

PPSTA BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2021 • ISSUE 4 • VOLUME 24



The newsletter of the Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Union

Thank you for all that you do!

As we enter this autumn season, I would like to pause to express my continued thanks and gratitude for the job that you do everyday.

Your professionalism and perseverance during yet another new transition back into our schools and classrooms has benefitted our students and families both academically and social-emotionally. Our members continue to serve the City of Poughkeepsie's young people even as challenges and obstacles arise. At our recent NYSUT Ed13/14 meeting, Director Matt Haynes shared his sincere thanks for the incredible work you all do on a daily basis. My team and I share these sentiments. It's an honor to work with all of you. Together we will continue to support our PCSD students through education and community engagement. Stay involved. Stay connected. Stay strong.

Your President, Kim Popken

Stay Connected!



[Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association](#)



@ppstapride

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845.471.3376
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Office Secretary: Olga Mirabilio
officesecretary@ppsta.org
Hours: M-F 8AM - 12 PM



Welcome

PPSTA NEW MEMBERS

Lindsay Sabella (Warring)

Rachel Lee (Morse)

Nicole Neczesny-Altieri (PHS)

Candice Robinson (PHS)

Anika Watkins (PHS)

We are excited to
welcome you to PCSD!
Good luck and don't
hesitate to reach out for
support!

Trunk or Treat

*Save
the Date*

Thursday, October 28th
Tentatively @ the PHS Parking Lot

PPSTA & CPPD (City of Poughkeepsie Police Department) are collaborating to provide our PCSD students a safe, fun activity! Gather your group and get involved! Be creative! Join in the festivities!



Please contact 2ndvp@ppsta.org
for candy donation and
participation info!



Thank you!

PPSTA recently participated in and/or sponsored several local and union led charitable events or initiatives.

PPSTA is proud to support the community that we serve.

Hunger Action Month FEEDING AMERICA

Yes! We CAN!



CANNED FOOD DRIVE!

Together we are collecting cans to feed some hungry individuals and families. Please bring in at least one can and deliver it to your union representative or officer by October 8.

Be part of something special!!

Don't stew over what to bring...just join us in this activity. If you have any questions, please contact a union official as soon as possible.



PPSTA
LOCAL 1000
NYSUT-AFT-NEA-AFL-CIO

COMMUNITY MATTERS 2 INC.

2nd Annual PUTTING FOR A PURPOSE



CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our youth are important to the future of our community. Proceeds from this tournament go towards our year round youth development programming.

OCT 3
SUNDAY 1 2021

College Hill Golf Course
149 N Clinton St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.



In Remembrance...

PPSTA wishes to send love and support to **Shanna Andrawis** on the loss of her mother-in-law, **Connie Wong**. We send support and kindness during this time of grief and sorrow.

Congratulations & PPSTA Love...

The Latino Democratic Committee of Orange County held their annual Fall Dinner Dance on Saturday, October 2 at Cafe Internationale at The Ramada. This year's honorees included PPSTA's own retiree & former Executive Board member, **Norma Ramirez**.

Additionally, the Dutchess County Latino Committee with keynote speaker, NYS Attorney General **Latisha James**, honored Norma on October 3rd. **Congratulations, Norma!**

Member Musings

¡Un agradecimiento especial a los maestros que enriquecieron las experiencias de sus estudiantes al destacar el mes de la Herencia Hispana!

A special thank you to the teachers who continue to enrich their students' experiences by highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month!



Pam Knittel &
Tiffany
Petagine
Nick Cedeno
Katie Soto

Teen Closet

Thank you for organizing & managing the 'Teen Closet' with and for our PCSD students!

Mrs. Rosario, PMS

Ms. Burke, PMS

Mrs. Bleakley, PMS

Shanna Andrawis, PHS

Jamie Ditata, PHS

Rachel Birsner, PHS

Annie Coager, PHS

Lori Thompson, PHS

Mercedes Karabec, PHS

Please share your PPSTA Pride & Positivity with bulletin@ppsta.org.
We love to celebrate YOU!



October 30th
Party 2-10pm
Food Truck 3-7pm
Wear a costume!

TRICK
or
TREAT

HALLOWEEN PARTY!



Featuring PPSTA's
own...Joe North!
Playing @ King's
Court!



It's an honor

Jim Areno, Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers Association retiree, was inducted into the Dutchess County Baseball Hall of Fame for excellence in umpiring.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021 AT 12 PM - 4 PM

Bluegrass at the Farm

Fishkill Farms



Tilly Foster loves farms and this one is GREAT. Come hear them play new music off of our debut EP "Nor'Easter" as well as a bunch of other great originals and bluegrass classics! ...featuring our own~Mike Colucci!



PPSTA Technology News



Please note that the PPSTA website will be temporarily down for rebuilding. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and look forward to providing members with an updated, easy-to-use, secure website. Thank you for your patience.

If you have questions regarding your medical and dental insurance, please reach out to Benefit Trust. Assistance is available at:

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**

The PPSTA Newsletter is the official notification for our membership regarding all medical and dental insurance information through UMR.



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!

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:

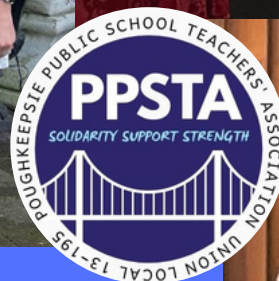
1. Provide advisement to the Advisor based on contract language or past practice.
2. Work with the Principal/AP to problem solve.
3. Seek clarification from the PPSTA President and Executive Council.

The Grievance Chair will:

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



**Your PPSTA
Executive Council
meeting with
Randi
Weingarten, AFT
President**



**President Popken
delivers a unified
PPSTA message of
staffing and
safety at the
September BOE
meeting at PHS.**



Check out what your union membership has to offer!

Member Benefits Discounts & Deals

Below are the most popular vendors that NYSUT members have shopped with using MB Discounts & Deals this past year -- with a potential savings of almost \$900,000! Have you been missing out?

EAT

HelloFresh
Burger King
Subway
Domino's
Jersey Mike's Subs

PLAY

Six Flags Theme Parks
Hersheypark
Sky Zone Trampoline Park
Bronx Zoo
LEGOLAND New York

SHOP

Samsung
Apple
Dell
Lenovo
Advanced Auto Parts

TRAVEL

TripBeat
Great Wolf Lodge
Carnival Cruise Lines
Sandals Resorts
Norwegian Cruise Lines

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurants, groceries and food delivery, theme park tickets, hotels and flights, oil changes and vehicle maintenance -- with more than 21,000 New York State deals and thousands more nationwide.

You can even refer your favorite local business (restaurant, coffee shop, workout facility, etc.) to join the network and provide NYSUT members with a special discount. Don't miss out... register your account today!

Member Benefits is proud to endorse MB Discounts & Deals along with dozens of other programs and services that may be able to benefit you and your family members. Take some time to explore our website to find out how we can help you make every dollar count!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org
or calling 800-626-8101.

