



PPSTA BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 5 • VOLUME 24

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION

Thank you for your continued perseverance and commitment to your students, your colleagues and the PCSD. It is an honor to work alongside all of you. This month sees us giving back to the community, honoring our Veterans, and being grateful for colleagues who help us be our best for our students everyday. All of your hard work is appreciated and valuable.

PPSTA's community service touches the lives of our youngest residents to our most respected senior citizens across our community. Thank you for your continued generosity of time and materials to make PPSTA's initiatives such successes! Please save the date for our 'Toys for Tots' Holiday Social coming in December .

As we continue to strive to enrich the lives of our students, I urge you to take the time to take care of yourselves. Our physical and mental health must be a priority. Teachers make a difference. Stay united.

President Popken



[Poughkeepsie Public School
Teachers' Association](#)

Stay Connected!



[@ppstapride](#)

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



NEW

PPSTA.ORG

Congratulations to PPSTA for investing in a safe, private, accessible website for all of our members' online union needs! Our newly updated website is up & running ! Register now.



[About](#) [Resources](#) [Benefits](#) [Committees](#) [News](#) [Philanthropy](#) [VOTE-COPE](#) [Contact](#)

[Member Login](#)

Please **CLICK HERE**

to Register Now for your private, secure login to your newly updated ppsta.org website. Stay connected.

The exclusive bargaining agent for Poughkeepsie public school educators for over 50 years.

[Register Now](#)

[Learn More](#)

NEWS & UPDATES

Fact Sheet 21-14: Registration and CTLE - Teachers

Source: NYSUT Research and Educational Services

(Updates and replaces 17-11)

- [Download complete document \(PDF\)](#)

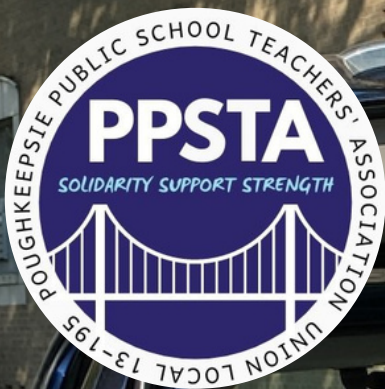
Overview

The 2015 New York State budget included requirements for certain certificate holders to register with the State Education Department (SED) and complete Continuing Teacher & Leader Education hours (CTLE hours). Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2015 specified that these requirements were to be in effect as of July 1, 2016. These regulations are Part 80-6 of Commissioner's Regulations.

Registering with the State Education Department

As of July 1, 2016, any holder of a certificate that is valid for life must register with the state every five (5) years. Registration is done using the State Education Department's (SED) TEACH system. See the state's [Registration & CTLE Requirement Chart](#) for an overview of who is required to register.





**CANNED
FOOD DRIVE!**

Thank You,
PPSTA Members!
Due to your generosity,
we were able to donate
over 400 nonperishable
food items to our local
food bank at Dutchess
Outreach.

Our appreciation
to Jeff Benton, our
NYSUT LRS, for
inviting us to join
this initiative. We
are grateful for all
of your ongoing
support.



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



Go Pioneers & PPSTA!
Our students are supported by their teachers in and out of the classroom!



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



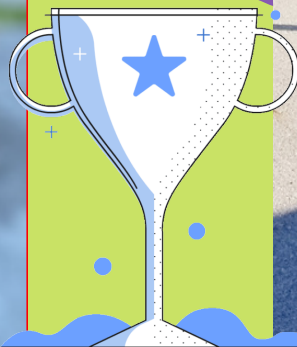
**Thank You to PPSTA
& to the City of
Poughkeepsie Police
Dept. for organizing
an Amazing Event for
our PK Families!**



**Thank
you!**

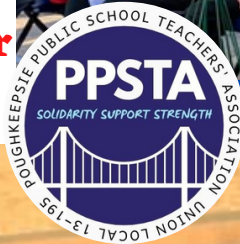


Thank
you!



Shout out to
PPSTA Members from
EVERY building representing
through candy donations,
'trunks,' & volunteering!

**PPSTA is Proud
to support our
Veterans.
Our thanks &
appreciation for
your service.**



POUGHKEEPSIE HIGH SCHOOL ART DEPARTMENT



A GIFT OF ART FOR OUR VETERANS

Please join us at Poughkeepsie High School
to receive a heart felt gift from our young artists to you!
Ceramic students at Poughkeepsie High School will be
displaying hand made ceramic poppies to give to you as a
gift of appreciation of your service to this country.

**To our Veterans~
We thank you for your service
and sacrifices.**

FEATURING
HIGH SCHOOL ARTIST MEET & GREET
POUGHKEEPSIE HIGH SCHOOL JROTC



**Thank you to Lynnae Dean,
Art PHS and Chief Wagner for
organizing the beautiful
ceremony honoring our local
veterans!**



**Thank you & Rock Star
Shout Out to *Dave Laffin*
for his work with MHA
Dutchess Vet2Vet program.
Dave helped raise over
\$5000 for local veterans.
[Read more here.](#)**



Cheers to PPSTA

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT
SENT FROM OUR AWESOME
RETIRES TO ACTIVE
MEMBERS

I hope you all are well. Thank you so much for the mention in this bulletin.

