



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2024



SPARROWS NEST & PPSTA!



JOIN US FOR OUR DRESS DOWN DAY 3/15/24

Sparrows Nest shirts are now available!

Please Join PPSTA in supporting Sparrow's Nest!!

Annemarie Buccheri's (PMS) efforts are bringing the sales of Sparrows Nest Dress Down Day Merch to you!

We hope to get as many people in the workplace wearing Sparrow's Nest gear as possible. Take a picture of everyone wearing their Sparrow's Nest gear and send it to Sparrow's Nest!

Please check in with a PPSTA liaison as well as check your mailboxes for order forms!



Interested in
Joining
Sparrow's Nest
or Making a
Donation? Find
them on Social
Media or Click
the Link Here.

We will hold one more Team Sparrow informational meeting this month in our new home in Beekman on Tuesday, January 30th at 6:30pm.

We will be participating in the Ocean City, MD running festival November 2nd and you have the opportunity to take part in a 5K (3 miles), 8K (5 miles) or half marathon (13 miles).

Your fundraising dollars feed families facing a cancer diagnosis as well as families who have lost their loved ones.

<https://forms.gle/6tcxbKMPbotAJCTLA>

Click Here!

PPSTA Benefit Trust

Will Day

March 11, 2024

@the PPSTA OFFICE

2:00-5:00pm



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: _____

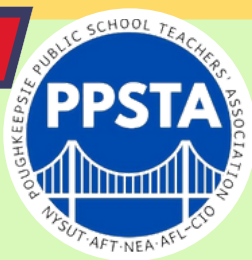
Time Preference from 2:00 – 5:00: 1*_____ 2nd_____ 3rd_____

(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

UPDATE



For your financial records,
please note:

Union dues for 2023 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**

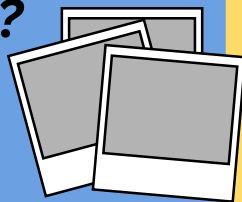
***items of interest**

***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.**



*PPSTA extends its deepest sympathies and support to our colleagues
who have lost a loved one...*

Erica Affuso
Amanda Rizzo
Stephanie Fata
Catherine Natonio
Shannon Considine
Nicholas Cedeno
Jennifer Frisenda
Cheryl Haines
Btish O'Connell
Kelsey Grant
James DeSalvo
Joe North
Nicole Vilardi
Kiera O'Loughlin
Tonyia Williams-Ruddock
Naja Jackson
Matthew Hayes

We extend our deepest sympathies and support
to PPSTA Retiree~ Mary Ann Gorrick
on the loss of her husband.
and to the family of retired PPSTA member~
Tom Amisson.




YOUR APPR GUIDANCE & LINKS

 APPR Plan (2016)

Supplemental MOA APPR
2017-21 & 2022-2024 

IMPORTANT

Don't forget to use your PPSTA APPR survey sheet to document dates and procedure information during your APPR process. Be sure to document in an email to your administrator any violations of the agreement. 

Probationary Teachers

2 formal announced, 2 informal
 Sequence: formal, two informal, formal

observation conference form **required** prior to pre-observation conference for announced/unannounced observations

Post ob conference **must** be held

Unannounced ob culminates in post-ob conf

Admin provides written observation report w/in 15 school days after unannounced

W/in 10 days after post-ob conf, admin provides a 1-4 rating for each observed component of the rubric

Teacher has opportunity to respond in writing to any post-ob report or the summative eval.

Tenured Teachers

1 formal by L.E. 2 informal by I. E.
 Sequence: formal, two informal

Last eval "E" or "HE", w/mutual agreement of lead eval, can waive the pre-observation conference

Observation conference form used by **mutual agreement**

Teacher **must** request post ob conference

Unannounced ob may culminate in post-ob conf **if requested**

Admin provides written observation report w/in 15 school days after unannounced

W/in 10 days after post-ob conf, admin provides a 1-4 rating for each observed component of the rubric

Teacher has opportunity to respond in writing to any post-ob report or the summative eval.



PPSTA APPR Member Resources:



NYSUT 2014 Teacher Rubric

<https://www.nysut.org/~media/files/nysut/resources/2014/september/nysutteacherpracticrubric2014.pdf?la=en>

NYSUT TED Workbook

https://www.nysut.org/~media/files/nysut/resources/2013/april/ted/ted_workbook.pdf?la=en

NYSUT TED Handbook

https://www.nysut.org/~media/files/nysut/resources/2013/april/ted/ted_handbook.pdf?la=en

Marcellus Schools Evidence List by Standard

<http://www.marcellusschools.org/tfiles/folder920/Teaching%20Standards%20with%20bullets%20by%20indicator%20Marcellus%20Specific%20%5BI%5D.pdf>

NYSUT Reaching Every Learner

https://www.nysut.org/~media/files/nysut/resources/2015/september/ted_reaching_every_student.pdf?la=en

NYSUT Powerpoint Live Binder APPR

<https://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=249839>

NYSUT Differentiated Learning/Student Engagement APPR (p3-5)

https://www.nysut.org/~media/files/nysut/resources/2015/february/research_150218_dep_differntiated_evaluation.pdf?la=en

NYSUT DeTECS Scoring Tool

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/2013/april/detecs-a-composite-scoring-tool-for-the-nysut-teacher-practice-rubric>

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

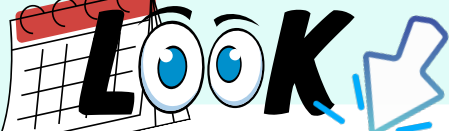
How Does the End of the Health Emergency Impact Your Health Care?

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



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

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!!

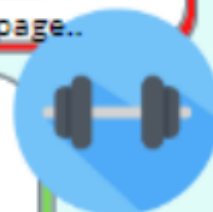
GYM REIMBURSEMENT:

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/>



Check out all your union membership has to offer!

Free Premium Calm App for All NYSUT In-Service AND Retiree Members!



- The #1 app for sleep, meditation, and relaxation
- Unlimited access to the full library of content
- Add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription

The Calm app -- recognized as Apple's Best of 2018 award winner, Apple's App of the Year 2017, and Google Play Editor's Choice 2018 -- is the #1 app for sleep, meditation, and relaxation with over 100 million downloads. Whether members have 30 seconds or 30 minutes of time available, the diverse content library offered by Calm includes numerous resources for their schedule and needs.

Members can explore guided meditations and specialized music playlists to help with stress and focus, mindful movement video and audio, relaxing sleep stories, nature scenes and sounds, specific content tailored for children, masterclasses led by experts, and more.

To learn more about how to create your Calm account and access the premium content for free, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org/free-member-benefits and then click on "Premium Calm Service." From there, you will find detailed instructions on how to create your Calm account along with a helpful Frequently Asked Questions document about the service. You will need your NYSUT ID number to create an account with your email address and password. Your NYSUT ID number can be found on your NYSUT Membership Card or by visiting <https://www.nysut.org/memberid>.

Once you create your free Calm account on your computer, it is recommended that you download the Calm app for your iOS or Android device. After downloading the Calm app for your preferred mobile device, you can then log in with your email address and password to unlock the premium Calm content.



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

