



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

OCTOBER 2023



VOTE

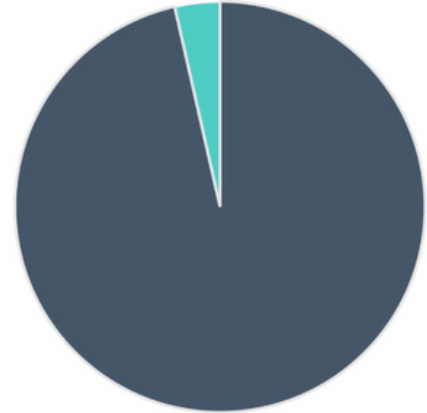
RATIFIED!



Approval of MOA PLURALITY

Yes- I vote in favor of the MOA

No- I do not vote in favor of the MOA



Yes- I vote in favor of the MOA wins with 96.44% of the vote.

337 votes tallied

The PPSTA membership has voted overwhelmingly to ratify the MOA. We thank the PPSTA Executive Board, the Negotiations Team, the Crisis Committee, the entire PPSTA membership~ including our amazing retirees, and our NYSUT LRS Jeff Benton. We are grateful for the huge amount of support that PPSTA received from our neighboring union brothers and sisters from across the Hudson Valley.

NOTE: When we finalize the MOA implementation process, we will reach out with a meeting date for retirees effected. Do not reach out to TRS at this time as process is still active.



*Summer/Fall
2021*

***PPSTA is reenergizing after COVID.**

***PPSTA members reunite through multiple community activities.**

***The Negotiations Team is formed & Interest Based Bargaining begins.**

*Fall/Winter
2021*

***PPSTA continues to build strength through committee development.**

***PPSTA works together to support each other & our student community.**

***The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.**

*Winter
2021-2022*

***PPSTA fights for healthy working conditions and gathers data for NYSUT to utilize in our fight for temperature regulations in classrooms to be law.**

***PPSTA strengthens relations with our neighboring colleges, especially Vassar College.**

***The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.**



Spring 2022

- *PPSTA builds solidarity with walk-ins & walk-outs.
- *PPSTA gear is everywhere!
- *PPSTA supports our Poughkeepsie community in fundraising & clean-ups.
- *PPSTA engages with AFT & NYSUT leadership for support.
- *The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



Summer/Fall 2022

- *PPSTA supports member events.
- *PPSTA engages with NYSUT leadership for support.
- *Members from every school show solidarity and attend picketing & rally events to advocate for a fair contract.
- *The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



Winter 2022

- *PPSTA supports member events.
- *PPSTA engages with NYSUT leadership for support.
- *NYSUT invites our PPSTA President Kim Popken to meet President Biden!
- *PPSTA members advocate for 'Public Schools Unite Us.'
- *The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



Winter 2022-23

- *PPSTA supports our community through Sparrow's Nest & Toys for Tots events.
- *PPSTA leadership teams including Executive Board, CBR's, Crisis Committee leadership, and elected building representatives continues to organize and advocate at the BOE.
- *The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



Winter/Spring 2022-2023

- *PPSTA Crisis Committee is in full swing and building support through leadership and solidarity.
- *PPSTA Crisis Committee members volunteer their time to organize and prepare for actions.
- *The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



Spring 2023

- *PPSTA members still take time to show solidarity and support to our fellow union brothers & sisters.
- *PPSTA Crisis Committee organize donations for our school community.
- *PPSTA members take time to come together and prepare for action.
- *PPSTA leadership advocates for our members in Albany.
- *The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



Spring 2023

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*PPSTA Crisis Committee organize donations for our school community.

*PPSTA members take time to come together and prepare for action.

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Summer 2023

*PPSTA members continue to make time for phone banking to inform the public and build support for a fair contract.

*PPSTA Crisis Committee continues to provide motivation to Dr. Rosser and the BOE to settle our contract.

*PPSTA members take time to come together and celebrate our retirees.

*The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



Fall 2023

*PPSTA Crisis Committee continues to provide motivation to Dr. Rosser and the BOE to settle our contract.

*The Crisis Center opens and is a community hub for FACTS.

