

In the post-Janus world, we find ourselves in an environment where greedy billionaires continue to attempt to separate you from your union (to benefit themselves). The NYSUT organization stands ever vigilant, with your help, to defend against these attacks.

This past year, we have seen locals throughout the state come together to demonstrate that your union is strong and is here to stay. NYSUT members can be assured they have this commitment from both the NYSUT organization as a whole and NYSUT Member Benefits.

In addition, NYSUT members have the “Power of the Union” when participating in any of the union-endorsed benefits offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

What does this mean? It’s the power of knowing Member Benefits serves as your advocate for any of the endorsed programs in which you participate.

And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there’s no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back. We are here for the NYSUT membership and to assist you with any issues or concerns you may have regarding our endorsed programs.

I also want to make mention of a recent change here at Member Benefits. Following the retirement of Lynette Metz after 34 years of NYSUT service, the NYSUT Board of Directors appointed Jeffrey S. Hartnett in January 2019 as the new Plan Administrator of the Member Benefits Trust. He was subsequently

voted in as CEO of the Member Benefits Corporation and Plan Administrator of the Member Benefits Catastrophe Major Medical Insurance Trust.

Jeffrey comes to Member Benefits highly credentialed with extensive union experience – having worked as a Labor Relations Specialist for 12 years and most recently as the Staff Director of NYSUT’s Capital District Regional Office.

In addition, he has worked closely with Member Benefits on our various boards for many years, including as Chairperson of the Member Benefits Corporation and a Trustee on both the Member Benefits Trust

and Member Benefits Catastrophe Major Medical Insurance Trust for the past three years. He brings a fresh vision and perspective to Member Benefits, and we are fortunate to have him join us.

In the remainder of this report, you will find information about new endorsed offerings from Member Benefits along with updates about some of our more popular programs.

I encourage you to visit our website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** to learn more about all we have to offer NYSUT members and their loved ones.



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J. Philippe Abraham



Annual Report of the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Chairperson

Submitted by:
J. Philippe Abraham



**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

New Endorsed Programs for NYSUT Members

Student Loan & Credit Card Debt Consolidation



The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Cambridge Credit Counseling program can assist NYSUT members with financial issues such as loan repayment options, credit card consolidation or debt management.

NYSUT members are eligible to receive free, no-obligation, debt and student loan consultations with one of Cambridge's certified counselors.

Cambridge Credit Counseling also offers a unique web portal available at a reduced rate that can help explain the various options when paying student debt, including student loan forgiveness programs, income-based repayment options and more.

UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program



The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation is excited to announce the endorsement of the UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage Corp., offering NYSUT members and their loved ones up to a \$2,700 savings on lender fees and closing costs.

NYSUT members also receive the following incentives: No application or processing fees; no commitment fees; no underwriting fees; no lender or broker fees; reduced interest rates; and reduced attorney and title fees.

Mid-Island Mortgage has been offering home lending with personalized service for almost 60 years, and is dedicated to finding the best home financing solution for union members and their families.

SnapQuote by MetLife Auto & Home



NYSUT Member Benefits has heard the requests of the NYSUT membership when it comes to providing more options for auto and homeowners insurance coverage. In light of that, we are excited to announce the launch of SnapQuote offered by MetLife Auto & Home this May.

This new digital insurance platform will provide NYSUT members the opportunity to choose from multiple highly-rated national insurance carriers and features competitive prices and savings from bundled auto and homeowners coverage.

NYSUT members will be able to speak directly with a licensed agent to ask any questions or to purchase their selected policy. Licensed agents will be ready to walk members through the entire process, helping them select the best available carrier and coverage for them.

Participation from the NYSUT membership in the MetLife Auto & Home program has grown steadily over the years, and currently represents approximately \$75 million in annual property and casualty premiums.

Learn more by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or calling 800-626-8101.

