

As we begin to emerge from the challenges of the past year and cautiously eye brighter days ahead, NYSUT Member Benefits is optimistic about the opportunities to continue supporting NYSUT members and their families.

Member Benefits endorses high-quality programs available to NYSUT members and their families, including insurance, legal and financial services, and shopping/travel/personal programs. Whether members need assistance with purchasing everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, Member Benefits can help.

and other educational content designed to make NYSUT members better-informed consumers. Many of our endorsed programs also include additional benefits that are highlighted in this report.

The best way to stay updated is to join the almost 60,000 NYSUT members who are already part of our **Member Alert Program (MAP)** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/map-signup>) email service. MAP members are among the first to learn about new endorsed programs, changes to existing programs and special prize drawings. It's easy to sign up for MAP on the Member Benefits website.

“Member Benefits remains steadfast in our efforts to serve as your advocate for any questions, concerns or issues that may arise when participating in our programs. Please be assured that we are here to support you during this time, as we have been for the past 38 years and counting.”

*J. Philippe Abraham*

Our many insurance programs offer crucial protection for NYSUT members and their families, while our legal and financial services provide expert guidance and advice. If these programs are purchased through our payroll or pension deduction payment options, members can save up to 15% on annual premiums along with the waiving of service fees.

We also offer numerous value-added services such as webinars, workshops

Throughout this report, you will find updates about some of our most popular programs along with information about value-added services we provide. You can visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org), call **800-626-8101** or scan the QR code on this page for a convenient way to instantly learn more.

*J. Philippe Abraham*



## Annual Report of the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Chairperson

Submitted by:  
J. Philippe Abraham



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**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

## Financial Services

### NYSUT Member Benefits

#### Financial Learning Center

We recently partnered with popular financial publisher Kiplinger's Personal Finance to create our new **Financial Learning Center** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/about/kiplingers-financial-learning-center>).

This interactive micro-site offers numerous in-depth articles on a wide variety of financial topics, including retirement planning, emergency fund savings, the difference between good and bad debt, shopping for insurance, and much more. Regardless of a person's point in life or financial situation, this resource center may assist them in achieving their personal financial goals.

#### Cambridge Credit Counseling & Student Loan Center

Our **Cambridge Credit Counseling** program can assist NYSUT members with better understanding their debt consolidation and student loan re-payment options. NYSUT members can receive a no-cost, no-obligation, consultation with a Cambridge certified counselor.

Through a joint partnership with NYSUT, Member Benefits created an online **Student Loan Center** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/student-loan-center>) in late 2019 that can be accessed through the Member Benefits website. This resource helps NYSUT members and their families address ongoing student loan and debt issues.

Since 2018, more than 3,000 members have attended a no-cost **NYSUT Student Loan Debt Workshop** presented by a Cambridge certified student loan counselor. In addition, over 500 members who attended one of these workshops have received free access to **Cambridge's Student Debt Solutions Portal** for a detailed report that can help identify repayment programs available to them.

If members would prefer a more personal touch, they also have an option to schedule a time to speak with a Cambridge counselor directly.

## Meetings, Workshops & Conferences

Member Benefits staff work closely with local leaders to present information about our voluntary and group programs at various meetings, workshops and conferences around the state. They are available to meet with your local either virtually or in-person (once safety regulations allow this again). We encourage you to contact them if you have any specific questions or inquiries. **Learn More** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/groups-locals-funds/benefit-fund-information/coordinators-of-benefits>)

### \*Our Member Benefits Coordinators of Benefits are as follows:

**Derek Clement** ..... (covering Plattsburgh, Potsdam, Utica and Watertown)

**Don Colligan** ..... (Elmira, Rochester, Southwestern New York, Syracuse and Western New York)

**Angela Higley** ..... (Capital District)

**Michelle Kennedy** ....(Mid-Hudson, Nassau, PSC/CUNY, Suffolk, Tarrytown, Vestal, UFT and the UFT Welfare Fund)

**Click here** for more information about our Coordinators of Benefits, including how to contact them with specific questions or inquiries.

