

ppsta bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT POPKEN

Hello all,

I hope you all are enjoying your summer and taking time to decompress after an unprecedented year. The Exec board has been working throughout the summer negotiating APPR and working with all parties to schedule IBB training for contract negotiations. We value your input and will be using surveys to gather your perspectives and best represent you.

For our retirees, I hope you all are enjoying retirement. Concerns about Medicare reimbursement have come my way and I am communicating with the superintendent to try to address them. Please see additional Benefit Trust information on pages 5 & 6.

I continue to strongly advocate for the district to develop and communicate a proactive transition plan for the reopening of schools in September. I will continue to request/advise that conversations regarding a transition plan with clear supports for students and staff begin happening now so that we all can be prepared in September. Attached are NYSED, CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics guidance for schools.

[CDC & AAP Guidance on School Opening 2021-22](#)
([nysed.gov](#)).

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) | [CDC COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools](#) ([aap.org](#))

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Kimberly Popken

PPSTA President

Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association



IMPORTANT DATES - SUMMER -

- **August 9-10** Negotiations Committee Interest-Based Bargaining (IBB) Training w/NYSUT



PPSTA is located at:

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

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

YOU ARE
ENOUGH
Stay Connected!



**Poughkeepsie Public School
Teachers' Association**



@ppstapride



DDSTA SERVICE

PPSTA PRIDE



CONGRATS PPSTA RETIREES

PPSTA STRONG

Cheers

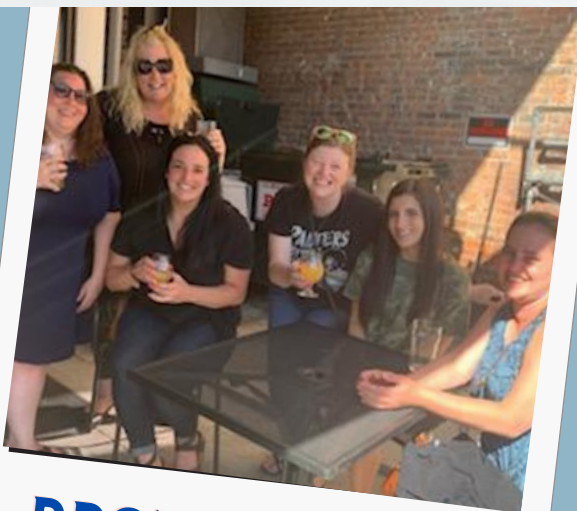
TO THE END OF THE YEAR



**PPSTA
Social
June
2021**



WWW.KINGSCOURTBREWINGCOMPANY.COM/



PPSTA SOCIAL

PPSTA UNITY





PPSTA SUMMER SOCIAL @ WEED ORCHARDS & WINERY



PPSTA Members Unite!

Member Musings

SOLIDARITY, SUPPORT & SILLY STUFF

The Art of Healthy Living
(Healthy Lifestyle Tips)
Eddie Brown, a Stand-Up
Teacher

SEL and Self-Care Resources
for Educators, Schools, and
Parents Related to Distance
Learning and COVID-19

NYSUT Fact Sheets
provide up-to-date critical
information on emerging educational
issues at the state and federal level.

*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.*

THE PPSTA WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ITS SINCEREST CONDOLENCES WITH PPSTA MEMBERS AND RETIREES:

ON THE PASSING OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMETHING INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN, INCLUDING PR ARTICLES, CONGRATS AND CONDOLENCES, PLEASE SEND THEM TO [BULLETIN@PPSTA.ORG](mailto:bulletin@ppsta.org)



News from...



nysut.org

CLICK
HERE

SED releases certificate re-registration guidance

Source: NYSUT Research and Educational Services

NYSED Office of Teaching Initiatives
Re-registration and Conditional Registration
Directions

CLICK
HERE

Since 2016, members with specific certificate titles have been required to register their certificates with the NYS Education Department. SED policy requires members to re-register every five years.

This week, SED clarified how members will do this.

SED guidance is found at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/registration-reregister-cr-direct.html>.

Who must re-register?

The site contains specific directions for permanent certificate holders who are required to register but do not have a CTLE requirement and members with a professional teaching certificate or a Level 3 Teaching Assistant certificate who are required to complete Continuing Teacher & Leader Education (CTLE) hours. Note that the process for CTLE certificate holders does require that members enter data that is used by TEACH to calculate the total number of CTLE hours the state expected them to complete during their registration cycle.

What if a member has not completed the CTLE requirement?

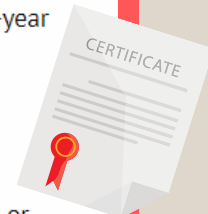
If a member was unable to complete the required number of CTLE hours the member should select the 'Conditional Registration' option. This Conditional Registration adds an additional year to the member's current 5-year registration cycle so the member can complete any missing hours. No documentation is required to obtain this Conditional Registration. This is the state providing flexibility due to COVID-19.

The other option for members who were unable to complete the required number of CTLE hours is to seek an 'Adjustment'. This is not the recommended path as this option does not add an additional year to the current 5-year registration cycle; members would be completing missing CTLE hours AND CTLE hours for their second 5-year registration cycle simultaneously.

Are there late fees?

SED will not be enforcing any late fees for members who should have registered already but have not done so, or members re-registering during the implementation of the re-registration process. Their stated goals are to register educators who are required to register and make sure the re-registration process works.

Our staff will be updating www.nysut.org and sharing updated Fact Sheets that reflect this new guidance shortly.



News from...



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HERE

Trauma Counseling Programs and Services

AFT members work hard—now more than ever—to educate, heal, help and serve our communities. Sometimes our *own* stress is compounded by a personal or workplace trauma; still, we struggle to be fully present for others. Now the AFT is offering a new, free benefit—trauma counseling—to provide help and healing for our members, *whenever* needed, *wherever* a member may be.

Trauma counseling

These AFT-paid trauma counseling sessions with highly trained therapists are completely private and set up to take advantage of the latest communication technologies—phone, text, video and even artificial intelligence. They are free and available to all active working members, including those on leave status. The broad list of covered injuries is both work-related and beyond.

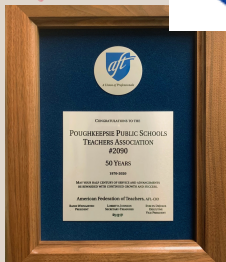
Important note

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and having thoughts of hurting yourself you should promptly call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or 911. You can learn more at the Suicide Prevention Lifeline website.

The AFT Trauma Counseling Program provides incident-based trauma counseling from a licensed Master's level or higher skilled clinician via video, phone, or text. After a covered incident it could take up to 24 hours to put you in touch with a trauma counselor.

CLICK
HERE

aft.org/benefits/trauma



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 locations](#)

Next:

[Home](#) > [Account Settings](#) Last login: 07/02/2021

myMenu

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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 t

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