

PPSTA

**POUGHKEEPSIE
PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION**



PPSTA BULLETIN

VOL. 20 ISSUE#4

DECEMBER 2017

CONTACT US!

PPSTA Office Secretary
Olga Mirabilio

hours: M-F 8:00-12:00

PPSTA Office:

address: 40 Garden St.,
Suite 207

phone: (845) 471-3376

Fax: (845) 471-6793

Stephanie Green:

PPSTA President:

president@ppsta.org

Heather Martino:

1stvp@ppsta.org

Nancy Dingee:

2ndvp@ppsta.org

Dominick Aquafredda:

treasurer@ppsta.org

Jay Lynch:

secretary@ppsta.org

Michelle Devlin:

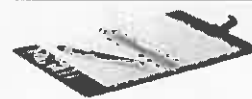
grievance@ppsta.org

For PPSTA bulletin, send

information to

bulletin@ppsta.org

CALENDAR



Dec 5	Curriculum Committee – 3:30 Jane Bolin
Dec 6	Exec Bd Mtg 3:30 – 40 Garden St
Dec 13	BOE Mtg 7pm – Jane Bolin Bldg
Dec 15	Toys for Tots Social – 3:30-5:30 – Mahoney's PPSTA Scholarship Raffle Drawing
Dec 19	Curriculum Committee – 3:30 Jane Bolin
Dec 20	PPSTA Rep Bd Mtg 3:30 – 40 Garden St
Dec 21	NYSUT Labor Management Collaboration Workshop – 3:30 PMS Library
Dec 25 -Jan 1	Winter Break – No school

******PPSTA Bulletin Deadline for our January issue is December 31st. If you have articles, items of interest, information on congratulations and condolences, please submit them to Bulletin@PPSTA.org******

**THE PPSTA BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL
NOTIFICATION FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP
OF ALL MEDICAL AND DENTAL
INSURANCE INFORMATION THROUGH POMCO.
Benefit Trust Coordinator Debbie Kardas' office hours:
Tues, Wed, Thurs:10:30-1:30
Call the PPSTA office if you have any questions at
471-3376
Or email at benefittrust@ppsta.org**

Benefits Information:

Calendar year information:

PPSTA Benefit Trust

Medical calendar year: 1.1-12.31

Legal calendar year: 4.1-3.31

Dental calendar year: 7.1-6.30

Opt-out calendar year: 9.1-8.31

Vision calendar year: 9.1-8.31

Notice to all PPSTA/Pomco Plan members:

- POMCO-PHCS/Multiplan is the PPO network being utilized for PPSTA.
- Members can locate providers by logging onto MyPOMCO.
- All members have access to care based on the zip code in which they reside.

The PPSTA Plan document administered by POMCO is now on the PPSTA website as well as the MyPOMCO website.

To access it go to www.ppsta.org, On the top menu, click on "POMCO" then click on the "PPSTA Plan". To access from MyPOMCO.com, log in and click 'My Benefits' on the top menu. Go to 'Forms and Communications' and click on "PPSTA Benefit Trust SPD". You can also find the gym reimbursement form on this page.

Getting married? Call Olga at the PPSTA office for a change of status form. After you receive the marriage license, please send a copy to Olga. New family members **MUST** be enrolled within 30 days!

Moving? Call Olga with a change of address and phone information. You will also need to notify the PCSD Business Office.

Do you have a child in college? Dependents in colleges are enrolled in the plan regardless of how far they live from home. There is no Out of Area coverage needed.

Did your child graduate from college recently? All children are covered under their parent's plan until the age of 26 as long as they are enrolled in the plan.

Are you expecting a new family member? Newborns are automatically covered during the first 30 days following birth. Enrollment is required during the first 30 days to continue coverage, if you were not previously enrolled for family coverage. From date of adoption, provided family or dependent coverage is applied for within 30 days of adoption or legal custody. Please send a copy of the birth certificate to the PPSTA office.

Traveling to a foreign country this summer? PPSTA Medical coverage is limited to Emergency Care and is subject to the Emergency Care Copay plus an additional \$250 Copay for Foreign Travel. The bills need to be detailed in English or which are translated to English with the medical procedures clearly listed.

For a non-emergency situation, if you are out of the country less than 6 weeks, the \$250 Copay would apply to any service and the balance of the charges would be paid as an out of network benefit subject to the NPPO deductible (\$1,000) and coinsurance (30%.)

When you travel in a foreign country, we recommend that you get some temporary travel insurance that is appropriate for the country you will be visiting.

