

PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: April 5, 2016

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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Hello, retirees! **Happy Springtime** and welcome to the latest **eNEWS** - the **PMEA Retired Member Network**... an informal alliance and forum for interconnecting retired music educators and sharing their ideas, stories, successes, news, and views via this e-mail address. Thanks for staying involved in PMEA and our profession!

Hope you and yours are doing well and are getting ready to enjoy the coming season of warmer weather, flowers blooming, kids playing baseball, and everything seems to be growing or moving forward. Like retired members, spring symbolizes "rebirth!"

In Memoriam: William L. Nash

Please take a moment and reflect on the recent passing of **William L. Nash** on Easter Sunday last week. Of his many contributions to music education and PMEA, William Nash was responsible for the establishment and funding of the PMEA Continuing Education Scholarships for ten years ending in 2010. He earned the **Citation of Excellence Award** in 1997 for his dedicated work at the Milford Middle School.

This obituary was published in *The Mercury* on March 29, 2016:

Born in Kingston, PA, [Dr. William L. Nash] was a son of the late Raymond S. Nash and the late Margaret (Zimmerman) Nash. Bill was a music educator for Quakertown Community School District for thirty years retiring in 1998. He also was the music director at St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyertown for 18 years, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown for 22 years, and Parkside United Church of Christ for one year. He was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown, Stichter Masonic Lodge #254, Pottstown, American Guild of Organists, The Antique & Classic Boat Society, and PA Music Educators' Association. Surviving besides his wife is a son, William J. Nash, Pottstown, a daughter, Adrienne Nash Melendez wife of Carlos, Coatesville... Contributions may be made in his memory to Emmanuel Lutheran Church "Organ Fund," 150 N. Hanover St., Pottstown, PA 19464.

Calling on more Retired Member volunteers

An urgent appeal has been sent out for **retired members' help** working the PMEA 2017 Spring Conference in Erie, Pennsylvania. For the past two years, District 7 retired members (especially those who reside near Hershey) were most active in serving as registration assistants for the PMEA All-State performing groups. District 7 Immediate Past President **Marie Weber** emphasized how essential it would be to have not only District 2 members but all available retired members to join forces with All-State Coordinator **Mary Lynne Peters** and other PMEA officers to make things run smoothly next year. The PMEA Spring Conference will be held April 19-22, 2017. If you plan to attend and can help, please send e-mails to both paulkfox.usc@gmail.com and mweber5@verizon.net - and include in the subject line **"2017 All-State Volunteer."**

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Words of wisdom... getting older but better?

- "Silence is golden, but duct tape is silver." - (contributed by [Kevin McElheny](#))
- "When a man retires and time is no longer a matter of urgent importance, his colleagues generally present him with a watch." - R.C. Sherriff
- "First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to zip up your fly, and then you forget to unzip your fly." - Branch Rickey
- "As we grow older, our bodies get shorter and our anecdotes longer." - Robert Quillen
- "And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." - Abe Lincoln
- "We don't grow older, we grow riper." Pablo Picasso

Spring conference update!

The 2016 PMEA state conference at Hershey was, in a word...

wonderful! Of course, I'm going to share a few things you missed (if you did not go), rub it in a little bit, and take this opportunity to use my "bully pulpit" to preach why you should remain as active as possible in your professional association and attend future conferences. But first, we need to thank PMEA State Executive Director [Abi Young](#) and PMEA State Professional Development Chair [Johanna Steinbacher](#) for putting together another fantastic event in the center of the state, a place that literally smells sweet with chocolate everywhere you go... should I mention the chocolate-scented shampoo in the Hershey Lodge guest rooms, cocoa-laced whipped butter put out at the breakfasts, and the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup flavored coffee served in the Cocoa Beanery?



On April 1, retired members were invited to a free breakfast, our annual "get-together," held in the luxurious Forebay Lounge. We were joined by several special guests including Executive Director Emerita [Margaret Bauer](#) and NAFME President [Glenn Nierman](#).