*The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



Fall 2023

*PPSTA members show up and show out to highlight our ongoing fight for a fair contract!

*PPSTA Crisis Committee continues to provide motivation to Dr. Rosser and the BOE to settle our contract.

*The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



October 2, 2023



*PPSTA members have proven that they are committed to public education and the fight for a fair contract.

*PPSTA calls on our union brothers & sisters for support in our fight for a fair contract...and the overwhelming show of support was amazing!

*PPSTA Crisis Committee continues to provide motivation to Dr. Rosser and the BOE to settle our contract.

*The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract.



October
2023

- *PPSTA members join our union brothers & sisters to demonstrate the power of organized labor!
- *PPSTA Crisis Committee organizes and manages a historic rally at the BOE
- *The Negotiations Team is engaged in bargaining for a fair contract until 3:00am and continues later the following day.



Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association

942 likes • 1.1K followers

Liked

Message

Search



- *The Negotiations Team negotiates an amazing contract that is for 11 years (addressing the previous six years & protecting members for the next five), protects our Benefit Trust & healthcare, and increases the salary schedule.
- *The PPSTA membership overwhelmingly votes to approve the MOA on 10/16/23.
- *PPSTA leadership is actively working through the pieces of the implementation process with PCSD to ensure fidelity and accuracy.



RATIFIED!

PPSTA

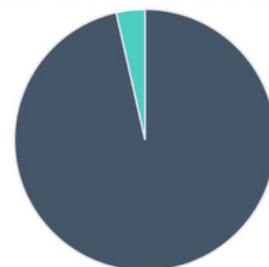
Today the PPSTA membership voted overwhelmingly to ratify the MOA. Congratulations to the membership!

Strength through solidarity. ❤️



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NEW

UPDATE

PPSTA Benefit Trust



Vision Benefit

Message from Benefit Trust Chair:

Did you know that your Vision Benefit is separate from your medical or dental?

All PPSTA active and some retired PPSTA members have a GVS vision plan. This means that when you have a change in your family structure you must notify Olga at the PPSTA Office and ask for a GVS form to update your dependents.

RSV Vaccine


A work order has been put in to cover RSV under pharmacy.

ANY one who has received the RSV Vaccine under medical and if they were asked to pay out of pocket, Debbie will get them adjudicated. Send your receipt to benefittrust@ppsta.org and Debbie Kardas will take care of submitting claims. Anyone going before November should hand a copy of the form (on the next page) to the pharmacist, which are step by step directions.

This information is for members when the Pharmacy has issues with submitting flu shots, vaccines or other items that need to be billed through medical insurance:

Note: The pharmacy must have a connection to the American National Standards Institute X12 837 batch standard file for this process to work. All major chain and independent pharmacies have this connection. There may be exceptions with small, "mom & pop" pharmacies.

To submit claim through Medical the pharmacy vendor should use the below for system entry:

Field	Entry
BIN	004766: If Pharmacy uses Change Health Care or Emdeon as Clearinghouse. 004303: If Pharmacy uses OmniSys as Clearinghouse.
PCN	COM 39026 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the EDI number on the back of the ID card. The Pharmacy may or may not need to enter COM before the number
MM	UHC 39026 Note: Make sure they enter UHC before the number
Patient Code (If Pharmacy requires it)	Identifier from the ID card (dependent 01, 02, etc) 
Medical ID #	From ID card
Medical Group #	From ID card

Note: If the claim rejects or won't go through, advise Pharmacy Rep that they will need to reach out to their own help desk for assistance.

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

WOW!

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

WOW!

NEW
UPDATE

The UPDATED Gym Membership
Reimbursement Form is
AVAILABLE at ppsta.org.

Health
is wealth

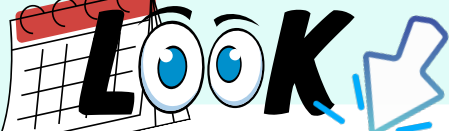
UPDATE

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



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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



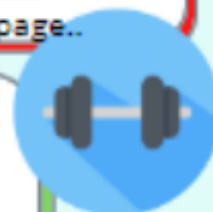
GETTING MARRIED:

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/>





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!



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.