PPSTA Benefit Trust (con't)

***If you are returning from a leave of absence, it is your responsibility to contact the PPSTA office to re-enroll for benefits.**

Status Changes: Members are responsible for updating the plan within 30 days of any changes in health or dental coverage (for any covered member) or any changes in family status (divorce, separation, retirement, birth, death, adoption, change in full time student status, no longer an eligible dependent due to age, etc.)

Medicare Eligibility: Once you and/or your spouse are no longer actively employed and Medicare Eligible, you need to update your enrollment status. Please provide the plan with an updated enrollment form along with a copy of your Medicare ID Card. You must enroll in both Medicare Part A and B once you are no longer covered under a plan of a member who is actively at work. You must contact the District for information on reimbursing your Medicare Part B premiums.

If you need to make changes to your enrollment status, or to the enrollment of any of your eligible dependents, please contact the PPSTA Benefit Trust office.

If you have prescription drug related questions, please contact ProAct at 1-877-635-9545.

If you have other questions regarding your available benefits, including the preventive and routine services available to you and your dependents, contact POMCO at 1-866-227-9936 Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm

If there is ever any problem with the adjudication of claims or with a provider, PLEASE call the PPSTA office!! Debbie Kardas' hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10:30-1:30. You can also contact her at benefittrust@ppsta.org.

For complete benefit details, see the PPSTA Benefit Trust Group Health and Dental summary plan description, available on MyPOMCO.com.

If you need to make any changes to your enrollment status, or to the enrollment of any of your eligible dependents, please contact the PPSTA Benefit Trust Office.

If you have prescription drug related questions, contact ProAct at 1-877-635-9545.

If you have other questions regarding your available benefits, including the preventive and routine services available to you and your dependents, contact POMCO at 1.866.227.9936 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.



Have you seen our new website?

The new PPSTA.org website is up and running! All previous information is still on the site, but it's organized in a much more user friendly way. You can even find the PPSTA contract on the site under RESOURCES. Is there something else you would like to see there? Please let us know by emailing Olga Mirabilio at officesecretary@ppsta.org. If you have a great event or activity that you would like to highlight on our BLOG, please send it to Bryan Woods. Don't forget to capture it in pictures!

Membership has its privileges!

Your union is steadfast in its fight for better contracts, safer working conditions, fair pay, advocacy, and upholding the labor rights of the dedicated women and men proudly working in the education and health care industries on a daily basis.

But your NYSUT membership does so much more! It also provides you with the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.



As an Example: With the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home insurance program, NYSUT members receive special group rates on auto insurance, homeowners insurance as well as motorcycle, boat, personal property and other types of insurance -- rates that are NOT available to the general public.

That is why we encourage you to always look for the "Endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits" logo before you or your loved ones make any purchasing decisions.

Visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.



Newly endorsed Member Shopping Program available for use!

We heard the requests of the NYSUT membership and spent months diligently researching new member shopping program options. The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation is pleased to announce that the Purchasing Power Member Shopping Program is now available for use by eligible NYSUT members.

Purchasing Power is an online shopping option that offers another way to purchase brand-new, brand-name products and pay for them over time through the ease of payroll deduction or ACH withdrawals. Eligible NYSUT members can enjoy access to products such as computers, appliances, jewelry, furniture, televisions, electronics, travel packages and much more.

While Purchasing Power is not a discount program, it can save you money and stress compared to high-interest credit cards or rent-to-own stores. As always, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

Visit nysutmbc.purchasingpower.com or call **800-537-3135** to learn more.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Third Party Provider Info

Some of you have noticed when you call POMCO, they answer UMR formally POMCO. POMCO was acquired April 1, 2017 by UMR (United Healthcare's Third Party Administrator). The migration of clients to UMR began in October. We are scheduled to go to UMR May 1, 2018. What does this mean to those that have medical and or dental coverage through the PPSTA Benefit Trust?

- You will receive a new card to show providers. It will now say UMR/POMCO.
- There will be a larger in-network provider base across the United States.
- Our Plan Document will remain the SAME!

Medicare Info

The Trust wants to let you know that Montefiore posted an ad in the papers notifying Medicare Advantage Plan members that Montefiore will be considered out of network as of January 1, 2018.

Please note that this **ONLY** applies to Medicare advantage plans and is separate from the network that POMCO/UMR utilizes today. I don't want you to be alarmed but also wanted to give you this notice in case you have seen the article.

It has come to the attention of this office that Medicare re-imburement from the District should be monitored closely. If you are not getting the proper re-imburement, you should bring copies of your documentation to Central Office Business Office. "Article XIV Health and Related Insurance Section 1.2 Bargaining Unit members and retirees who participate in the District's health insurance plan shall be entitled to Medicare reimbursements from the District, where applicable."

