Important Dates

October:
2 - PPSTA Exec – 3:30 – Garden St
9 - No School
14 – No School
16 - Chief Building Rep Mtg – 3:30 – Garden St
23 - PPSTA Rep Board Mtg – 3:30 – Garden St

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

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

MAKING STRIDES FOR BREAST CANCER WALK
Please join the PPSTA NYSUT Making Strides team on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20th, at the WOODBURY COMMON PREMIUM OUTLETS. Heather Faircloth (ELC) has sent out a flyer with important information. If you would like to register, please do so under Team PPSTA under the company name NYSUT.
If you cannot join but would like to donate you can go to: http://makingstrides.acsevent.org

The PPSTA is on Facebook!
Find us under
“Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers’ Association”
**Contract Corner**

**Question:** This is my 19th year in the district but our contract has expired. Will I still receive my first longevity pay or do I have to wait until we settle a new contract?

**Answer:** While our contract has expired, under the Taylor Law, all terms and conditions are still in effect. This includes moving up a step, and receiving a 17th, 19th, 21st, or 26th year longevity pay.

**Question:** I worked this summer in the district’s summer school program. I heard that the district can adjust the summer pay I received when the new median salary is calculated. Can you explain this?

**Answer:** The median is calculated yearly (sometime in October) and agreed to by both the Superintendent and PPSTA. The median salary goes into effect as of July 1 of that year. Therefore, it does affect summer pay. If the median salary increases from the previous year, then the district will reimburse you the difference from your payroll check. If it decreases, then you must reimburse the difference to the district.

**Question:** The building principal has informed me that I have been selected as an advisor of a contractually recognized club, but I have not been officially appointed by the Board of Education. Should I start the club?

**Answer:** No. The only way to ensure that you will be paid for performing this service and that this activity is an official school district activity (covered by liability insurance) is by being appointed by the board. Even if you feel that this would be a good faith effort, unless the Board appoints you to the position, you won’t be paid and the activity is not officially recognized. (Several years ago, unit members were not compensated after they started performing this service, because the previously funded positions were suddenly cut.) You should not assume your position will be funded until the BOE takes actions.

If you have a question on this or any other matter, contact your building representative.

The PPSTA would like to congratulate the following members:

- Traci Cillis on her marriage!
- Regina Dragomani on her marriage!
- Stefanie Lombardi on the birth of her child!

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**Condolences**

The PPSTA would like to share its sincerest condolences with:

- Takiyah Ingram
- Cody Moffet
- Jamie Gasparre
- Ruth Garcia
- Nicole Schmitt
- Kevin Buckland
- Anmaree Gemmell
- Retiree Virginia Hymes
- Jasmine Davidson
- Carey Daniels
- Jay’Quan Floyd
- Jessica Rubinstein
- Blanca Calderon
- Heather Faircloth
- Shelby Johnson
- Ann Marie Tucker
- Ritchlyn Garvey

on the passing of their family members, as well as the families of retirees Beverly Sirois, and Paula Garnot.

***If you would like something included in the Bulletin, including PR articles, congrats, and condolences, please submit them to bulletin@ppsta.org***
The Importance of Record Keeping
IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE AND KEEP A DIGITAL OR HARDCOPY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Personal business requests
- Time cards for payment
- In-service credit requests or course approval
- APPR Evaluation & Timeline
- Communications with the District or Administration

Often problems arise and if these forms are lost or misplaced, it makes it much more difficult to retrace steps and for the PPSTA leadership to argue on your behalf. Without copies of all documents, it becomes more complicated to make sure that you are afforded all the rights to which you are entitled.

Any confrontations with administration or parents should be documented for yourself in writing. It’s easier to recall conversations right after they have taken place. Put exact quotes in documents. Documenting such encounters and making copy of all documents, allows your union to represent you more effectively.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION

Teacher Registration
Holders of Permanent and Professional certificates must be registered with NYSED. Those with Professional certs must also accrue 100 hours of CTLE hours every five years. Please see www.nysed.gov for details and record keeping forms.

