



PPSTA BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION

APRIL 2022 • ISSUE 9 • VOLUME 24

PPSTA Colleagues,

On behalf of PPSTA's Executive Board, we would like to wish you all a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week. This year has proved more challenging than any other year and you all continue to rise to the occasion in support of public education.

We appreciate and thank you for the work that you do everyday in the classroom and in the community. You are making an impact on their lives and the lives of those around you. Whether you are a talented new member, a colleague who wears ten hats, a veteran teacher, or a respected retiree~ You make a difference.

"Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system." – Sidney Hook

President Popken

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

Respect our commitment.
Acknowledge our value.
Support our service.



PPSTA is located at:
40 Garden Street, Suite 207
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.471.3376
FAX 845.471.6793

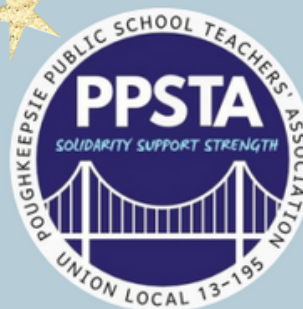
PPSTA STRONG.

Let's Get Together~

Agenda

General Membership Meeting
Date: 5/5/22
Time: 3:30 pm
PHS Auditorium

1. Welcome
2. PPSTA Pride
3. Benefit Trust - Open Enrollment Information
4. Benefit Trust - Q&A PPSTA Medical
5. Contract Negotiations Update
6. Member Questions and Share Outs



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President

Kimberly Popken

1st Vice President

Heidi Murphy

2nd Vice President

Heather Duncan-Carter

Treasurer

Kimberly Coleman

Secretary

Jennifer Langdon

Grievance

Kimberley Messick

Stay
Connected!



Poughkeepsie
Public School
Teachers'
Association



@ppstapride



better
together

You're invited

New Member Happy
Hour!



Ice House 1 Main St. (Riverfront)

May 6, 2022 3pm-5pm

Please join us for some cocktails and conversation!

Friends & Family are welcome!

MAY 14, 2022
11:00 TO 2:00
PMS OPEN FIELD

Spring INTO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

2ND ANNUAL
FAMILY FESTIVAL

Come enjoy free food, family
fun, Carnival games, prizes,
entertainment, and more!

For information: Parent Empowerment Center
854 451 4900 ext. 1425

PPSTA

End of Year Soirée

Celebrating this Year's Retirees

*&
Newly Tenured Teachers*

let's celebrate!

Friday, June 3, 2022

3:30 - 6:30 PM

~~SHADOWS~~
on the hudson

TRUE RIVER ROOM
176 Rinaldi Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Passed Hors d'oeuvres & Desserts

coffee, tea & soft drinks

\$50.00 *per person*

Cash Bar

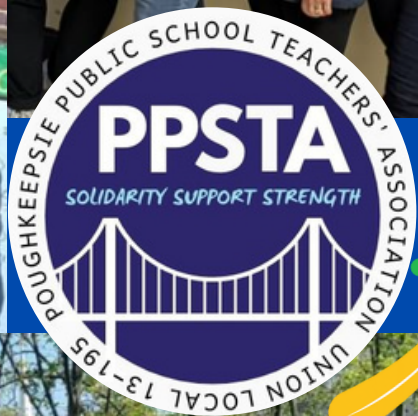
Please send cash or check to Aileen Lord at PMS

cell: 845-216-2308



[RSVP HERE](#)

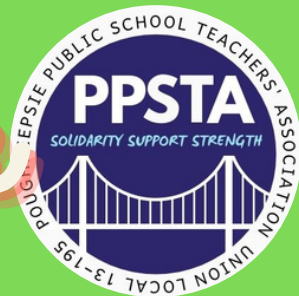
ppSTA
pride!





PPSTA IN THE PARK

Thank
you!



Community Cleanup Day

"We act individually to collectively clean our communities"



We will be cleaning the streets, sidewalks, local parks, and the Fallkill Creek

Saturday, April 23rd, 2022
10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Mansion Square Park,
Poughkeepsie, NY



PPSTA Benefit Trust

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 PPSTA/UMR Plan members:

- Members can locate 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 within 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! From date of adoption, provided family or dependent coverage is applied for within 30 days of adoption or legal custody. You MUST contact the PPSTA Office in the first 30 days. Please send a copy of the birth certificate and Social Security Card 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 this summer? 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 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 in a foreign country, we recommend that 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.



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!

If you have other questions regarding your available benefits, including the preventive and routine services available to you and your dependents, contact UMR 800-826-9781 Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

Questions about prescription drug, contact OptumRx at 1-877-559-2955.

If there is ever any problem with the adjudication of claims or with a provider, PLEASE call the PPSTA office!! Debbie Kardas's hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10:30-1:30. You can also contact her at benefittrust@ppsta.org.

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



Explore all your union membership has to offer!

When you're planning for the future, what's at the top of your list?

- A comfortable nest egg for retirement
- Providing for your family
- Purchasing a new home
- Home improvements
- Purchasing a new vehicle
- Travel and entertainment



NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs to help turn those dreams into reality.

When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org. There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics. Member Benefits also endorses important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the "Shopping, Travel & Personal" section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



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

