

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE **POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

JUNE 2023



#FAIRCONTRACT #SOLIDARITY #UNIONSTRONG #5YEARSTOOLONG



**PPSTA SHOWCASED IN THE JULY/AUGUST 2023
EDITION OF NYSUT UNITED HIGHLIGHTING
'LOCAL UNIONS IN ACTION!'**



Poughkeepsie Public Schools Teachers Association



More than 250 members of the Poughkeepsie Public Schools TA walk in silence outside Poughkeepsie Middle School. The local, led by President Kimberly Popken, has been without a new contract for five years. Members, with support from the PPSTA Crisis Committee, have engaged in a number of successful activities to draw attention to the district's inaction and build solidarity.



Premium Calm Service - Now Available!

All NYSUT in-service members are provided with unlimited access to the full library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content at calm.com and in the [Calm](https://calm.com) app.




Member Benefits Discounts & Deals

The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Member Benefits Discounts & Deals program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations, including more than 21,200 New York State deals.

PPSTA attends June 7th BOE in support of the settlement of a fair contract!


Stronger Together!




 Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association
June 7 at 7:13 PM · 🌐

PPSTA in the house at Poughkeepsie Board Meeting! #faircontract #5yearstoolong #contractnow #morethanjusthumancapital #publiceducation #ppstapride #solidarity #labormovement #unionstrong #nysut #socialjustice #humanrights #essentialworkers #respectourservice #faircontract #unionstrong #strongertogether #supportstudentsbysupportingteachers



 Thomas Bell
Beyond time for a contract
Lets go administration get it done

 Karen Stauderman
PPSTA STRONG!! 👍





PPSTA Official Press Release

June 20, 2023

POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Support Students
by
Supporting Teachers!
#FAIRCONTRACT

PPSTA Press Release
For Immediate Release To All News and Media Outlets
6/20/23

Poughkeepsie educators deliver handwritten messages to board members, superintendent

Calling for an end to a five-year stalemate, Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association members today delivered more than 364 handwritten messages voicing their deep frustration with contract negotiations and urging the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education members to do the right thing.

"Five years without an agreement is far too long," PPSTA members wrote in protest on the back of an offer floated by the district outside the negotiating process. "Please commit to concluding negotiations without grandstanding and gamesmanship. My colleagues and I deserve so much better from you."

PPSTA President Kim Popken said more than 96 percent of the union membership participated in the letter-writing protest, showing tremendous solidarity and faith in the union bargaining team. The messages were delivered Tuesday afternoon to Becky Torres, Clerk of the Board, to ensure they were time-stamped and will officially be received by each member of the Poughkeepsie school board and the superintendent.

This was one of many actions planned by the union's Crisis Committee, led by middle school teacher Samantha Rosario, to call attention to the district's bad faith behavior. Throughout this school year hundreds of PPSTA members attended board meetings; sent emails to district administration; participated in informational picketing; and walked in silence outside Poughkeepsie Middle School while the negotiating team met with district officials.

"The entire PPSTA Crisis Committee is doing a tremendous job raising awareness and building solidarity among our membership," Popken said. The committee will be working throughout the summer on future activities in the event a new contract is not settled before the start of the 2023-24 school year.

When contract negotiations are so protracted, there are significant negative ramifications, Popken said. "We're having difficulty with staff recruitment and retention because of the impasse," she said. "We are losing some of our best teachers to other school districts. Our dedicated educators — and our students — deserve better."

The Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association is the collective bargaining unit for teachers, counselors, psychologists and other professional educators in the Poughkeepsie City School District.



PPSTA End of Year Soirée

*Celebrating this Year's Retirees
&
Newly Tenured Teachers*





Congratulations to our PPSTA Retirees!



Marianna Boncek

Laurie Diamond

Mary Ficht

Neil Grover

Jennifer Howard

Franky Perez

Margaret 'Peg' Piro

Mike Smith



IN SOLIDARITY

PPSTA's Contract News Source



#FAIRCONTRACT #SOLIDARITY #UNIONSTRONG



Join us.



PPSTA
Crisis Committee

Samantha Rosario Crisis Committee Chair srosario1223@gmail.com	Krista Sloan Communication Chair krista.shannon1@gmail.com	Danielle Omondi Treasurer dmarieomondi@gmail.com
Kristen Hendrickson Crisis Center Chair kthen55@gmail.com	Jillian Rotsky Picket Captain jsrotsky@hotmail.com	

SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday, September 6th Wednesday, October 4th

09/06 10/04

Volunteers are still needed!
Please reach out to the crisis committee members with any questions or if you're interested in joining.



ppSTA strong



PPSTA Scholarship Award Winners

Award Name	Dollar Amount (or N/A)	Student Recipient
Michael White Memorial Award for Visual Arts	\$500.00	Edgar Perez Gomez
Michael White Memorial Award for Visual Arts	\$500.00	Keenan Wood
UMR Award for Careers in Health and Human Services	\$500.00	Naiya Garvin
UMR Award for Careers in Health and Human Services	\$500.00	Amira Ibrahim
UMR Award for Careers in Health and Human Services	\$500.00	Kayla Hawkins
John Falcone Award	\$500.00	Soledad Antonio-Santizo
John Falcone Award	\$500.00	Noell Jones
PPSTA Outstanding Scholar Award	\$500.00	Aida Hernandez
PPSTA Outstanding Scholar Award	\$500.00	Gabrihanna Jones
PPSTA Outstanding Scholar Award	\$500.00	Saanie Moodie
PPSTA Outstanding Scholar Award	\$500.00	Dennis Truong
PPSTA Outstanding Scholar Award	\$500.00	Pierre Simon Miranda
PPSTA Outstanding Scholar Award	\$500.00	Anika Cousins
PPSTA Outstanding Scholar Award	\$500.00	Zae-La Douglas



PPSTA & MILES OF HOPE Breast Cancer Walk

Mark your Calendars!!