In-Service
Paperwork for new course approval or previously approved courses MUST be received BEFORE the start of the course. Send In-Service requests to Barbara Williams at HR. The In-Service committee meets monthly to review applications. Make sure you provide ALL information required as noted on the form.

Union-endorsed benefits designed for NYSUT members
Whether it’s our endorsed homeowners or auto insurance plans, life or disability insurance, financial or legal service plans, or any of our travel, entertainment or shopping offerings, NYSUT members have the Power of the Union behind them when participating in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

There’s no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back! Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we’ll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

The following is just a sampling of the dozens of endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members and their loved ones:

- Auto, Home & Life Insurance
- Vision & Dental Plans
- Legal & Financial Services
- Hotel & Vacation Discounts
- Member Shopping Program
- Car & Truck Rental Discounts
- Competitive Savings Rates
- Retail Store Discounts
- Sports & Concert Tickets
- Theme Park Discounts
- Car Buying Service
- Heating Oil & Propane Savings

We encourage you to take the time to explore the Member Benefits website and find out all we have to offer NYSUT members.

The Power of the Union
To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Know someone who is looking to volunteer?

If they love reading or math and would like to help children learn to love them too, please ask them to consider becoming a volunteer with the Book Buddies and Math Buddies programs which give elementary school children the opportunity to meet one-on-one with adult volunteers on a weekly basis during the school day. We have programs in 19 schools and are currently looking for volunteers in Beacon, Dover, Newburgh, Pawling, Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, and Webutuck. If you’re interested in learning more, please visit http://www.literacyconnections.org/programs-services/book-buddies/
or contact Judy at 452-8670 or BookBuddies@LiteracyConnections.org
Your Union-Endorsed Benefits:
Debt Consolidation & Mortgage Savings

*NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges that the hardworking women and men of this labor union face when it comes to financial issues such as student loan re-payment options, credit card consolidation or debt management, or saving on purchasing or refinancing a home.*

**Student Loan & Debt Counseling Program**
Your union membership allows you to receive a no-obligation debt and/or student loan consultation at no cost with a certified counselor through the Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **Cambridge Credit Counseling** program. Cambridge provides individualized student loan counseling along with a unique web portal available at a reduced rate to help explain the various options when paying student debt; debt relief services are also offered.

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**UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program**
The Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.** offers union members and their families savings of up to $2,700 on lender fees and closing costs. Your union membership also entitles you to no application or processing fees; no commitment fees; no underwriting fees; no lender or broker fees; and reduced attorney and title fees.

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**The Power of the Union**

Regardless of whether you are participating in either of the programs mentioned above; one of our endorsed insurance, financial or legal programs; or our many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the *Power of the Union* behind them. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, Member Benefits is here as your advocate if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs.

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.
PPSTA Benefit Trust Information

Calendar year information:
Medical calendar year: 1.1-12.31    Legal calendar year: 4.1-3.31
Dental calendar year: 7.1-6.30     Opt-out calendar year: 9.1-8.31
Vision calendar year: 9.1-8.31

Notice to all UMR Plan members:
- Members can locate UMR Choice Plus providers by logging onto UMR
- The PPSTA and UMR websites have a wealth of benefit information.
- To access it go to www.ppsta.org. On the top menu, click on “BENEFITS” then click on the “PPSTA Plan”. You can also find the gym reimbursement form on this page.

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 to 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.

Traveling to a foreign country? 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.

*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 and 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.

QUESTIONS about prescription drug related questions, contact OptumRx at 1-877-559-2955.

QUESTIONS regarding available benefits, including preventive and routine services available to you and your dependents, contact UMR at 1-800-826-9781 Monday–Friday from 8am–5pm.

ANY PROBLEMS with the adjudication of claims or with a provider, PLEASE call the PPSTA office!! Debbie Kardas’ hours are Tuesday–Thursday 10:30–1:30. You can also contact her at benefittrust@ppsta.org.

For complete benefit details, see the PPSTA Benefit Trust Group Health and Dental summary plan description, available on UMR.com.