



VOL. 25 ISSUE 1 | JUNE 2022

PPSTA BULLETIN

The official newsletter of the Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association



POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

4 YEARS too long!

#FAIRCONTRACT

PPSTA
UNIFIED
WALK-IN
06/22/22

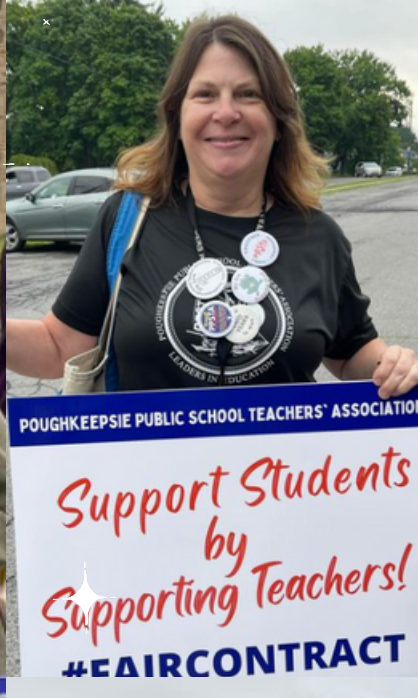
POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Support Students
by
Supporting Teachers!
#FAIRCONTRACT

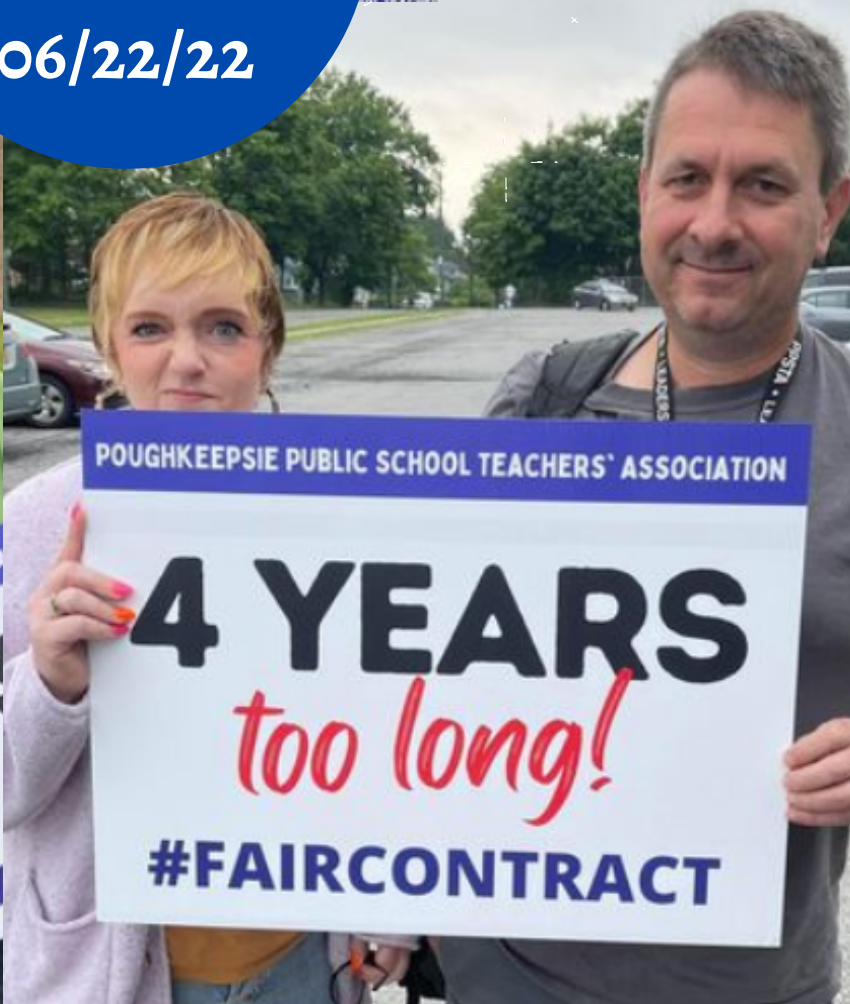


PPSTA
UNIFIED
WALK-IN
06/22/22





**PPSTA
UNIFIED
WALK-IN
06/22/22**





Congratulations!

