

PPSTA BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION

SEPTEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 3 • VOLUME 24



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Spotlight

And just like that....Fall has arrived!

I hope you have all enjoyed a summer that included many moments of self-care and relaxation.

As we enter another year mired with uncertainties regarding covid-19, new administrators, and school safety concerns, we will continue to work together to support each other navigate a new 'normal.' We will rise above challenges seen and unseen to provide both academic and social-emotional support for our students.

We continue to create new, innovative ways to teach our students while balancing many challenges. We continue to advocate for safety for our school community. While we have endured many challenges over the past year, our union continues to support each other and our students.

I look forward to seeing all of you in our buildings over the next several weeks. Have a terrific week!

PPSTA is located at:

40 Garden Street, Suite 207
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.471.3376
FAX 845.471.6793

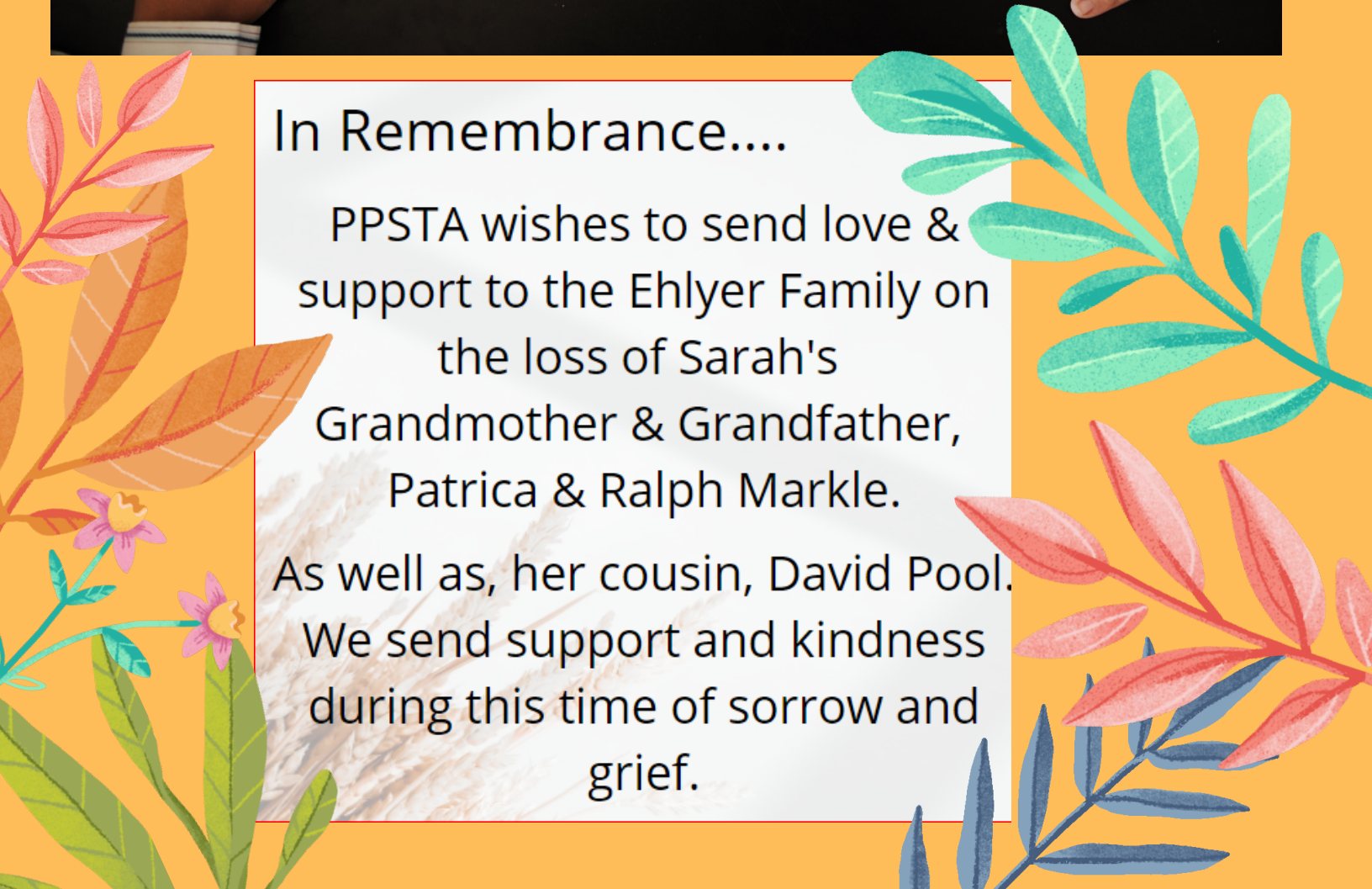
Office Secretary: Olga Mirabilio
officesecretary@ppsta.org
Hours: M-F 8AM - 12 PM

