

PPSTA Bulletin

November 2018

Volume 21 Issue 2



In union there is strength.

PPSTA Office

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Office Secretary

Olga Mirabilio
M-F 8am-12pm

Officers

President: Stephanie Green

1st Vice President: Heather Martino

2nd Vice President: Nancy Dingee

Treasurer: Dominick Aquafredda

Secretary: Jay Lynch

Grievance Chair: Michelle Devlin

Benefit Trust

Coordinator: Debbie Kardas

Office Hours: T-TH 10:30-1:30

Important Dates

7 - Executive Council Meeting
14 - CBR Meeting
21-23 - Thanksgiving Recess - No School
28 - PPSTA Rep Board Meeting

Member Engagement

Our Fall Social was a great success. We raised almost \$800 for the Veteran Impact Project! The basket raffles were hugely popular again and all of the buildings went above and beyond in their contributions. Be on the lookout for the upcoming Toys For Tots drive in December.



Community Engagement



Our second annual PPSTA Trunk-Or-Treat was held at the ELC on Tuesday October 30. A HUGE THANK YOU to Mia Runza and the ELC teachers for hosting the event and for all those who participated. It was a HUGE success.

Inservice Reminder

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.

*****Please remember, the District does not have to pay for newly acquired credits until the end of the year. Salary increase is done retroactively. Review your Employee Data Sheet carefully, sign and return with any errors. Always make a copy for yourself.*****

Our Members

Congratulations to Nancy Dingee (PHS) on the recent marriage of her son Matthew!

Congratulations to Laura Donohue on her recent marriage!

Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Erica McKoy. Dr. McKoy leaves behind a legacy of dedicating more than 20 years of her life to bringing music to the children of Poughkeepsie. She was a wonderful teacher, colleague and beautiful human being who will be sorely missed by all those who were fortunate to know her.

Contract Corner

Contract scavenger hunt. Pull out your contract, or download it from our website at http://ppsta.org/pdf/PPSTA_Contract.pdf

What page, article, and section(s) describes the age requirement for the retirement incentive?

The first person to email Heather Martino at 1stVP@ppsta.org with the correct answer will receive a PPSTA treat bag.

Important News

On November 2nd the district took a sick day to replenish the sick bank from all members who participate.

Member Information Update

Please make sure that your building reps and the PPSTA Exec have the most up to date contact information for you.

Winter Social & Toys for Tots Drive

The Toys for Tots Drive has officially begun! All buildings have a toy collection box located near or in the main office. Please be generous! Our PPSTA Tots Drive has been so successful over the years and all toys are distributed locally. Our final day of collection will be Friday, December 14th, when all boxes will be brought to Mahoney's to be picked up by the organization. We hope that you can join us for this special event! *Flyer attached.



PPSTA Benefit Trust

Voluntary Wellness Program Update

*Due to UMR having some 'difficulty' with their vendor that does the Labs for Biometric Screenings the Benefit Trust voted on November 1 to waive for this year the Biometric Screening as mandatory. If you have had a Biometric Screening or plan to have one with your doctor it still counts but is NOT a required point.

*Please remember that Dec 15th is the last date that I can take your proof of other points.

*For those who complete the 6 points, the \$200 gift card for first semester participation will be mailed to you in the January time frame. January 1 begins the second semester challenge. In order to get the second gift card, you MUST complete semester 1.

Any questions please email Debbie Kardas:
benefittrust@ppsta.org

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

PPSTA Members Making a Difference



Thank you to Heather Faircloth of the ELC for organizing this year's ***Making Strides Fundraiser*** to benefit breast cancer research. We had walkers from the ELC,

PMS and our retirees! Together they raised almost \$700!



Members from PMS and Morse joined forces in the Sparrow's Next Superhero 5K. Thank you for being heros to support an amazing organization

that helps families going through cancer treatment.



Shopping & travel benefits designed for NYSUT members

NYSUT members and their loved ones have access to dozens of endorsed shopping, travel & personal programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits. And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back.

Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have. Whether you are participating in one of our shopping/entertainment/travel offerings; auto, homeowners or life insurance plans; or financial or legal services, NYSUT members have the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

The following is just a small sampling of the endorsed programs available to the NYSUT membership.

Purchasing Power Member Shopping Program

Are you looking to purchase a new laptop computer, washer/dryer or refrigerator? The Purchasing Power Member Shopping Program allows NYSUT members to purchase products such as these and many more while paying for them through the ease of payroll deduction or ACH withdrawals. NYSUT members save 20% on their first order with Purchasing Power.

Abenity Discounts

Seeking exclusive member discounts on tickets to the latest blockbuster movies or theater events, the hottest concerts & sporting events, or the coolest theme parks & attractions? NYSUT members have access to thousands of nationwide and local discounts with the Abenity Discounts program. Abenity also offers an app for iPhone or Android smartphones available at no charge.

Grand Circle Travel

The Grand Circle Cruise Line & Grand Circle Travel program is committed to providing international travel, adventure and discovery opportunities that offer impactful and intercultural experiences. This program offers NYSUT members and their loved ones the opportunity to save \$100 per person on tours or receive a discounted rate on specific trips if acting as a group organizer.

Cambridge Credit Counseling

NYSUT members are eligible to receive free, no-obligation debt and student loan consultations with one of Cambridge's certified counselors. Cambridge also offers a unique web portal available at a reduced rate that can help explain the various options when paying down student debt, including student loan forgiveness programs, income-based repayment options and more.

The Power of the Union

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Nov/Dec 2018

