



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2023



Dear PPSTA,

As 2023 comes to a close, we would like to take a moment to share our collective wishes for you and yours to find magic in the season and enjoy the fruits of your labor. We move into the new year with an historic eleven (11) year contract that protects our salary schedule, provides sustainable increases of over 20% over the next five years, helps attract educators to serve in our PCSD schools, protects our Benefit Trust, and provides language to support and protect our members.

PPSTA is proud to give back to our community and is grateful to be able to sponsor and support CM2 Inc., Dutchess Outreach and Sparrow's Nest in their efforts throughout the 2023-24 school year.

Thank you for all that you continue to do in support of our profession and your school community. We wish you a very merry holiday season.

~President Popken & Your PPSTA Executive Team



HAPPY
holidays



Update for Retirees Affected by the MOA (retires on or after July 1, 2018)

The District informed the Association that compensation will be provided in December.

If you do not receive compensation, you can email Tasha Leachman at tleachman@poughkeepsieschools.org.

The district will be preparing a report to NYSTRS in January. At that time, it will then be up to TRS to recognize the money as pensionable. It is important to recognize that the PPSTA negotiations team worked diligently to word the MOA in a manner that would give you all the best possible chance at TRS recognizing the money as pensionable. However, TRS will make the final decision. As always, as more information becomes available we will share it with you all.



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Congratulations!

HARD WORK PAYS
OFF!

**Congratulations
Mrs. Tucker!
National Board
Certified!**

We are truly thankful for you



**Congratulations Ann Marie Tucker and Michelle Carlson!
National Board Certified! We are truly thankful for you!!**

*Congratulations
Michelle Carlson*



For Completing the

Maintenance of Certification for
The National Board of Professional Teaching
Standards in Exceptional Needs

We're all very proud of you!

UPDATE



For your financial records,
please note:

Union dues for 2022 were

\$ 873.37

Please contact the PPSTA Treasurer
Kim Coleman at treasurer@ppsta.org if
you have any questions.

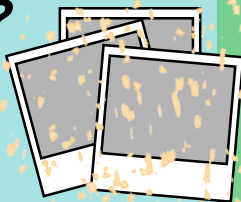
****PPSTA Bulletin Deadline
for submissions is the
1st of each month.****

***Do you want to highlight
your classroom or school
event? Do you have
awesome pictures of
union members doing
great things?***

If you have:

- *Articles**
- *items of interest**
- *Congratulations**
- *Pictures**
- *Condolences**

Please submit them to
bulletin@PPSTA.org



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

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



FIX TIER SIX

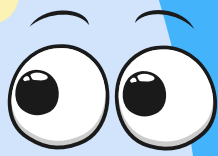


The Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association has always worked on behalf of all our members when they face inequities at the local level, and NYSUT has done the same at the state level. One of the most egregious inequities that a growing number of our members face is that resulting from the establishment of Tier 6. NYSUT has made reforming this one of their top legislative priorities.

It is important that you are aware of some of the benefit changes made to the retirement system through the creation of Tier 6, including modifications to the contribution rate and period, length of service, and age requirement to receive a pension. Each of these changes will reduce the retirement benefits for those hired after April 1, 2012, despite doing the same job as those employed before this date.

NYSUT has launched a campaign to improve the retirement benefits that all Tier 6 public employees will receive. We've done this before and can do it again. In 2001, after years of lobbying, Tier 4 members saw their 3% employee contribution rate reduced to zero after ten years. Previously, they had been required to contribute for their entire career. Members of all pension tiers came together and used their collective power to change the retirement system for their current and future colleagues. With your help, we can achieve this kind of success once again.