PPSTA ~ Retirees

Sue Ammon

Tom Bell

Donna Chirico

Leila Craigg

Nancy Dingee

Gayle Larabee

Tammy McLean

Sue Peluse

Sabrina Thorpe

Deborah Wilhelm

PPSTA ~ Newly Tenured

RAYLENE ACKERBAUER

TERESA BOBA

MELISSA CASCIO

THERESA CATANCARO

LINDSEY COYLE

DERRICK DAVIS

KELSEY GRANT

DJAMILIA IAGIA

SHELBY JOHNSON

CAROLYN MCKENNA

DENISE MCMAHON

ALICIA O'CONNELL

JILLIAN ROTSKY

MEGAN ROWLAND

NICOLE SCHMITT

LORI THOMPSON

DYLAN TULLY

RICHARD VANS COY

ALISON WENZEL

SHAWN ZEHN AZKER



Congratulations!
PPSTA
Retirees



Congratulations!



*PPSTA
Retirees*



**PPSTA End-of-Year Social
June 3, 2022
Shadows on the Hudson**



PPSTA: Our Year in Review

**June 2021-
May 2022**

Summer/Fall 2021

*ALL CBR, Trustee & Advisor Positions are FILLED

*CBR, Trustees & Advisors Representing their Members

- Building Level Meetings
- PPSTA Meetings
- District Meetings
- Member Contact
- Member Representation
- Building Initiative Engagement

*PPSTA Social Committee Events

- Fall Social (supporting local business)
- Toys for Tots Holiday Campaign (@ Pirate Canoe Club)
- TBA-PPSTA Walkway 'Takeover' (Coming Soon!)

*Scheduled Initial Contract Negotiations Meeting(s) w/ Dr. [Name] (06/23 & 06/29)

*Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) Training for Contract Negotiations~ Initiated & Organized by PPSTA

Fall/Winter/Spring 2021

*Benefit Trust Debrief Meeting(s) w/Debbie Kardas

*PPSTA Committees Rejuvenated (APPR, Negotiations, Social, New Member, etc.)

*General Membership Meetings

- 1-September 2021
Welcome Back!
- 1-November 2021
APPR Update to Members
- 1-May 2022
Benefit Trust
Contract Negotiations
Update to Members

*NEW Secure Updated Member Website
www.ppsta.org

*PPSTA Health & Safety Survey

**APPR
Negotiations
Settled
2021-22**

**9 Newsletters
Published**

**1 NEW
Secure
Compliant
Website**

**24+ President
Updates to
Members**

**3 General
Membership
Meetings**

Summer/Fall 2021

*APPR Committee Appointed & Negotiations Proceed

*APPR MOA Ratified by Membership (November 2021)

*PPSTA Negotiations Committee Appointed & Negotiations Begun

PPSTA Safe Initiative

Fall/Winter/Spring 2021-2022

*PPSTA Take the Temperature Initiative



*ED13/14 Representation

*PPSTA Pride Initiative

- Utilize Social Media
- +February Pink Out
- +PPSTA Matters
- PPSTA Merchandise
- +March Madness Let's Shop!

*Weekly President Email Updates

**Multiple
Initiatives
in Action in
ALL
Buildings**

**NYSUT
Support
-publications
-legal
-training
-editing
-presence**

**Over 600+
meetings
attended to
promote
PPSTA & Kids!**

**"5 Unions"
Letter
Published**

Winter/Spring 2022

*NYSUT RA Assembly 2022

- Delegate Info is Updated & Registered w/NYSUT
- Committee/Resolution Selections
- PPSTA Attended RA April 2022

nysut
50th Anniversary
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY 2022

*PPSTA Daily Operations

- Office
- Threat Responses
- Remote Learning Expectations including a 2 hour delay
- Retirement
- Increasing Communication to Local Unions
- Increasing Actions to correlate w/negotiations process (ie. build internal support from members, admin, BOE/build external support (ie. community, public perception))