That was all so very nice of you!
The bulletin looks great! PPSTA continues to do great things and fight the Good Fight!

I wish this team all the best!

In Solidarity,

Norma Ramírez

PPSTA Member since 1994

Thank you to PPSTA and all of our Teachers for your continued hard work and dedication to the children. These are tough times for all. Please stay safe and keep children first!!

Sincerely,

Retiree

Teresa Bagatta-Reale

Dear PPSTA Bulletin,
Thank you for yet another superb edition.

Thanks.

Rick Keller-Coffey -
retired 2017
formerly PHS and PMS

Keep up the good work everyone!

~Kathy White

*Save
the Date*

TOYS FOR TOTS

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
PPSTA HOLIDAY

"TOYS FOR TOTS" SOCIAL!

COMING IN DECEMBER
TO A PIRATE CANOE CLUB

NEAR YOU

DETAILS COMING SOON!

The Impact

Delivering Hope Since 1947

604 Million
Toys Distributed to Date

272 Million
Children Supported to Date

**PPSTA wishes to send love and support
to**

Julie Farrell-Falco
on the loss of her husband,
Anthony Falco



and to the family
of our PPSTA retiree,
Vince Maiello
on his passing.



**We send support and kindness during
this time of grief and sorrow.**

*IN
Remembrance*



If you would like PPSTA to include
the name of a lost loved one,
please email [InRemembrance at
bulletin@ppsta.org](mailto:InRemembrance@bulletin@ppsta.org)

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.



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

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

NEW

Good news!

After a prolonged negotiation Montefiore and United/UMR have settled a four year agreement effective December 1, 2021. This puts Montefiore owned facilities back in-network.

Request from Benefit Trust

First a little education:

Medical/Dental Benefit Trusts, are a way of providing healthcare benefits to members. They are an alternative to conventional private health insurance products, and they are often structured to resemble conventional insurance as closely as possible since that is what people are used to.

Conventional insurance would involve an employer paying premiums to an insurer in exchange for the insurer providing their employees with medical insurance. With a Benefit Trust, the employer instead pays cash to a trust. This payment is then used to provide benefits to the member and their dependents.

Typically, a third party will be paid to administer and deal with issues such as claims handling. The way they handle the plan is based by a legal document that lays out the benefits. The Benefit Trust Trustees oversee this document and based on fiduciary responsibilities will make adjustments to the benefits.

Your PPSTA Benefit Trust is always looking for opportunities to improve your benefits. This can only be done following the most important rule fiscal responsibility comes first.

During our recent audit we were advised that we had 'too many' outstanding checks. We have over 400 checks that have been sent to providers and unit members that have not been cashed. While the majority of the checks are stale, we need to cancel them in order to reissue. The cost of that is \$35 per check. As the Chair of the Benefit Trust, I am working with the bank to try to reduce this cost. What I need you to understand is that this is money that is 'your' money that I think you would rather see it going towards the enhancement of benefits. So please, if you get a check, cash it!





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!

NYSUT & AFT Member Exclusives

Retirement Information & Planning



This online retirement planning guide has been prepared by NYSUT and is for general informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice nor establish an attorney-client relationship. This information is presented without any representation or warranty as to its accuracy, completeness or timeliness. It is intended to help guide you to the many resources you have available to you as a NYSUT member. It is important that you make your own individual decisions using appropriate licensed consultants.

Online Defensive Driving Course



*Save
27% off*

Member Exclusives | Online Defensive Driving



PROTECT WHAT'S YOURS



*Your union gives you
a real voice at work.*



why in **five** **OUR UNION:**

- 1** Fights for a fair contract
- 2** Demands a safe workplace
- 3** Stands up for your profession
- 4** Holds administrators accountable
- 5** Protects workers' rights

www.nysut.org
#IChooseUnion



Stay Informed. Stay Connected.

www.ppsta.org

www.nysut.org

President's Email Updates

PPSTA Newsletters

Benefit Trust Bulletin Information



Check out all your union membership has to offer!

Legal Service Plan

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (a Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

Financial Counseling Program

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone and virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

NYSUT Member Benefits

Every Dollar Counts!

These are just two of the dozens of endorsed programs & services available to union members and their families.

Whether it's insurance products, financial or legal services, or discounts, shopping or travel, NYSUT Member Benefits offers numerous programs that can help you save time and money while protecting those you care about most. Many of these programs can be purchased through payroll or pension deduction for greater convenience and savings opportunities.

Member Benefits also provides the advocacy role that is so important should an issue or concern arise. We encourage you to take the time to explore the Member Benefits 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.