*President
Popken*



IMPORTANT DATES - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER-

September 7th & 8th- Welcome Back! Sup. Conference Days
September 8th- Exec Board Meeting
September 9th- First Day of School for Students
September 15th - CBR Meeting
September 18th- PPSTA 'Back to School' Social
September 22th - Rep Board
October 6th- Exec Board Meeting
October 11th- No School/Columbus Day
October 13th- CBR Meeting
October 20th- Rep Board
October 22nd- 1/2 Day AM Students/1/2 Day PM Professional Development



In Remembrance....

PPSTA wishes to send love & support to the Ehlyer Family on the loss of Sarah's Grandmother & Grandfather, Patrica & Ralph Markle.

As well as, her cousin, David Pool. We send support and kindness during this time of sorrow and grief.

Don't Forget to Re-Register!

NYS law requires that all teachers re-register every five years in order to maintain their Professional or Permanent certificates. Make sure to go to

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach> by the end of your birth month to re-register.

Stay Connected!



Poughkeepsie Public School
Teachers' Association



@ppstapride

Login to TEACH

Member Musings~

Support, Suggestions, Solidarity & Silly Stuff

**DONORS
CHOOSE**

DONORS CHOOSE

Founded in 2000 by a high school teacher in the Bronx, DonorsChoose empowers public school teachers from across the country to request much-needed materials for their students. When you create a project on DonorsChoose, you become part of a trusted 21-year-old network of educators, teachers, donors, foundations, and corporate partners who are all passionate about education. The power of this community has allowed us to make a huge impact.

*You've
Got
this!*

Think GREEN...Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reduce the amount of paper you use by copying back to back, try to use 1/2 sheets of paper for shorter assignments...

Reuse items from home for classroom decorations, science projects, creative art designs or storage.

Recycle your water bottles and/or donate the return money to your school's PTA.



Step Afrika

presents

#MASKITUP



**dance
dance
dance**

PPSTA BACK TO SCHOOL SOCIAL

ROCK THE NEST

CLICK ON THIS LINK FOR DETAILS
AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS!



— ROCK WITH US! —

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

FREEDOM PARK

212 SKIDMORE RD, PLEASANT VALLEY, NY

Let's get social for a great cause!!
Join us for PPSTA's 'Back to School'
Social supporting Sparrow's Nest of
the Hudson Valley!!
ROCK THE NEST at Freedom Park
Family Friendly & 100% of the
proceeds will benefit Sparrow's Nest
of the Hudson Valley
Saturday, September 18th,
2021

Delivering homemade meals to
families facing a cancer diagnosis in
the Hudson Valley.

The physical and mental toll of a cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming. With your help, Sparrow's Nest can relieve some of that burden by providing families with homemade meals delivered to their door each week. Join our monthly giving program, Sparrow's Circle, and help sustain our mission of feeding our friends and neighbors facing the uncertainty of cancer.



***IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH THE MEMBERSHIP REGARDING SOLIDARITY, SUPPORT OR SILLY STUFF, PLEASE EMAIL BULLETIN@PPSTA.ORG**

***FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY, PPSTA DOES NOT OFFICIALLY ENDORSE ANY SUBMISSIONS.**

reach
for the
stars!

CONGRATULATIONS
New Members!



We are excited to welcome new members to PCSD!
We had a terrific turnout for our New Member meeting on September 1st. Good luck & don't hesitate to reach out for support!