**APPR to a
Growth
Score &
70 to 27**

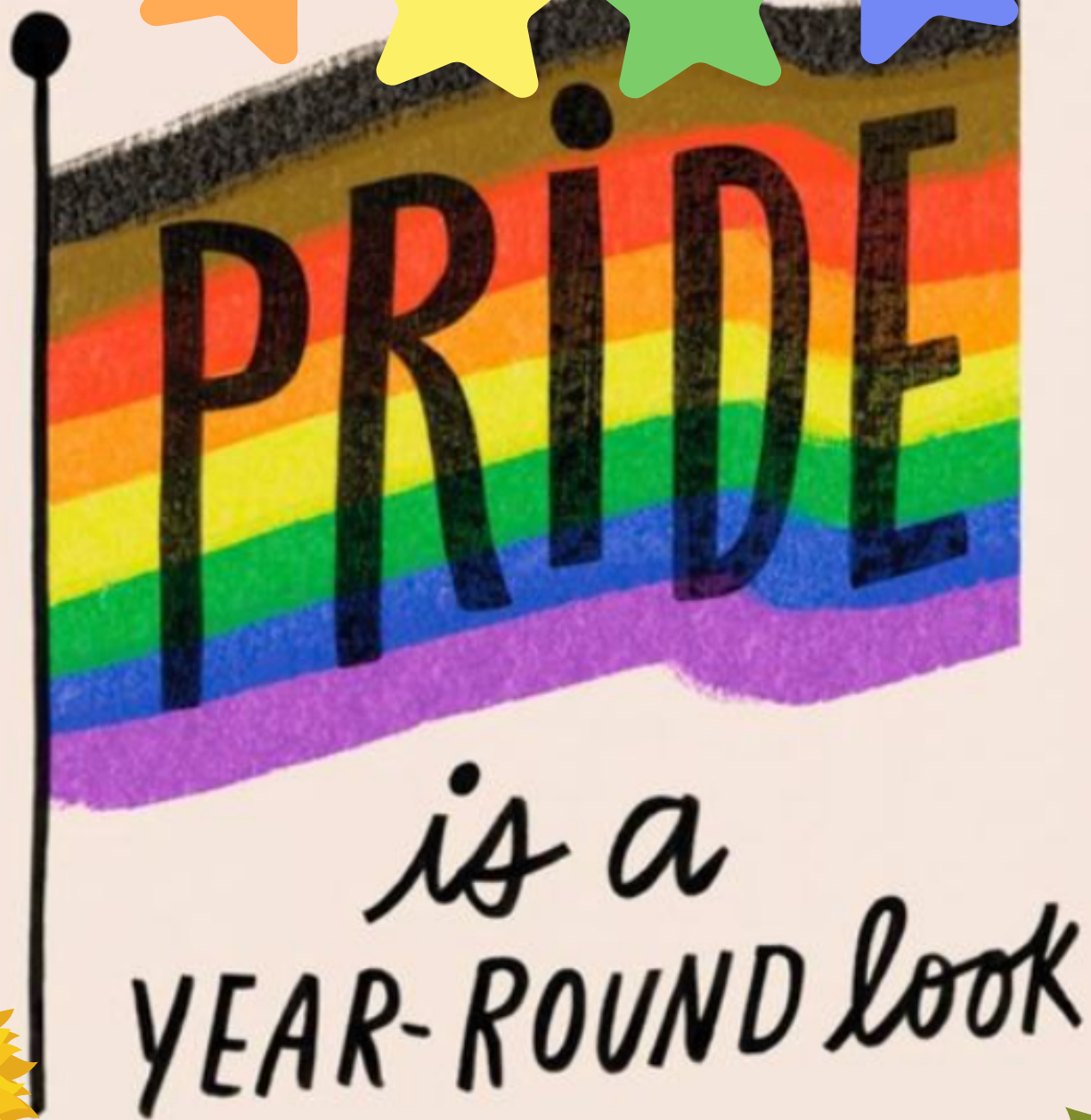


*Retiree & Newly Tenured End-of-Year Social @ Shadows
*PPSTA United Walk-In in Support of a Fair Contract Settlement
*PPSTA Attendance at the NYSUT Leadership Conference @ Otesaga

*Your PPSTA Contract Negotiations Team will be working through the summer months towards a fair contract settlement for all members!



Spring/Summer 2022



**PPSTA would like to extend their
condolences to Maryn Morgan and her
family on the passing of
our PPSTA colleague,
Kristine Morgan.**

If you would like PPSTA to include condolences please email bulletin@ppsta.org



PPSTA BENEFIT TRUST



Calendar year information:

Medical: January 1 - December 31

Dental: July 1 - June 30

Vision: September 1 - August 31

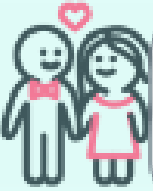
Legal: April 1 - March 31

Opt-out: September 1 - August 31

Notice to all PPSTA/UMR Plan members:

Members can locate providers by logging onto **UMR** or through the **PPSTA website** under Benefits page, just scroll down to:

Health Benefit Summary Plan Description



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

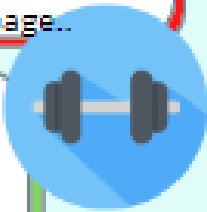
Olga. New family members must be enrolled within 30 days!!

GYM REIMBURSEMENT:

Find this form on the

PPSTA website under

Benefits page..



MOVING?



Call Olga: 845-471-3376 at the PPSTA office, with your 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 the enrollment of any of your eligible dependents, please contact the PPSTA Benefit Trust office.**

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.