Member Benefits staff takes great pride in providing service to NYSUT members – answering approximately 46,000 phone calls and responding to more than 1,500 emails during 2020.

Our staff attended or presented at approximately 100 meetings, workshops and conferences across the state during the past year, with the vast majority of these being held virtually due to the pandemic.

Learn more by visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or calling 800-626-8101.

## Program Updates & Value-Added Services

### Member Benefits Discounts & Deals

Member Benefits understands the importance of supporting local businesses and helping members save on everyday purchases. That is one of the reasons why Member Benefits purchased access to a new discount program this past year at no cost to NYSUT members.



With the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/shopping-travel/online-shopping/mb-deals-access-development>) program, our members can enjoy approximately 21,000 local deals throughout New York State at a variety of merchants and businesses.

Members can also save up to 50% at more than 700,000 locations across the country, including restaurant dine-in, take-out or delivery; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; hotels and travel; and much more.

You can help support local businesses by requesting that

To get started, register your account with your NYSUT ID number by visiting [mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com](http://mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com). Your NYSUT ID number can be found on your NYSUT Membership Card. If you do not know your NYSUT ID number, please contact the NYSUT Membership Department at **800-342-9810**.

your favorite merchant join the network. Almost 12,000 NYSUT members have already registered for this program, potentially saving more than \$900,000 through coupons and print-on-demand offers through March 2021.

NYSUT members registered for this program have saved an average of \$82 per transaction. In addition, 231 New York State merchants have been added to the network in the past year with another 74 currently in discussions to join the network.

### MetLife Auto & Home

Through the **MetLife Choice**® platform (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance/auto-home-insurance>), NYSUT members may apply to purchase auto, home, renters, boat, personal excess liability, and other personal property insurance coverage from MetLife Auto & Home® and multiple other insurance companies.

Special group rates, coverage and discounts offered through this program are available in most states to those who qualify. There are currently 56,000 policies in force through MetLife Auto & Home, representing \$81 million in annual premium.

**Value-Added Service:** Auto, home and renters insurance policies purchased from MetLife Auto & Home provide policyholders with access to identity protection services through MetLife's partnering vendor **CyberScout** at no additional cost. **Learn More** (<https://cyberscout-idtheft.com/lifestages>)

### Term Life & Level Term Life Insurance Plans

Life insurance is crucial income that allows your dependents to pay daily expenses upon the death of an insured person. Our **Term Life** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance/term-life-insurance>) & **Level Term Life Insurance Plans** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance/level-term-life-insurance>) provide up to \$1 million in benefits.



There are currently 68,500 certificates in force in the Term Life Plan and 4,300 certificates in force in the Level Term Life Plan for a total annual premium of \$2.2 million.

**Value-Added Service:** NYSUT members enrolled in our Term Life or Level Term Life insurance programs have access to will preparation and estate resolution services provided at no additional cost. **Learn More** (<https://www.nysutmbteinsurance.com/life-insurance/term-life/term-life-insurance.html>)

Learn more by visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or calling **800-626-8101**.

## Disability Insurance Plan

Disability Insurance provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you are unable to work due to a covered illness or injury.



Our **Disability Insurance Plan** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance/disability-insurance>) pays up to 60% of your gross monthly earnings (maximum \$5,000 per month). Long-term, five-year and short-term plans are available.

While many NYSUT members have short-term protection in the form of sick leave accruals or negotiated sick leave banks, long-term protection (five-year or long-term plans) is much less likely.

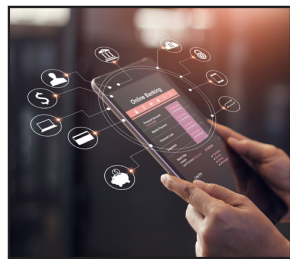
There are currently 4,000 certificates in force in the Disability Plan, representing \$2.4 million in annual premium.

