during convocation for their hard work and endless hours of dealing with the recent cyber attack, but I wanted to give another shout out! I know many of them have lost time with their families and loved ones and likely many hours of sleep to get us back up and running. I have no doubt they will continue to do so until we are fully operational again. HUGE THANK YOU to each and every one of them- GREAT JOB! You are appreciated more than you know!



## DIANE ADKINS

Job Title: Administrative Assistant; Elmer R. Smith College of Business & Technology

Reason for Nomination:

Going above and beyond to assist when Combs was flooding during the most recent rain down pour on Friday, August 25, 2023. Along with 3 faculty and one administrator, Diane quickly began assisting where needed and searched for a way to stop the second round of flooding after the first cleanup effort concluded. Her quick thinking in creating a barricade at the door saved Combs from a second round of flooding.

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### **MARLENE BLANKENBUEHLER**

Job Title: Administrative Assistant to Dean; Elmer R. Smith College of Business & Technology

Reason for Nomination:

Going above and beyond to assist when Combs was flooding during the most recent rain down pour on Friday, August 25, 2023. Along with 3 faculty and one administrator, Marlene quickly began assisting where needed by jumping in and helping with the mopping, cleanup and documenting of all that was occurring to ensure the situation was reported to the appropriate people in the appropriate way for further assistance that was needed.



### **PATRICIA (LYNN) HANDSHOE**

Job Title: Coordinator of Tutoring Services/Lecturer

Reason for Nomination:

Lynn has gone over and above in support of the Eagle Ready (Summer Bridge) students. She has participated in evening activities that extended far past our work day. She has formed bonds with the students and actively worked to ensure they have enjoyed their experience. Many thanks to Lynn!



### **SHEILA HARMAN**

Job Title: Business Manager and Communications Director; Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology

Reason for Nomination:

Going above and beyond to assist when Combs was flooding during the most recent rain down pour on Friday, August 25, 2023. Along with 3 faculty and one administrator, Sheila quickly began assisting where needed by jumping in and helping with the mopping, and putting signs throughout the building to alert others of dangers from the storm and its flooding in the building.

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### **KEVIN “BUBBY” MCGLONE**

Job Title: Facilities

Reason for Nomination:

Bubby is a superhero!!!!!! During move in day, a student stopped me regarding a pretty urgent maintenance request. I was able to reach Bubby’s supervisor and within 6 minutes he was on the 4th floor of normal hall. He stopped his lunch to help the student. That is noteworthy and shows his tremendous dedication to this campus! Thanks Bubby!!!!!!



### **ROSITA NAPOLEONI-MILAN**

Job Title: Retention Specialist and Academic Advisor

Reason for Nomination:

The OHR received a call from a distressed father whose daughter was not registered for fall classes, less than one week before classes were to begin. Although Rosita is not the advisor for that program/discipline, she reached out to the father and daughter and assisted them with their needs. She also reached back out to OHR to let us know that it was handled. We appreciate her diligence!



### **TAYLOR RUARK**

Job Title: Degree Completion Coach/Lecturer

Reason for Nomination:

Taylor has worked many long days and helped with the coordination of the Eagle Ready (Summer Bridge) Program. She has attended evening and weekend programs and events with the students to ensure they are having a great experience as they prepare for the beginning of the fall semester. Many thanks to Taylor!

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### **KATIE SMITH VANOVER**

Job Title: Area Coordinator, Housing & Residence Education

Reason for Nomination:

Always accessible, Katie consistently and effectively communicates with other campus departments regarding questions related to the area in which she oversees. She has a zest for assisting others and passion for helping students. Katie is a ray of sunshine! Keep up the great work!



### **RICHARD WAGONER**

Job Title: Director, IT Customer Services

Reason for Nomination:

The Office of Human Resources received a message about Mr. Wagoner "going straight into action" to support a student who was experiencing some difficulties. We appreciate Mr. Wagoner taking the initiative to help this student with their needs beyond the scope of his IT responsibilities.

## **Staff Congress Meeting Summary**

In this section, we summarize the reports from the Staff Congress monthly meeting.

### **Chair Xavier Scott reported:**

Meeting with President Morgan

- Discussed the changes made to the Staff Congress Bylaws.
- He had a couple of suggestions about two of our changes that I felt were logical and reasonable. I shared these changes with the Executive Council with no objections.