Among the prize giveaways were pens and t-shirts. Your retired member coordinator is laughing at his own "faux pas" creating round R³ labels to place on the conference badges of those who are participating in the **Retiree Resource Registry**. Ironically, most "seniors" (myself included) would have trouble reading them... they were too small... and also removing the backing to expose the "sticky" was a real challenge. (Only people with long fingernails could do it!)

We continue to market the benefits of retired members joining the R³ and for active members to utilize this listing of free but talented consultants and advisers. So far we are blessed with **116 sign-ups in the registry**. (Oh, wait until you see our mini-video spotlighting the "batman" theme which morphs into the R³ logo!)





Attached please find the two PMEA retired member reports. At the conference, we printed and distributed the two-page version with the names of our R³ registrants. The PowerPoint file goes into much more detail... "our" bragging rights about **retiree accomplishments** from Fall 2014 through to the present.

Speaking about "things to rave about," retired members did the lion share of manning the PMEA booth at the conference, and many of us were trained to help sell souvenir items like t-shirts, golf shirts, water bottles, pins, magnets and other fun stuff. Thank you for your continued commitment to PMEA and music education throughout the state!

Goals and retired members' engagement

At this juncture, in order to continue serving as your retired member coordinator, I **need feedback from you**. What do retired members want from PMEA? Are you still seeking opportunities to network with your friends and active music teachers in the organization? Would you like to see more social events, everything from dinners or concert events to a possible overnight trip? Some members communicated that they would love to tour the local sights, such as visiting Fallingwater, the Gettysburg battlefield, or other attractions in close proximity to future spring or summer conferences. If you were willing to attend a summer session or two, what would you like to do? Many of you have been thrust into the role of "chief babysitter" and have grandchildren or grand nieces and nephews for which you care and need to "entertain!" What about conferences with venues that allow for family recreation outings? I have already pointed out that this summer's Seven Springs leaps into my mind as the perfect place to bring your "kids!"

In the "State of the Retired Members report," these comments were gathered from retired members as likely targets or **goals for 2016-17**:



Continuation of...

1. Participation in PMEA events
2. Retiree Resource Registry updates & service
3. Revisions of community ensemble lists
4. Sharing of stories in PMEA News & eNEWS
5. Volunteer work at conferences

New considerations...

6. Compilation of a PA theater group directory?
7. Facebook communications?
8. Representation on TTRR Council?
9. Summer Conference retiree meeting/session?
10. Theater tour & sightseeing of New York City?

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More online readings from "The Fox!"

The latest postings on my WordPress blog are, "[Networking Niceties - the 'How to Schmooze Guide' for Prospective Music Teachers](#)" and "[Downsized... and Out - Coping with the Unexpected Loss of a Music Teaching Job](#)" can be found at <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com>.

Remember, we "warehouse" all of the [retired member blogs and articles](#) in two places: the PMEA website (under the menu bar "focus areas" and link "retired members") at <http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/> and under the "retirement resources" category on the WordPress site: <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/category/retirement-resources/>.

Did you know PMEA is on [Facebook](#)? Check it out: <https://www.facebook.com/pmeamusic>.

One of my favorite websites unrelated to PMEA is sponsored by [NAMM](#) - the National Association of Music Merchants: <https://www.nammfoundation.org/resources-educators>. You should check out their report, "[Best Communities in the U.S. for Music Education](#)," recently released to this link: <https://www.nammfoundation.org/articles/2016-03-23/namm-foundation-and-u-kansas-announce-best-communities-us-music-education>.

Finally, although we are all "retired" (but not "down and out!") and have little or no contact with music students in classroom settings, this site "[Ten Top YouTube Videos for Music Teachers](#)" (by Kevin and Janice Tuck, co-founders of the Fun Music Company) was thoroughly enjoyable:

<http://funmusicco.com/ten-top-youtube-videos-for-music-teachers/>.

[Can you name the PMEA retired member in this photo?](#) Hint: He also does MIOSM (Music in Our Schools' Month) publicity! This "top brass" group wowed the conferees at the PMEA Awards Breakfast on April 2.

Let's try to keep in touch! Please pass on any "good news" or happenings from your area.

Happy trails, retirees!

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