## Catastrophe Major Medical Insurance Plan

The **Catastrophe Major Medical (CMM) Insurance Plan** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance/catastrophe-major-medical>) conducted an open enrollment period in September 2020, resulting in approximately 3,700 new enrollees to the plan. The CMM Plan is currently closed to new enrollments.

## Synchrony Bank

**Synchrony Bank** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/legal-and-financial/synchrony-bank>) offers NYSUT members competitive interest rates on certificates of deposit, money market and savings accounts. NYSUT members can access these rates by using code “Synchrony40” when using the Synchrony Bank website via the Member Benefits site or when contacting Synchrony on the phone.



There are currently more than 6,300 total NYSUT member accounts (money market, certificates of deposit and high-yield savings accounts) for this program, representing \$375 million in deposits.

## Legal Service Plan

Our **Legal Service Plan** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/legal-and-financial/legal-service-plan>) offers access to a national network of attorneys that deal with personal legal matters. Provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, the plan provides unlimited toll-free legal advice; a simple will, health care proxy, living will and power of attorney; and guaranteed maximum fees for many legal matters.

There are approximately 5,000 participants in our voluntary Legal Service Plan along with an additional 120 groups in our Group Legal Service Plans (representing 115,000 participants).

**Value-Added Service:** If a NYSUT member who is a current participant in the Legal Service Plan passes away due to COVID-19, Feldman, Kramer & Monaco has offered to extend a number of services at no cost to the member’s family. **Learn More** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/legal-and-financial/legal-service-plan/covid-update>)

## Mid-Island Mortgage

With the **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/legal-and-financial/mid-island-mortgage>), NYSUT members receive special purchase and refinancing mortgage discounts for a variety of home-related needs.

Whether you’re looking to buy a home, lower your mortgage payment or planning a home improvement project, Mid-Island Mortgage can help you save up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs.

Mid-Island Mortgage has executed a total of 161 loans for NYSUT members since being endorsed in 2019 (including 122 loans during calendar year 2020), representing a total volume of more than \$47 million.

Learn more by visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or calling 800-626-8101.

# General Information

## 2020 Trustee Education & Wellness Workshop

The **2020 Member Benefits Trustee Education & Wellness Workshop** was held in an all-virtual format this past fall. Member Benefits provides training and resources every other year designed for benefit fund trustees on a variety of related topics; this past year's event also included a wellness component.

The sessions were well-received by attendees and presented by highly qualified and credentialed individuals, including representatives from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

You may view these pre-recorded sessions by clicking the following link (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/groups-locals-funds/local-association-services/trustee-education-and-wellness-workshop>) and then logging in with your NYSUT ID Number/Username and Password. If you have not previously created a "My NYSUT" account, you will be prompted to do so.

## Negotiators Guide to Member Benefits

The **2021 Negotiators Guide to NYSUT Member Benefits** replaces our previously printed *Group Plans & Services Portfolio* publication.

This new online resource is designed to assist NYSUT local leaders and labor relations specialists in the negotiation of our group programs and services. This includes programs such as our Legal Service Plans, Vision Care Plans, Term Life Insurance and Health Advocate.

**Learn More** (<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/negotiators-guide-to-member-benefits>)

There are more than 600 group plans already in place providing valuable insurance coverage or other services to more than 200,000 NYSUT members.

## Services to NYSUT Members

Almost 290,000 individuals (nearly half of the total NYSUT membership) participate in one or more of our endorsed voluntary or group programs. Meanwhile, 91,000 NYSUT members utilize payroll or pension deduction to purchase these programs, representing over \$113 million in annual premium.

In addition, 825 NYSUT locals have access to payroll deduction for the purchase of our endorsed programs along with all pension systems for retirees; 88% of the NYSUT membership can utilize payroll or pension deduction. Sixteen new group plans have been added in the past year through the present date.

Visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101 to learn more about our endorsed programs, view educational materials, sign up for our MAP Alert email service, or access our online Student Loan Center & Financial Learning Center. Thank you for your continued support of NYSUT Member Benefits.