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Page I (Article 1/Section 2:C). The original change was to remove Staff Regent from the following statement. “The Staff Regent, Faculty Senate President, and President of the Student Government Association shall be ex-officio members of the Staff Congress.” According to the Board of Regents Bylaws 9.3, I believe that the Staff Regent should remain among this list of ex-officio members. Regent Bylaws 9.3 states "all Board members should refrain from serving on formal committees internal to the University (non-Board committees), and also refrain from taking part in University administrative meetings or processes. If needed, and through a formal appointment process that is defined in scope, the Chair of the Board of Regents and/or University President may appoint Board members for ad-hoc, ex-officio service to internal committees where their individual expertise and/or contributions can be of benefit to the University administrative decision-making process. "

Page II (Article 2). The original change was to state: “The Staff Congress shall assure that all seats of University Standing Committees are populated may seek, representation on appropriate University Standing Committees, in the development and implementation of to develop and implement policies and procedures, and in all aspects of University operations that affect staff.”

Can we instead say, “The Staff Congress shall on a periodic basis, review University Standing Committee populations to assure they are reasonably filled may seek representation on appropriate University Standing Committees, in the development and implementation of to develop and implement policies and procedures, and in all aspects of University operations that affect staff.”

#### Faculty Senate

- Due to department workload, I was unable to attend the Faculty Senate meetings this time. I should be able to attend future Senate meetings.

#### Subcommittee Members & Chair Selection

- At the end of the meeting today, I'd like everyone to get with their subcommittee and select a Chair.

#### **Vice-Chair Jamey Carver reported:**

- Assigned subcommittee membership and subcommittee chairs will be TBA.

#### **Benefits & Compensation (B&C) Committee Chair Rianna Robinson reported:**

- The B&C committee voted to make Leeann Potter the new chair.

### **Credentials & Elections (C&E)**

- No Report

### **Director of Human Resources Report Dr. Caroline reported:**

- Open Enrollment will be October 9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> check your email for updates.
- Let's Walk Fit Eagles Stretch, Walk & Talk Group every Monday and Tuesday 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Meet at the Bell Tower.
- Wondr Health Program Registration will be September 4<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Cabinet Report Mary Fister-Tucker reported:**

- There will be an increase in health care premiums. Employees will get a salary increase to offset the cost.
- Staff Congress will be reviewing changes to the PG-22 Employment of Relatives.
- Please complete the FAFSA before submitting Tuition Waiver Form for MSU Employees & Dependents.
- Salary increases for hourly employees (\$13.00 / hr) will occur on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM there will be a campus live stream.
- Employees will get off October 6<sup>th</sup> for fall break.

# Staff Concerns

The following concerns were submitted by staff on the anonymous [Staff Congress Questions & Concerns form](#).

Comment/Concern	Response
Many staff with which I work seem confused by the new Office 365 environment. Files are autosaving without them being aware, documents will not open outside of the browser by default, for example. Has any thought been given to providing some training regarding this new environment in which we are all expected to work?	Office 365 training is being developed and information on training opportunities should be out soon.
When the security department at MSU fails, MSU will fail. Why are they so understaffed and so overwhelmed? Why hasn't the VP over this section stepped up to the plate and stopped all the failures. I heard they will soon have 7 security guards, when MSU should have 15. Please tell me if this isn't true. Also do we still have 24hr coverage answering phones or has that went away too.	We have reached out to administration and are waiting for a response to the concern.
I am concerned about employees having to pick up large packages/orders from the post office. Employees are told to go to the loading dock behind ADUC and use their own cars to transport multiple boxes or must bring their own dolly and make multiple trips to get items to their departments. This seems to be a liability/injury situation waiting to happen. Why are these types of large orders no longer delivered to departments on campus by post office employees who have the equipment?	Delivery accommodations are available as staff and equipment allow. If you need assistance please contact me via email, <a href="mailto:g.huffman@moreheadstate.edu">g.huffman@moreheadstate.edu</a> and we will arrange a time to assist you
The handicap bathroom on ADUC 2nd floor (behinds Moe's) is extremely difficult to open. I would be worried about someone with a handicap being able to open and close the door. Hoping this can be repaired soon!	FM has been notified and a work order has been issued

## Thanks for Reading | Suggestions

Thanks for reading the Staff Congress Newsletter. We're proud to be a part of your community. Please send any suggestions about the newsletter to Hlisha Tuerk @ [h.tuerk@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:h.tuerk@moreheadstate.edu)

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