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.

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 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 & 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 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 - 5 pm

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

If there is ever any problem with the adjudication of claims or with a provider, PLEASE call the PPSTA office!

NEWS

Benefit Trust Coordinator: Debbie Kardas
benefittrust@ppsta.org

Office hours: 10:30-1:30

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
845-471-3376

www.ppsta.org

Please visit www.ppsta.org to access your health care information & updates.



To comply with the federal Transparency in Coverage Rule, UnitedHealthcare, UMR and HealthSCOPE Benefits creates and publishes the Machine-Readable Files on behalf of the PPSTA Benefit Trust. This link will be active July 1, 2022.
To link to the Machine-Readable Files, please click on the URL provided:
<https://transparency-in-coverage.uhc.com/>



PPSTA WILL DAY



*Save
the
date!*

September 22, 2022

As a benefit of the PPSTA Access Group Legal Plan, you are entitled to draft a Simple Will each year. The same holds true for your spouse or domestic partner. This is a service that is provided at no cost to PPSTA members.

On September 22, 2022, a plan attorney will be at the PPSTA Office at 40 Garden Street, Suite 207 beginning at 2:30pm to meet with legal plan participants on an individual basis to assist in drafting a Simple Will.

Member, spouse, family members, or domestic partners are invited to attend the session. Please be sure to bring your completed Legal Security Packet to the scheduled appointment. If you need the questionnaire packet, please indicate on the coupon/form that will be available in the summer edition of the newsletter.

If you would like to take advantage of this service, please complete the coupon/form link that will be available in the PPSTA Summer July/August newsletter and submit in order to reserve your time spot for September.

Retirees~ If you would like to avail yourself of this opportunity, for a \$55 annual fee you can likewise have these documents prepared (and receive more legal services) by enrolling in the Legal Service Plan at www.nysut.org. You must buy the NYSUT Legal Plan before your appointment.

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



Finding In-Network Medical & Dental Providers?

NEWS

Did you know that you have 2 provider networks for Medical?

- ✓ When speaking to a provider to find out if they take our insurance:
Ask the following.....

*** Do you take United HealthCare Choice Plus?**

*** Do you take POMCO Select Medical?**



Did you know that you have 2 provider networks for Dental?

- ✓ When speaking to a provider to find out if they take our insurance:
Ask the following.....

*** Do you take Dentemax?**

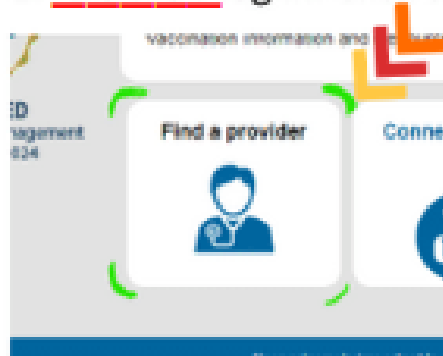
*** Do you take POMCO Select Dental?**



ATTENTION

Are you looking for a participating dentist in the POMCO Select Network?

1. Go to UMR.com
2. DO NOT log in. Click this button.



3. Click the Dental circle and start typing- POMCO. "POMCO Select Dental Network" will be the first option that will populate below. Choose that and hit Search.

PROVIDER NETWORK SEARCH

Select a network for search

☐ Medical ☒ Dental

Provider network POMCO Select Dental Network

4. You can search by specialty or name. If by specialty, Filter on Physician then select the specialty. Enter your zip code and hit Find Providers.

• Provider network

Find an in-network provider or doctor. Search by specialty (topic or area of expertise) or provider name (includes facilities).

Find a provider

1 Search by ☒ Provider specialty ☐ Provider name
☐ Display only Primary Care Physicians (PCP)

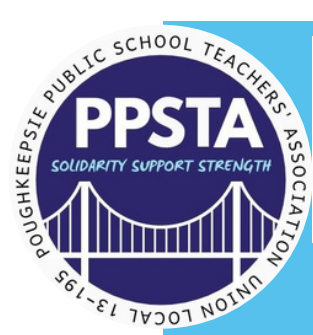
2 Filter Fields marked with an * are required.
PHYSICIAN ☒ *
General Dentist ☒ *

3 Location
City or Zip -- Select State --
Radius (in miles)

1 2 5 10 15 25 50 75 100 200



Find providers



Exciting New Benefit for Actives and Retirees (as well as their extended families)

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



Health Navigator Services

Sun Life Health Navigator Care Advisors provide a high-touch, personalized model of support, offering in-depth medical knowledge of all health conditions.

