## Important Dates

**March:**
- 6 - PPSTA Exec – 3:30 – Garden St
- 13 - Chief Building Rep Mtg – 3:30 – Garden St
- 20 - PPSTA Rep Board Mtg – 3:30 – Garden St
  BOE Meeting 7pm – Jane Bolin
- 22 – Give Back Snow Day – NO SCHOOL
- 27 – Slate of Officers posted
- 29 – PPSTA Scholarship Raffle Drawing

**April:**
- 3 – General Membership Meeting

## It's TAX TIME!!

**PPSTA Dues for 2018**

For your financial records, please note:

Union dues paid for 2018 were $862.92 for those employed from January 2018–December 2018.

For those hired September 2018, the dues paid for September 2018–December 2018 were $346.08.

Dues are $43.26 per paycheck for those members earning $34,000 or more. Please contact the PPSTA treasurer Dominick Aquafredda, at PMS, if you have any questions or e-mail him at treasurer@ppsta.org.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust endorsed Legal Service Plan provided to you by the PPSTA is a taxable benefit. The IRS reporting value of legal service plan premiums would be reported on a Form 1099-MISC, but because the premium value is under $600 and does not reach the threshold for the use of such a form, we will not be preparing and filing that form.

Additionally, beginning this year, if you are itemizing your taxes, you can deduct your dues. (Thank you AFT!)

## CONTACT US:

**PPSTA Office:**
40 Garden St.
Suite 207
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Phone: 845-471-3376
Fax: 845-471-6793

**PPSTA Office Secretary:**
Olga Mirabilio
hours: M-F 8:00-12:00
officesecretary@ppsta.org

**PPSTA Officers:**
Please see our website for contact information:
www.ppsta.org

**THE PPSTA BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP REGARDING ALL MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSURANCE INFORMATION THROUGH UMR.**

**Benefit Trust Coordinator:**
Debbie Kardas
**Office hours:** Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:30-1:30
**Questions? Call PPSTA office**
845-471-3376
Or email at benefittrust@ppsta.org
The PPSTA Scholarship Fund provides scholarships and educational incentives to students in the Poughkeepsie City School District. This year you can support this mission in many ways: by making a donation to the scholarship fund, sponsoring an award, or purchasing the attached raffle tickets. With these funds, we can continue to provide much needed resources to students in the district, especially in these times of exorbitant college tuition and book costs.

If you wish to make a donation to the fund or sponsor an award, please return the enclosed donation form and your donation by April 1st.

You will also find three (3) raffle tickets attached, which we hope you will either buy yourself or sell to a family member or friend. The drawing will take place on Friday, March 29th. Each ticket is a $10 donation or you can purchase 3 tickets for just $20. To be eligible for the drawing, please return your ticket money and ticket stubs by March 25th to:

PPSTA Scholarship Committee  
C/O Mr. Garrett (Treasurer)  
Poughkeepsie High School  
70 Forbus Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603  

If you wish to purchase additional tickets, please contact Justin Garrett at (845) 451-4850. Please make checks payable to PPSTA Scholarship Committee.

The PPSTA would like to share its sincerest condolences with:
Barbara Bosco (retiree) on the passing of her brother  
David Laffin (PHS) on the passing of his uncle  
Brian Laffin (PMS) on the passing of his uncle  
Heidi Murphy (PMS) on the passing of her uncle  
Judith DeRario (Krieger) on the passing of her family member  
Michelle Speca (Krieger) on the passing of her family member  
John Hines (PMS) on the passing of his sister in law  

Our thoughts are with you.
CURRICULUM CONNECTION

Teacher Registration
Holdings of Permanent and Professional certificates must be registered with NYSED. Those with Professional certs must also accrue 100 hours of CTLE hours every five years. Please see www.nysed.gov for details and record keeping forms.

In-Service
Paperwork for new course approval or previously approved courses MUST be received BEFORE the start of the course. Send In-Service requests to Barbara Williams at HR. Gayle Gerrard, committee chair, meets with the team monthly to review applications. Make sure you provide ALL information required as noted on the form. If you have any questions, please contact Gayle via email at ggerrard@poughkeepsieschools.org

The Importance of Record Keeping
IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE AND KEEP A DIGITAL OR HARDCOPY OF THE FOLLOWING:
- Personal business requests
- Time cards for payment
- In-service credit requests or course approval
- APPR Evaluation & Timeline
- Communications with the District or Administration

Often problems arise and if these forms are lost or misplaced, it makes it much more difficult to retrace steps and for the PPSTA leadership to argue on your behalf. Without copies of all documents, it becomes more complicated to make sure that you are afforded all the rights to which you are entitled. Any confrontations with administration or parents should be documented for yourself in writing. It’s easier to recall conversations right after they have taken place. Put exact quotes in documents. Documenting such encounters and making copy of all documents, allows your union to represent you more effectively.

