

NPUT ***BULLETIN*** *E-MAIL*

NEW PALTZ UNITED TEACHERS BENEFIT TRUST FUND

Ron Noelle, Administrator
Ron Simon, Asst. Administrator
Jon Stern, Asst. Administrator

BULLETIN \ 2018-19TR

December 12, 2018

MEDICARE / IRMAA REIMBURSEMENTS

You should soon receive notification by the district of the required form to be submitted in order to receive your Medicare / IRMAA reimbursement for the coming year. If you have not done so, please give Star Shirk your email so you will receive annual reminders from the district. Star's email is: sshirk@newpaltz.k12.ny.us. While not a function of your benefits trust, allow me to review the process here.

You should have already received your annual Social Security statements for 2019, indicating your benefits for the coming year along with your Medicare, and where applicable, your IRMAA withholdings. You need to make a copy of this statement and send it to Star Shirk, care of the District Office. This statement will indicate the amount to be refunded to you by the district in 2019. These reimbursements are made in July and December of each calendar year. Should you have misplaced your statement, submit your Social Security 1099 form when you receive it in January.

If you follow the procedure outlined above, you will automatically receive your entitled reimbursements in a timely fashion. All questions regarding this procedure or the timely delivery of your bi-annual refunds should be addressed to Star Shirk at the District Office

CHANGES TO CATASTROPHIC (CMM) PLANS

Currently, all retirees are being provided Catastrophic Major Medical (CMM) insurance through the trust at no cost to our retirees. Due to a change in NYSUT policy, retirees who retire effective 1/1/19 and later will no longer be eligible to carry this insurance. Were we to provide it, we would nullify the plan for the entire group. Additionally, retirees currently being provided this insurance will incur a significant increase in their premiums, making it unfeasible for the trust to continue offering this insurance to our retirees on a prepaid basis. As we believe it to be unfair to offer members of a group benefits not available to members who will be joining that group, the trust is currently exploring other plan options.

CONTACTING OUR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS (PGP)

As you by now realize, the billing for your annual benefits is being handled by a third-party administrator: *The Preferred Group Plans (PGP)*.

Should you have any questions about your bill, you may contact the following representative:

Kelly Rosen, Relationship Manager
Preferred Group Plans, Inc.
P.O. Box 15136
Albany, NY 12212
(518) 591-4935
krosen@thepreferredgroup.com

Please do not contact *PGP* to make any changes to your plans. Should you need to make any changes, please contact me or Jon Stern.

COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING TRUST ISSUES

Information regarding our trust can be accessed by going to our website:

www.nputbenefittrust.org

I encourage you to go to our website to learn more about the benefits offered by the trust.

In order to most effectively communicate with the trust administrators for questions that cannot be answered by going to our website, perhaps the following guidelines will help simplify the process. All initial inquiries should be directed to Ron Simon, through either my district e-mail or my personal e-mail: RonSimon@aol.com. I advise using e-mail as that way the trust has a record of your inquiry. If you need to reach me by phone, my number at home is 255-1488. As you will generally get a recording, please speak slowly and clearly so that the message is understandable. I will call you back as soon as I am able to retrieve your message. Again, e-mail is the best way to communicate with me as I check my personal e-mail frequently.

Jon Stern is extremely busy processing changes to enrollments and payroll deductions so I would ask that you not direct your initial inquiry to him or to Ron Noelle. Allow me to direct inquiries to them where appropriate.

On behalf of the trustees, officers and administrators of our trust, I wish all of you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season.

Ron Simon, Assistant Administrator
NPUT Benefit Trust