Updates to Endorsed Programs

Term Life & Level Term Life Insurance Plans



The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife) was named as the new Plan Underwriter for our endorsed Voluntary Term Life and Level Term Life Insurance Plans as of March 1, 2018.

There are approximately 72,000 certificates in force in the Term Life Plan representing almost \$27 million in annual premium. Meanwhile, there are approximately 3,300 certificates in force in the Level Term Life Plan representing \$1.5 million in annual premium.

Disability Insurance Plan



The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife) was also named as the new Plan Underwriter for our endorsed Disability Insurance Plan as of January 1, 2018.

There are approximately 4,600 certificates in force in the Disability Plan representing almost \$2.7 million in annual premium.

Synchrony Bank

Synchrony Bank continues to offer some of the most competitive interest rates on certificates of deposit, money market and savings accounts. As of March 18, 2019, there were approximately 6,800 accounts (money market, certificates of deposit and high-yield savings accounts) representing \$270 million in deposits for this program.

NYSUT members should access the Synchrony Bank website via the Member Benefits site (enter code “Synchrony40” in the member code box) or mention that code when calling Synchrony Bank to receive preferred rates not available to the general public.

Nationwide Pet Insurance



The pet insurance program from Nationwide was recently changed to allow pets of any age to be enrolled in coverage. Nationwide’s medical plans provide benefits for accidents and illnesses, ranging from ear infections to cancer.

Optional Pet Wellness plans provide benefits for preventive care such as routine exams, vaccinations and blood work.

Policyholders can receive up to 90% reimbursement on eligible vet bills (depending on certain exclusions). In addition, NYSUT members receive preferred group pricing on the base medical plan and up to a 10% discount if multiple pets in a household are enrolled.

There are approximately 1,100 policies in force in the pet insurance program representing almost \$800,000 in annual premium.

Learn more by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or calling 800-626-8101.

Other Information

Service to NYSUT Members



Approximately 300,000 individuals (roughly half of the entire NYSUT membership) participate in one or more of Member Benefits' endorsed voluntary or group programs. About 100,000 NYSUT members utilize our payroll or pension deduction options to pay for our endorsed programs, representing \$106 million in annual premium.

Member Benefits has a staff of 23 individuals located at both NYSUT Headquarters and throughout New York State who pride themselves on their service – answering approximately 52,000 phone calls and responding to more than 1,100 emails during 2018.

Staff attended or presented at approximately 300 meetings, workshops and conferences across the state. You are encouraged to contact the Member

Benefits representative covering your region and invite him/her to one of your membership meetings to discuss all of our endorsed programs along with the additional services available to the NYSUT membership.

You can find the representative covering your region by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org and clicking on “Groups, Local and Funds,” then “Benefit Fund Information” and then “Why Benefit Funds Need Legal Counsel” and scrolling down to the bottom of the page.

Communications - **NEW Website!**

Member Benefits recently launched its newly redesigned website to allow NYSUT members to easily explore and navigate the site on both desktop and mobile devices.

Our previous website design had been in existence for the past five years, with traffic to the site growing substantially year to year.

However, with the redesign of the nysut.org site a few months ago, it was time to take a fresh look at our website and the experience NYSUT members have on it. The Member Benefits website mirrors the new look of nysut.org, an intentional direction to create a seamless user experience for NYSUT members when visiting both sites.

Financial Planning Center

In addition to information about all of our endorsed programs and services available on the Member Benefits website, NYSUT members have access at no charge to our Financial Planning Center (provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. & Member Benefits).

Choose from more than 100 modules on a variety of financial topics such as planning for young couples, estate planning, investing basics, creating a retirement portfolio, tax-deferred retirement plans and retirement risks.

Member Alert Program

Finally, NYSUT members can stay updated about our endorsed programs, the latest news about programs and special offers through our Member Alert Program.

This voluntary email service continues to grow at a solid rate and now has almost 60,000 participants.



To learn more about any of the endorsed programs or services mentioned in this report, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.