



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

JUNE/JULY 2024



HELP NYSUT FIX TIER 6!
Join the Fight for Fairness!



PPSTA member and National Board Certified, extraordinary educator, Ann Marie Tucker, spoke at the Mid-Hudson Tier 6 Rally on 6/6/25.



PPSTA showed up & showed out for our newest members!



HAPPY
Retirement!



*Congratulations to our newest PPSTA Retirees!
We thank you for your years of service and
wish you the absolute best in the future.*

Michele Ciciman

Jacqueline Fields-Clyburn

Andrea Branciforte

Marvin Edwards

Kelly Faulk

Louis Gibson

Skip Hoover

Yvonne Housman

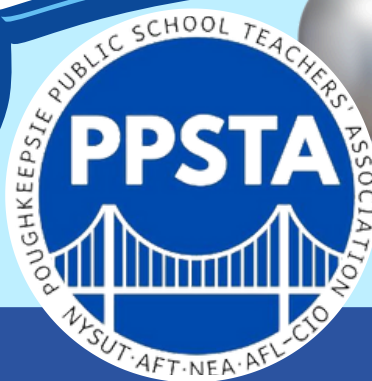
Andrea Maserjian

Suzi Sullivan

Laura Tietz

Grace Warman

Congratulations!



Tenured Educators September–June 2024–2025

Kelly Doyle
Emily Iannuzzi
Rachel Lee
Stacy Lee
Amanda Lewis
Nicole Altieri
Toni Nicolich
Kristen Weller

Karen Moschetto Martorana
Kristina Wynne
Deahnara Knauth
Jessica Sapper
Dina Layton
Jessica Davis
Sangwook Park
Joyette Walton

“New York state’s rigorous teaching standards provide many safeguards that ensure children have good teachers. Tenure is one of them.

- Tenure is a safeguard that ensures good teachers can speak up for what students need.
- Tenure is a safeguard that protects good teachers from unfair firing — a basic due process right.
- Tenure is working in New York state. The process has been reformed to be faster and more cost efficient.

New York state’s many safeguards for teacher quality ensure that its teaching force is among the best credentialed, most effective in the nation.”

~NYSUT

thank you for choosing PK!

PPSTA Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to our

2024-2025 Student Recipients!



Michael White Memorial Award for Visual Arts

Mahogany Jean-Charles \$500.00

UMR Award for Careers in Health and Human Services

Yaquelin Antonio-Lopez \$300.00

Salome Vergara \$300.00

John Falcone Award

Allison Perez \$300.00

Jhanae Stewart \$300.00

Rhinebeck Bank Scholarship

Will Matias \$2500.00

Skyla Arana \$2500.00

PPSTA Outstanding Scholar Award

Kelly Marca Matailo \$300.00

Amiyah Woo \$300.00

Thank you to everyone who sponsors, donates, contributes and participates to make the PPSTA Scholarship Awards a success for our students! We can't do it without you! Special shout outs to Richard VanScoyk, Cat Bryson & Justin Garrett for volunteering to organize the PPSTA Scholarship Awards for our students!



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

**Malissa Turner
Nicole Schmitt
Mary Wagner
Stasia Fernandez
Donna Palumbo
Brian Laffin
Kimberly Laffin
Teresa Bova**

**Dara Kane
Nicole Vilardi
Marissa O'Brien
Yvonne Housman
Cheryl Haines
Torianne Brandenburg
Denise McMahon
Mia Runza
Kelli Cane**

We also send our condolences to the family and friends of
former PPSTA representative and retiree, Neil Byrne,
who recently passed away.

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.**



Follow us on your social media accounts to
show support & stay informed.



Updates & Information

BENEFIT TRUST



NEW

UPDATE

Changes to our Medical Plan Effective July 1, 2025

On March 6, 2025 the PPSTA Benefit Trust voted the following changes to the fertility benefit:

1. Increase the annual \$10,000 max to a max of \$15,000 per round.
2. Set the max number of rounds to 3.
3. Continue the IVF drugs to 80% in network and 70% Out of Network.
4. Eliminate the age limitations.

There will be more to come on this. Stay tuned!