Kelly Becker (Morse)
Kristen Chesley (PMS)
Quiana Coston (Clinton)

James Fetcho (PMS)
Briana Hargrove (Krieger)

Tara Hayes (Krieger)
Emily Iannuzzi (PMS)

Sheryl Jones (Krieger)

Karen Kessler (Krieger)

Amanda Lewis (Warring)

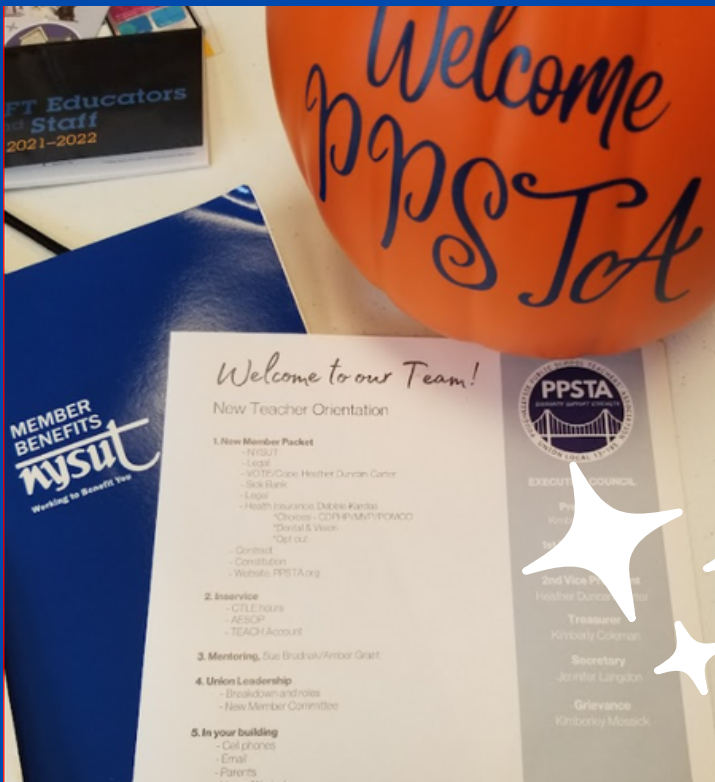
Nicole Neczesny-Altieri (PHS)

Lindsay Sabella (Warring)

Wendy Sung-Clarke (Clinton)

Kristen Weller (Warring)

Kristina Wynne (Warring)



COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

FOR MEMBERSHIP

2021-22



Accurate & timely communication is imperative to the success of the PPSTA. It is extremely important to empowering ourselves as a union that we follow the structure set in place by our Constitution. Thank you!

I have a problem. Now what?

Ask yourself~ *Is your problem a contractual violation or building quality of life concern? Have you been asked or directed to do something that is new?*

Put it in writing! Please!

Use the forms provided or send an email utilizing your personal email to document your issue. Send this to your Advisor first.

Your Advisor will:

- 1. Give you advisement utilizing contract language or past practice.**
- 2. Seek clarification from the Chief Building Rep, then they will provide you with an answer.**

The President & Executive Council will:

- 1. Provide advisement to the CBR.**
- 2. Address with the building Principal ONLY if it is an issue that hasn't been resolved at the building level- includes contractual violations, building quality of life, board policy, past grievances.**
- 3. Address with the Superintendent and/or Central Office if it is a District wide issue.**
- 4. Seek advisement from the Grievance Chair.**

The CBR will either:

- 1. Provide advisement to the Advisor based on contract language or past practice.**
- 2. Work with the Principal/AP to problem solve.**
- 3. Seek clarification from the PPSTA President and Executive Council.**

The Grievance Chair will:

- 1. Review issue for violation.**
- 2. Seek advisement from out NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist**
- 3. Determine next steps.**

PPSTA in Pictures...



PRESIDENT POPKEN

Communication, collaboration
and commitment to PPSTA.

NYSUT SUPPORT

Kim Popken and
Heather Duncan-
Carter building
relationships with
our NYSUT Mid-
Hudson Regional
Staff Director,
Jennifer Kaseman.



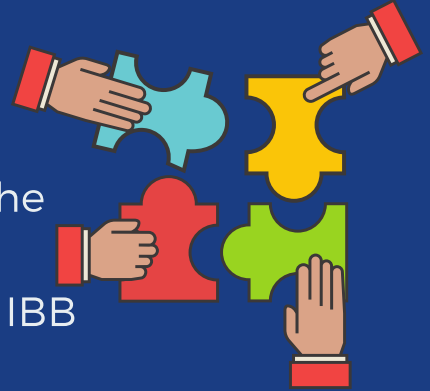
PPSTA CONTRACT DEEP DIVE

Past and present PPSTA
Presidents, Stephanie Green
and Kim Popken work
alongside PPSTA veteran,
Skip Hoover during a
Negotiation's Committee
contract meeting.



TRAINING

Your PPSTA Officers, PPSTA Negotiations Committee & the PCSD Executive Cabinet participated in a two (2) day IBB (Interest Based Bargaining) training facilitated by FMCS in August.