2019 ELECTION TIMELINE

All members should have received a hardcopy memo in their school mailboxes outlining the nominations and elections procedures and timeline for this year’s election. Christine Pizer (PHS) is the Chair of this committee.

Important Dates:
March 27 – Slate of Officers posted
April 3 – General Membership Meeting
Candidate for Exec Officer Petitions Due
April 24 – Election Day of officers, trustees, delegates and advisors

Please be aware that during March, nominations will be taken in each building for all building advisors and trustees. The terms of office for all PPSTA offices including officers, trustees and building representatives is two years. The term of office commences June 1, 2019 and ends May 31, 2021.

Please refer to the PPSTA Constitutional Bylaws for more information about the election process and timeline. The Constitution, along with the PPSTA Contract, can be found on the PPSTA website at www.ppsta.org.

Public Forum:
Federal and State Education Policy
Thursday, March 21st 7:00-8:30pm
Smith Metropolitan Zion AME Church
Poughkeepsie, NY

With Invited Guests:

Alliance for Quality Education (AQE)
Jonathan Jacobson
State Assembly - 104th District
Pete Harckham
State Senate - 40th District

Brought to you by
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
The PPSTA Benefit Trust voted to make the following changes to the medical plan document effective July 1, 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Features</th>
<th>In–Network Benefit</th>
<th>Out-of-Network Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Network Copayment</td>
<td><strong>REDUCED from $25/per visit to $15/per visit</strong></td>
<td>Does not apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Effective July 1, 2019</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Per visit” means per Provider per day. If two services are performed during a visit that has a Copayment, the higher Network Copayment will apply.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When Medicare is prime: Once the Medicare Calendar Year Deductible has been met, no Network Copays will apply for the remainder of the Calendar Year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outpatient Deductible per Calendar Year as of 7/1/2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Shall be reduced from:</th>
<th>Remains:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$183 to $0 per individual</td>
<td>$1,000 per individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$366 to $0 per two persons</td>
<td>$3,000 per family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$549 to $0 per family of three or more</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deductible applies to Outpatient Services only. For services where the Deductible applies, the Deductible must be met before Copays or coinsurance apply, except where benefits are paid at 100%.

**Open Enrollment is Coming! Stay tuned for information!**

Due to these changes, the wellness program will no longer be offered.

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**Contract Corner**

*Question:* I have been directed to do something by the Principal’s Secretary. Should I do it?

*Answer:* No. A person that is not your boss cannot direct you to do anything. The clerical person did not hire you, cannot fire or evaluate you, does not pay you or control you in any way. Therefore, the only ones who may direct you is administration. Administration can direct you either verbally or in writing. You should always request it in writing though. The problem with taking directives from the secretary is that if what they are directing you to do is a contractual violation, it becomes more difficult to grieve. We should not allow non-administrators to direct us to do anything.

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**Go PIONEERS!!!**

Congratulations Coach Cody Moffett and the Pioneer boys basketball team for their Section 1 Class A and Regional 2019 win! They head back to Binghamton this weekend for the State Final Four!
PPSTA Benefit Trust Information

Calendar year information:
- 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 UMR Plan members:
- Members can locate UMR Choice Plus providers by logging onto UMR
- To access it go to www.ppsta.org. On the top menu, click on “BENEFITS” then click on the “PPSTA Plan”. 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 in 30 days!

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

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.

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.) 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.

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.

Traveling to a foreign country? 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 six(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 to a foreign country, we recommend you get some temporary travel insurance that is appropriate for the country you will be visiting.

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

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.

QUESTIONS about prescription drug related questions, contact OptumRx at 1-877-559-2955.

QUESTIONS regarding available benefits, including preventive and routine services available to you and your dependents, contact UMR at 1-800-826-9781 Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

ANY PROBLEMS 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.
POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE
SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARS!!

Drawing Friday, March 29th, 2019

$10 each, 3 for $20

50/50 Drawing Cash Prize

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POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE
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If you do not wish to participate in the raffle, you may instead make a donation: Checks payable to “PPSTA Scholarship Committee.” Return this slip with your donation to Justin Garrett (PHS).

Donor Information
Name ________________________________
Street Address _______________________
City __________ State ___________ Zip _______
Phone ______________________________

Donor Level
___ Friend ($25)
___ Contributor ($50)
___ Patron ($100)
Other Amount _______