The Miles of Hope Walk at Baird Park
Sunday, October 1

SAVE THE DATE



MORE INFORMATION TO COME AT THE OPENING OF THE 23/24 SCHOOL YEAR.

EACH PCSD SCHOOL WILL HAVE A PPSTA TEAM AND WE WILL MEET AS A UNIT AT THE EVENT!

**TEAM PPSTA WALKERS WOULD ARRIVE AROUND 9:00-9:30AM
OPENING CEREMONY IS 10AM ON THE DAY OF EVENT!**

**CONTACT: PPSTA RETIREE, MELINDA AARON
MAARONA440@GMAIL.COM**

Summer Concert Series



P Poughkeepsie

Summer Concert Series – Jungle Love, Revel 32° – 32 Cannon St, Poughkeepsie.

Visit: <https://www.revel32.com/live-events>

LOOK

Calendar Year Information:

Medical: January 1- December 31

Dental: July 1- June 30

Vision: September 1- August 1

Legal: April 1- March 31

Opt-Out: September 1- August 31



PPSTA

Benefit Trust

Health
is wealth

PPSTA Medical Plan change effective July 1, 2023

The PPSTA Benefit Trust has voted on the following change:

Fitness/Wellness

- Maximum Benefit Per Individual Membership \$400
- Maximum Benefit Per Spouse Membership NO CHANGE

SAVE



The rate of membership Medical premium obligation (for the 23-24 school year) will drop from 10% to 1.75%

WOW!

UPDATE

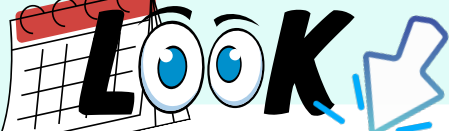
How Does the End of the Health Emergency Impact Your Health Care?

Covid-19 Health Emergency Ends May 11, 2023, therefore the Federal requirements are lifted.

The PPSTA Benefit Trust has voted to proceed as follows:

1. **Covid-19 Vaccines**- over Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) adopted COVID-19 vaccine and booster serum and administration as part of preventive benefits at **zero-dollar cost share, when in network**
2. **Over the Counter (OTC) tests:** COVID-19 over the counter at-home test kits - Preferred Pharmacy option - Medical paid at \$12.00 per test effective 1/15/22 to a maximum of 8 tests per covered member per month.
3. **Surveillance testing:** COVID-19 tests are excluded if done for work or school requirements, travel or surveillance. (These would be the employers responsibility.)
4. **Covid 19 Lab Based Testing:** Office visit, urgent care center, emergency department, outpatient setting, telehealth and telemedicine vendor is covered at 100% of allowable; deductibles and co-pays waived; for in network ONLY
5. **Covid 19 Treatment:** Coverage for U.S. Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved or authorized COVID-19 treatments, including Paxlovid and molnupiravir (Lagevrio), in accordance with standard plan benefits.
6. **Telehealth:** Includes Behavioral Health/ Telehealth: In network 100% no ded, \$15 copay: out of network 70% after deductible.
7. **Teladoc:** 100%, no deductible or copay.





PPSTA BENEFIT TRUST



Calendar Year Information:
 Medical: January 1- December 31
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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!!

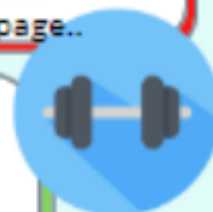
GYM REIMBURSEMENT:

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 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 would like to share its sincerest condolences to the family of PMS retired English teacher, Anton Johnson on his passing.



Office Secretary:
Olga Mirabilio
officesecretary@ppsta.org
Hours: M-F 8am-12pm

PPSTA is located at:
40 Garden Street, Suite 207
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.471.3376
FAX 845.471.6783

****PPSTA Bulletin Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. If you have articles, items of interest, information on congratulations and condolences, please submit them to bulletin@PPSTA.org****



Benefit Trust Coordinator:

Debbie Kardas

Office hours:

Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:30-1:30

Questions?

Call PPSTA office 845-471-3376

Or email at benefittrust@ppsta.org

THE PPSTA BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP REGARDING ALL MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSURANCE INFORMATION.

FREE & EASY!

Looking for an easy way to support your union?

Follow & Like PPSTA on Instagram & Facebook!



NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT!

Universal Life Insurance with Convalescent Care Benefit

provided by:

Trustmark[®]
benefits beyond benefits

- Innovative universal life insurance product provided by Trustmark[®], combining life insurance coverage with a convalescent care benefit that can be used to pay for long-term care services.
- **Limited time offer!** In-service members ages 18-64 who enroll between May 1 and June 16, 2023 may qualify for guaranteed coverage (no medical questions) up to \$50,000.
- Retiree members up to age 70 may elect coverage up to \$100,000 by answering some medical questions.

LIVING BENEFITS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

You could require long-term care services at any point in your life, which could cost hundreds of dollars per day. This universal life insurance program includes a convalescent care benefit that can help pay for these services at any age. Policyholders with a qualifying claim can collect up to 4% of their universal life death benefit per month for up to 25 months -- helping to cover the cost of long-term care services such as an in-home health aide, assisted living facility, or nursing home care.

LIFE INSURANCE

Protecting your loved ones is one of life's greatest responsibilities. Along with the grief that comes with losing a family member, survivors may suddenly be faced with costly expenses, debts, and a loss of income. Your death benefit can be used to help pay these expenses or for other items such as tuition or savings.

YOURCARE360 ONLINE RESOURCE GUIDE

This program includes access to YourCare360, providing an online resource that can help to guide you and your family through the caregiving journey.



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

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

May-Jun 2023