IBB- Interest Based Bargaining Labor-Management Collaboration Meeting August 9, 2021



OFFICE UPDATES

Your PPSTA Office space has been sanitized and spruced up for members and committees to utilize throughout the year. PPSTA pride is evident with awards, membership, and historical union items on display. Special 'Thank-You!' to Olga for holding down the fort!



Retirees

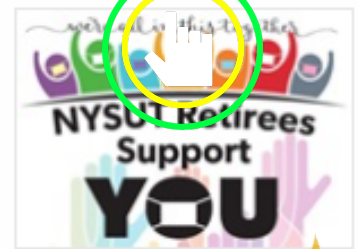
Experienced
Resourceful
Engaged

NYSUT has one of the most active and successful union retiree programs in the country. The NYSUT Retiree Services Program, part of Program Services, was established by NYSUT to help its retirees organize and to act as a service provider for those retiree groups. In an effort to better serve the growing number of retirees, 11 Retiree Services Consultants have been hired to serve members in the field.

Click for
Link

Retiree Solidarity Poster

We invite retirees to show our collective Retiree Solidarity with the in-service members in your region by distributing this poster as far and wide as possible.



Managing the Impact of the Coronavirus: Tips for Retirees

We want to share specific information for older Americans about how to manage the impact of the coronavirus on your day-day life beyond just protecting yourself from the spread of the disease.



Retiree Activist Handbook

Everything you need to know about being a NYSUT retiree, including answers to your most frequently asked questions. *Updated August 2020.*





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.

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.

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~We are here to help!

The PPSTA Bulletin

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



The Benefit Trust has heard from members: "I am not getting my EOBs". It has been the UMR standard business practice to only send EOBs that have a member responsibility. Their practice was to conserve resources. Since we have heard from quite a few members about the EOBs, we have asked that they send all EOBs. For those that would like to conserve resources here is a step by step process to go paperless.

First:

UMR

Home Live Chat Messages Contact us **Account Settings** Log out

Home Last login: 07/02/2021

myMenu

- Claims
- Benefits & coverage
- ID card
- Find a provider
- Pharmacy
- Health center

Find COVID-19 vaccination resources near you

Look up the latest COVID-19 vaccination information in your area, including who can receive a vaccine, where to go and how to schedule an appointment. [Get started](#)

My taskbar

- Check your wellness activities
- Choose a provider

Next:

Home > **Account Settings** Last login: 07/02/2021

myMenu

- Claims
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My taskbar

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Last:

Then it will be at the very bottom of that page to Edit. Changing this option will suppress EOB's from going to

Communication preferences

Email notification options

Email me when the following is available online:

Only employees receive email notifications

Explanation of Benefits(EOB)

Yes, email me

[edit](#)

Paperless options

You can access these communications online, but let us know if you would also like a paper copy in the mail.

Your selections will apply to all members on your plan.

Explanation of benefits (EOB) [Details](#)

Online only

[edit](#)

As part of the Federal guidance from the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services the PPSTA/UMR plan has implemented all services per the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**. This was supposed to end July 19. Part of those services was the ability to utilize Telehealth. The Benefit Trust voted to make this standard in our plan. In the meantime, the federal government has now extended **Families First Coronavirus Response Act** to Oct 17, 2021.

Teledoc	Telehealth
Co-pay \$0	Co-pay \$15
Teledoc can be used for almost anything you would go to an Urgent care facility for. There is also the option to use for Dermatology and Mental Health	Telehealth is primarily used to talk to one of your primary physicians. Ex. You are setting up a colonoscopy and the doctor wants to do a consultation. You can do that through Telehealth if you choose.
Here are examples of our utilization for Teledoc for May: Acute Vaginitis Urinary tract infection Acute cystitis without hematuria Acute dacryoadenitis, left lacrimal gland Acute frontal sinusitis Acute Pharyngitis, Acute recurrent streptococcal tonsillitis Acute streptococcal tonsillitis, Acute upper respiratory infection, Allergic contact dermatitis due to other agents Acne Vulgaris Acne, Insect bite (nonvenomous) of scalp Generalized Anxiety Disorder	
Teledoc if necessary, sends scripts to your local pharmacy	

BENEFIT TRUST COORDINATOR:

DEBBIE KARDAS

OFFICE HOURS: 10:30-1:30

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

ANY QUESTIONS?

CALL THE PPSTA OFFICE @ 845-471-3376

OR EMAIL TO BENEFITTRUST@PPSTA.ORG

