



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2025



**LATEST
NEWS**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING **RETIREE VISION!**



In the Spring of 2024, the PPSTA Benefit Trust announced that we were leaving GVS. Per the May Bulletin:

“For retirees, the Benefit Trust has voted that we will pay the premium for the first year for those of you that have been on GVS. We will access in the Spring if this can continue. We may have to set up a system like dental.”



On January 9, 2025, the PPSTA Benefit Trust met. It was voted by the Trustees that effective July 1, 2025 the Benefit Trust will cover the cost of a single vision plan for retirees. Should retirees wish to have a family plan they will need to pay the difference between the single and family rate to continue Family coverage.



For those choosing to continue as a family plan, information on signing up for ACH payments/check payments will be coming very soon. Please note that anyone who has the family plan and does not make arrangement prior to July 1, 2025 will automatically have dependents dropped. Once dropped, future enrollment will not be available.

please
Visit...

page 2-3 Benefit Trust Information
page 4-5 In-Service Information
page 6 PPSTA News & Condolences
page 7 PPSTA Tax & Contact Info
page 8 NYSUT Member Benefits FREE





PPSTA BENEFIT TRUST



Calendar Year Information:
 Medical: January 1-December 1
 Dental: July 1-June 30
 Vision: July 1-June 30
 Legal: April 1-March 31
 Medical 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



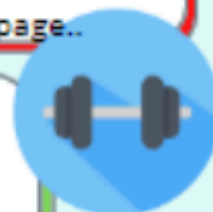
GETTING MARRIED:
 Call Olga at the PPSTA office for a change of status form. After you receive the marriage license, please send a copy to Olga. New family members must be enrolled within 30 days!!

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 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/>





IT'S ALL ABOUT THE
In-Service

Interested in applying for in-service? Please read through the following document first!

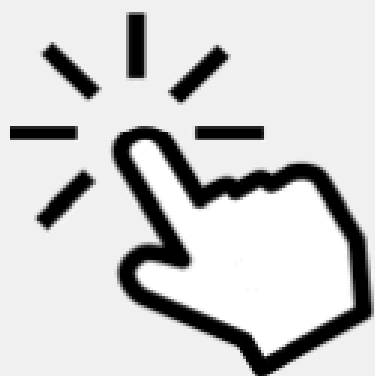
WHAT IS IN-SERVICE?

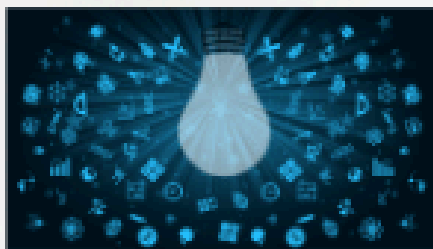
In-Service in the PCSD is centered around pupil learning experiences and ways of improving them. **In-service education should result in improved practice.** The work may consist of college courses, workshops, local courses, travel, or other improved work.



HOW TO APPLY?

You can get the in-service form from the main office in your building. Complete the form fully and attach documentation with information regarding the course summary (i.e. print out from Frontline). **MAKE A COPY FOR YOURSELF**, then interoffice mail the forms to Human Resources.





What qualifies as in-service?

- each course must be a minimum of 3 hours
- the course must be relevant to the PPSTA member's position
- the course must be done outside of the school hours

Why did my in-service get denied?

- ✗-Did your form not make it to Human Resources on time?
- ✗-Was the course completed during the school day?
- ✗-Was the course not a minimum of 3 hours?
- ✗-Did you not attach documentation about the course?

THESE ARE ALL REASONS YOUR IN-SERVICE WOULD BE DENIED!

Good News!

If your request got denied due to a documentation error (i.e. you filled out the form incorrectly or forgot to attach a printout about the course), you can make the correction and resubmit!

PLEASE:

Try to turn in your forms to Human Resources as soon as possible. Your form is time stamped from the moment it is opened, **NOT** the moment you submit it. Forms must be time stamped prior to the start of the course to be considered for approval.

Stay up to date!

Always check your email and mailbox for any updates to your in-service application.



PPSTA would like to express our sincere condolences on the loss of a loved one to you and your family.



Beth Ann Kassa
Kristen Hendrickson
Elizabeth Rodgers
Toni Nicolich
Jason Conrad
Jennifer Burke
Marvin Edwards
Yvonne Housman
Jaime Ditata
Stephanie Volkland
Heather Smith Douglas

♥️ & Retiree Melinda Aaron's 'Aunt Jean'



PPSTA Scholarship



Reserve your PPSTA Scholarship \$10 each Super Bowl squares below by clicking on the link.

How to play?

1. Click on the link below and scroll way down to pick the box that you want.
2. Enter your name and email.
3. Then, you will be prompted for your password (if you have done this in the past.)

Or, you can create a new account.

Link to play...

[https://superbowlpoolsite.com/contest/595192?
p=scholarship](https://superbowlpoolsite.com/contest/595192?p=scholarship)



PAYMENT INFO:

VENMO: @Cat-Bryson
Venmo must be PAID
by Feb 9th @ 10am.

Cash or check(s) to
Justin Garrett at PHS
are also accepted.

PPSTA Scholarship
Committee

For questions,
rdvanscoyk@gmail.com

or
ppstascholarship@gmail.com

UPDATE



**For your financial records,
please note:**

**Union dues for 2024 were
\$889.87**

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



**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 wants to
celebrate our members
and their work!****

***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**

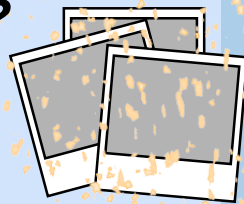
***items of interest**

***Congratulations**

***Pictures**

***Condolences**

**Please submit them to
bulletin@PPSTA.org****



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



Enjoy these benefits

FOR FREE!

NYSUT Member Benefits strongly believes in the importance of making quality benefits easily accessible to the NYSUT membership. You may be interested in the following options:

1. Premium Calm Subscription:

All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited free access to the popular Calm app's full library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content. Members can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription.

2. Peer Support Line:

Whether you're facing a specific stressful situation or would just like to speak with a supportive voice, this confidential helpline is free to all NYSUT members and their families. Call toll-free 844-444-0152 to connect with a peer.

3. AD&D Insurance Benefit/ Travel Assistance Services:

All in-service and retiree members are automatically provided with a \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit, along with free travel assistance services from AXA Assistance.

4. New Member Life Insurance:

All new members are eligible to receive a free term life insurance policy providing coverage for up to \$25,000 for one year, guaranteed renewable at the end of the year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Member Appreciation Event is back!

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that Member Appreciation Event will be held this March! This celebration will feature prizes donated by Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers. To be eligible to win, you must be a participant in our MAP Alert email service.

If you're not already a MAP Alert participant, simply scan the QR code, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, or call 800-626-8101 to sign up. You'll then receive weekly updates about endorsed benefits, information about new programs, and be able to take part in special prize drawings such as Member Appreciation Event.

SCAN ME



MEMBER
BENEFITS
nysut

Working to Benefit You

January/February 2025