Wellness Program

Just a reminder:

To be eligible for the vanishing in Network deductible you must complete the 3 required activities and 2 additional activities by December 15. If you are submitting proof of "Voluntary Group Activity" or "Choice of Miscellaneous Fitness Activity" you **MUST** have it submitted to Debbie Kardas at the PPSTA office by December 15. You can also submit the proof by email, benefittrust@ppsta.org.

If you are having trouble navigating the MyHealthKit portal: Call 888-749-9470

Email Updates

For those on the PPSTA Benefit Trust medical plan, Debbie Kardas has been sending out email updates to those members that she has personal emails for. If you have not been getting the updates but would like to, send your email address to benefittrust@ppsta.org



The PPSTA is on Facebook!
Find us under
"Poughkeepsie Public
School Teachers'
Association"
Then like us!

Congratulations !!
The PPSTA would like to
congratulate
Cody Moffat & Shellie Porter
on their tenure!

IN - SERVICE

CHAIRPERSON: Gayle Gerrard

When applying for In-Service course approval, please remember the following:

1. Paperwork for new course approval or previously approved courses MUST be received BEFORE the start of the course. An in-service credit is earned when you complete 15 hours of approved coursework and is paid at the same rate as college credits. (Currently per credit) In-service credits can be accumulated with no limit, in this way being different than college credits.
2. Request forms for new courses MUST be accompanied by a complete course description
3. REMEMBER, you will be responsible for supplying proof of hours attended.
4. When sending verification of hours to Barbara Williams in Human Resources, please KEEP a COPY for yourself marked with the date you sent it over.
5. As long as you have sent the necessary paperwork in a timely manner, your hours/credits will be applied retroactively (DEADLINE for spring and summer '16 was October 1st as stated in the contract)

Any questions and/or concerns, please contact Gayle Gerrard @ P.H.S.

Contract Corner

Question: My building principal has rescheduled a faculty meeting and not posted or put out an agenda. Must I attend the meeting?

Answer: No, according to Article XVIII, Section 4, the meeting notice with an agenda must be distributed or posted at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the proposed meeting. If this notice does not occur, the meeting becomes a voluntary meeting.

Contract Language: Article XVIII, SECTION 4. Faculty/Department or Grade Level Meetings - Professional personnel shall receive twenty-four (24) hours notice of a meeting with a proposed agenda, which shall be posted in designated areas; except in emergency situations when notice and posting shall be dispensed with. There shall be two required meetings per month to include general faculty, department or grade level. Meetings shall be one (1) hour in length and begin no later than at the end of the teacher workday. Meetings may exceed one (1) hour in duration in emergency situations. The district shall be entitled to conduct professional development programs during meetings as long as the same may be completed within one meeting, whereupon the activity would not be subject to extra-compensation for the teachers.

*PPSTA members should attend all required meetings if they fall within the parameters of the language negotiated in our contract.



ROCK IT OUT

On Thursday, November 30, 2017, **The New Pioneers of Rock/Jazz**, delivered a top notch performance at Poughkeepsie High School to benefit the **Teen Closet**. **The New Pioneers of Rock/Jazz** is a high school student improv group, spearheaded by some of PCSD's finest and most

talented teachers: Joe North, David Laffin, and Jason Petagine. The group performed original student compositions embellished with improvised student and faculty solos. The show was a **BIG SUCCESS**, and it enabled the Teen Closet to raise \$650 and bags of much needed personal hygiene items.



A big **THANK YOU** to all involved in making this a great event!



RETIREMENT:

If you are turning 55 this school year, you are eligible to retire under Article XIII – Section 1.

"All unit members who will reach the age of 55 during the course of any school year, July 1st through June 30th, covered by this Agreement and who have 15 or more years of credited service, upon retirement from the District, shall be entitled to a retirement incentive of 75% of their last year's salary provided that notice of retirement is given in writing at least 6 months in advance of the retirement dates provided below. The retirement incentive payments shall be made in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement dated June 30, 2003 by and between the District and the PPSTA. "

Please make an appointment ASAP with Stephanie Green to review important information.



The PPSTA would like to share its sincere condolences with:

- ❖ Nicole Guerra and Noelle Willis (ELC) on the passing of their grandfather
- ❖ Patrick White (Warring) on the passing of his father
- ❖ Nasarima Foster (PHS) on the passing of her stepfather
- ❖ Jamie Sheehan (PMS) on the passing of her cousin
- ❖ Lalana Hunt (PMS) on the passing of her cousin