



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

SEPTEMBER 2023



#FAIRCONTRACT #SOLIDARITY #UNIONSTRONG #6YEARSTOOLONG

“Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth.”

Helen Caldicott 


**SAVE
THE DATE**

Strongest together.

09/06

Wednesday,
September 6th

09/19

Tuesday,
September 19th

10/04

Wednesday,
October 4th

**SUPPORT PPSTA
SUPPORT PUBLIC
EDUCATION**

**6 YEARS TOO LONG!
#FAIRCONTRACT**

**ACKNOWLEDGE OUR VALUE
RESPECT OUR COMMITMENT
SUPPORT OUR SERVICE**

POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

**Your Crisis Committee Members & CBR
will share details. PPSTA Strong.**

IN SOLIDARITY

PPSTA's Contract News Source



#FAIRCONTRACT #SOLIDARITY #UNIONSTRONG



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	

- Wednesday, 9/6 6 PM: Meet at 18 S. Perry Street for a BOE Picket event. All active members should plan to attend. We also invite our retirees to join us!
- Friday 9/8 - Saturday 9/9 (times vary): Lawn sign distribution. Support PPSTA lawn signs have been created. On these two days we are looking to distribute them to the NYSUT members that reside in the community who have already shown support during our phone banking action. Please refer to your August email 'Updates' for details.
- If any PPSTA retirees would like to help in the distribution, please complete this Google form and a crisis committee member will be in touch with further instructions.





Crisis Committee

Save the Dates for Our Grand Opening
on 9/15 & 9/16!



The PPSTA Crisis Committee has been busy setting up our
NEW Crisis Center to provide information to the
community and support member union actions!

Details to follow.

Follow PPSTA on Facebook & Instagram!

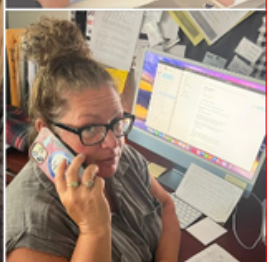
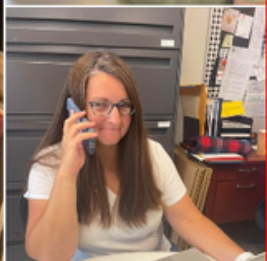




Crisis Committee Volunteers



Team
AWESOME



**PPSTA Members staying active!
Keeping our school community
informed & engaged! Huge shout
out to the Crisis Committee &
member volunteers for all of their
efforts in community engagement!**

WELCOME



NEW MEMBERS!





Member Benefits **Discounts & Deals**

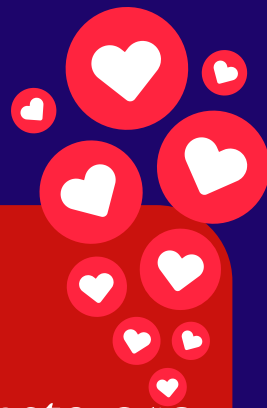
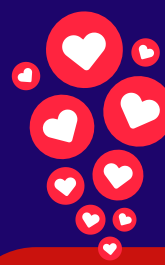
Premium Calm Service - **Now Available!**

FREE

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](#) app.

**50%
OFF**

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.



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!



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

**PPSTA member, Mike Collucci with his band~
Tilly Foster on Sunday 09/17
@ 12pm at Fishkill Farms!
Family Friendly Fun! See you there!**



Tilly Foster

August 28 at 11:47 AM · 🌐

Fishkill Farms



Family Orchard

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



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



UPDATE

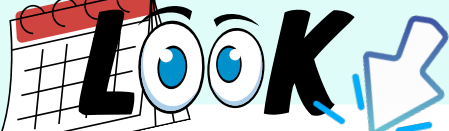
How Does the End of the Health Emergency Impact Your Health Care?

Covid-19 Health Emergency Ends May 11, 2023, therefore the Federal requirement 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
Dental: July 1- June 30
Vision: September 1- August 1
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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!!

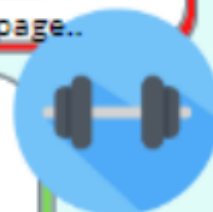
GYM REIMBURSEMENT:

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/>



Back to school can mean a lot of different things:

- *Starting a new career*
- *Planning for the future*
- *Balancing work and home life*
- *Making difficult decisions*
- *Enjoying your final year before retirement*
- *Recalling memories of a proud career*



Regardless of what you might be doing this fall, **NYSUT Member Benefits** offers a variety of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the new school year may throw at you.

Whether you are looking to save money, protect your family, or plan for the future, **NYSUT Member Benefits** is a great place to start. With dozens of endorsed insurance, legal, financial, shopping, travel, and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

And speaking of savings, the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to offer all NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations -- including more than 21,200 New York State deals. If you have not already done so, head over to mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to create your account with your NYSUT ID number, preferred email address, and password.

You'll then be eligible to save on restaurant dine-in or take-out, flowers and gift baskets, Bose electronics, clothing and shoes, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, sporting events, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, movie tickets, and much more. Members are encouraged to download the MB Discounts & Deals mobile app for the best user experience with this program.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!



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.