**VOTE-COPE
ALERT!**

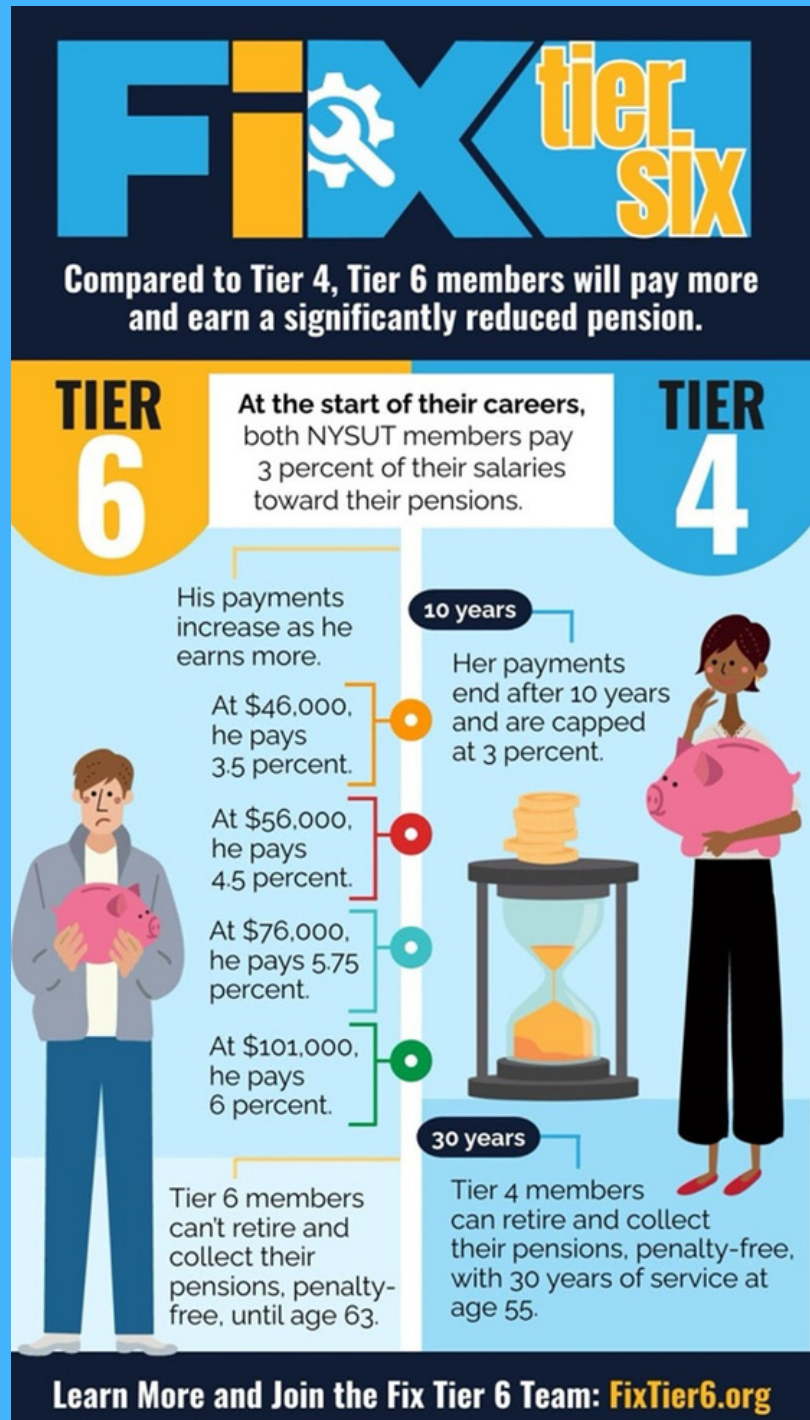


Be on the Look-out!

**You will soon be visited by your
PPSTA advisors with your
VOTE-COPE**

Annual deduction cards!!

**Let's make this an
award winning year!**



Learn More and Join the Fix Tier 6 Team: FixTier6.org

Please click [HERE](#) to support the Fix Tier 6 Team and receive more information about the next steps in their campaign.



PPSTA

Holiday Happy Hour

& FOOD DRIVE

Benefiting Dutchess Outreach



President Popken & New Member Coordinators ~ Ashley Bass & Selena Barrington dropping off PPSTA Donations to Dutchess Outreach!





Annual PPSTA Ugly Sweater Winner!
PPSTA Scholarship Raffle Winners!
Thank you to all of the members who came out and donated to Dutchess Outreach!
Look for information in the January bulletin for our next social event! Come out and bring a friend! You deserve it!



PPSTA Benefit Trust

Will Day

March 11, 2024

@the PPSTA OFFICE

2:00-5:00pm



**100%
FREE**

Sign up now to take advantage of this FREE benefit of creating your personal simple will.

Please return the coupon below to Olga at the PPSTA Office.

This is a FREE service for all PPSTA members coordinated through the PPSTA Benefit Trust.

*Book!
Now!*



(Please Print)

YES! Sign me up for Will Day.

Name: _____

Building: _____

Please send me a questionnaire yes_____ no_____

Home Phone or Cell Phone: _____

Time Preference from 2:00 – 5:00: 1*_____ 2nd_____ 3rd_____

(The schedule may be extended if there is a need to include more people)

Return coupon to: Olga Mirabilio at the PPSTA Office via inter-office mail or call.

Response Deadline: March 6, 2024

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!

GYM

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

CLICK HERE

Health is wealth

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.

REMINDER



PPSTA BENEFIT TRUST



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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!!

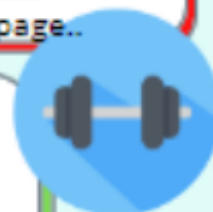
GYM REIMBURSEMENT:

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/>



Being ready for the holidays can mean a lot of different things:

- Gifts for your loved ones
- Appliances for your home
- Confirming travel plans
- Entertainment for the kids
- Food delivery in case of inclement weather
- Savings set aside for unexpected expenses

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the holiday season may throw at you.

No matter what your plans may be this holiday season, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. With a number of shopping, travel and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

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 products, 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.

Member Benefits also endorses life insurance programs, auto & home insurance, dental & vision plans, legal & financial services, and other programs to help protect yourself and those you care about most.

Participating in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also offers the added protection of having a trusted advocate on their side. Member Benefits staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

Explore all that 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.

Nov./Dec. 2023