Once Members engage with a Health Navigator Care Advisor, they continue working with the same trusted person throughout their engagement.

When a Member is facing a complex medical condition such as cancer, our Care Advisors help get access to top experts quickly, confirm diagnoses, and determine appropriate treatment options.

Members with less complex medical needs are provided assistance with navigating the healthcare system based upon their unique circumstances, needs, and preferences. The range of services includes:

Health Advisory & Advocacy

- Dedicated personal advisor
- Expedited access facilitation and appointment scheduling with top specialists

Treatment Decision Support & Navigation

- Review and confirmation of diagnosis from medical professionals
- Data validated research on treatment options
- Identification of clinical trials

Member-Physician Matching

- Preferences for in-network or best-in-class specialists, including geographic preferences
- Physician credentials, including education, fellowship training, and ongoing research
- Physician experience and evaluation of medical licensing qualifications, certifications, and disciplinary sanctions

- Physician affiliations with hospitals/medical centers

Expert Medical Opinions

- Expedited medical records collection and organization
- Clinical case review
- Identification of top in-network physicians
- Facilitated virtual consultations, written or video
- Facilitated in-person appointments



The PPSTA Benefit Trust has engaged Health Navigator for actives and retirees no matter what their choice of medical plan. Members can use the service for not only their immediate dependents but parents, parent in laws and non-dependent adult children over the age of 26.

We are working to get this up and going by July 1.

Exciting New Benefit for Actives and Retirees (as well as their extended families)



Welcome Health Navigator! What is Health Navigator?

Healthcare can be complicated..

Behind every claim is a person facing a health challenge

Common concerns:

- Is my diagnosis correct?
- Is this the best treatment for me?
- Am I working with the right specialists?
- Should I get a second opinion?



Navigating the healthcare system can be difficult, time-consuming and stressful – but it doesn't have to be.

Sun Life Health Navigator
Powered by PinnacleCare can help.



How We Help

Member Support

- Treatment Decision Support and Navigation
- Health Advisory and Advocacy
- Member Physician Matching
- Medical Record Collection
- Expert Medical Opinions

If a member receives a serious diagnosis, needs a routine doctor, has a recommendation for surgery, or needs a specialist, PinnacleCare can help.

NEW

Physician matching: Personal and thorough

Evaluate individual circumstances and preferences

- Member consultation + records facilitation
- Medical director team assessment
- Medical record collection and review

Personal preferences and clinical priorities

Our care advisor take into consideration:

- Search member's geographic area
- Insurance coverage and network access
- Expertise and experience preferences

Access to top experts across the country

- Renowned medical advisory board
- PhD/MD specialized researchers
- Dedicated contacts at top national and regional hospitals

"I would highly recommend to anyone who has ever felt the burden of or concern of finding the right doctors" – PinnacleCare member

On average,
10+ hours are
spent building
these detailed,
custom reports

Access to Centers of Excellence (COE) and top medical professionals across the country

Support for any medical concern and with getting appointments (in-person or virtually) with top specialists and institutions to receive objective advice fast.



Did you know?

We have relationships with over **130 Centers of Excellence (COEs)** worldwide.

We will get you to the top COE for your specific condition- not just one size fits all.

SUN LIFE |

NEW

Expert medical opinions (EMOs): Importance of getting a second opinion

Lowers the risk of misdiagnosis or inappropriate treatment and the associated expenses

Ensures **education** on all appropriate treatment options


Confirms or changes an **original diagnosis**

Support **emotional health** and well-being

Services provide **exclusive access** to physicians at top ranked hospitals even when members' narrow networks restrict access to top physicians

"PinnacleCare was extremely professional, caring and thorough in their follow-up on my behalf." – PinnacleCare member

Explore all your union membership has to offer!




It's never too early
(or too late) to make
plans!

Find out how NYSUT
Member Benefits can
help you make the
most of your summer.

Check out the **MB Discounts & Deals** program in the
Shopping, Travel & Personal section of our website to start
planning (and saving) today.

Thinking of your next big adventure? A family trip or summer vacation? Member Benefits Discounts & Deals offers great savings of up to 50% on flights, hotels, car rentals, attractions and more when planning a trip.

Whether you want to explore other countries or the United States, Member Benefits Discounts & Deals has you covered. From London to Miami to Las Vegas to Paris, there are an abundance of other savings available as well! Restaurants, museums, theme parks, walking or bike tours, ziplining, sightseeing cruises, city exploration activities ... the list goes on. You can access these deals either online or through the MB Deals mobile app.



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