Improving how claims are processed

Starting May 9, UMR will no longer accept claims submitted by email. This change is part of UMR's ongoing efforts to simplify and streamline your claims experience.

Please submit claims using one of the following methods:

- Sign into umr.com and navigate to the **Claims** menu option
- Fax claims to **855-444-2896**
- Mail claims to the address listed on your member ID card

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please call the customer service number on your ID card.



If you are having problems with registering on www.myUHCvision.com:

MyUHCVision Tech Support team
1-877-844-4999.

Submitting Claims to UMR

When you are submitting claims for reimbursement, it is very important to follow the directions on the form. If you submit by mail, keep copies!!! If you are emailing, the UMR system CANNOT read google docs or sheets. These claims end up in a 'dead letter file' and cannot get processed. You need to attach the claim form and supporting documentation in pdf form.



Updates &
Information

BENEFIT TRUST



Important Update on UMR Medical Plan

Everyone is going to get a new card!!!

Make sure to use this card effective July 1, 2025.

The reason for this is the PPSTA Benefit Trust has been able to get a new service called “Plan Advisor”.

Effective July 1, 2025, when you call UMR (our third party health plan administrator), you'll be connected to a live person who's specially trained in the PPSTA health plan document. There is a dedicated phone number that will be on the back of your card:

800-207-3172



What Plan Advisor delivers to members:

- Provide benefit and eligibility information
- Help understand Explanation of Benefits (EOB)
- Resolve claims and billing inquiries
- Help members find a provider and schedule appointments
- Promote preventive care and identify any gaps in care
- Ensure connection with primary care provider
- Deliver network guidance
- Guide members on using online tools





Updates &
Information

BENEFIT TRUST



Retiree Vision

June is the last month to respond to keep family vision coverage. 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. A letter was sent to retirees who are currently enrolled as family. Enclosed in that letter you were given 2 ways to pay the \$9.50/month fee to maintain family coverage.



Health Navigator



Health Navigator now has an app: SunLife Health 360

The app can be used to get healthcare support or various wellness workouts. You can also call 888-352-4969 or go to www.PinnacleCare.com/health-navigator-support



If you were at the General Membership meeting you heard about Hinge Health! Through Health Navigator you can receive **FREE** physical therapy.

Even if it is just that lower back pain, sign up! It is awesome!

<https://hingehealth.com/share/sunlifehealth360/rcode=8rhqIC>



PPSTA BENEFIT TRUST



Calendar Year Information:

Medical: January 1-December 31

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!!

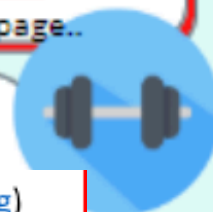
GYM REIMBURSEMENT:

Find this form on the **PPSTA website** under Benefits page..

MOVING?



It is critical that when your address changes that you notify Olga (officesecretary@ppsta.org) and Debbie (benefittrust@ppsta.org). If we don't have your correct address things like dental and medical reimbursements will go to your old address and they don't always get sent back to UMR!



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/>





LET MEMBER BENEFITS HELP YOU PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

If you recently retired or plan to do so in the near future, it's important to prepare for the transition from in-service work to retirement.

Maintaining NYSUT membership in retirement is crucial, especially if you're currently participating in a NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) and would like to continue doing so. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

- 1** Continue membership within your local if retiree membership is offered. Contact your local to find out if any retiree membership requirements are in place. You must comply with these requirements to continue your membership in NYSUT along with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).
- 2** Continue as an at-large member of NYSUT through the Retiree Council in your region. Contact your local to ensure you will be reported as retired to NYSUT. This will provide you with membership in the Retiree Council in your region along with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA. If you have questions about maintaining NYSUT membership or would like more information about NYSUT retiree programs, you will want to contact the NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant serving your region. You can find this information at nysut.cc/retireeconsultants.

More than a dozen of the endorsed programs offered by Member Benefits can be purchased through either payroll or pension deduction. These convenient payment methods offer reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. An active NYSUT membership is required to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one (or more) of our endorsed programs, we encourage you to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.

Learn more about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs or the pension deduction process by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.



**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You