



PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: April 10, 2017

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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Welcome to 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. Thank you for staying involved in PMEA and our profession!

April Holidays

Courtesy of Holiday Insights: <http://www.holidayinsights.com/everyday.htm>

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1 International Tatting Day
- 1 National Walk to Work Day 1st Friday
- 9 Palm Sunday
- 10 Passover begins at sundown, lasts 8 days.
- 14 Good Friday
- 15 Income taxes due (This year it is due April 18)
- 16 Easter Sunday
- 17 Patriot's Day Third Monday
- 22 Earth Day (U.S.)
- 26 Administrative Professionals Day formerly "Secretaries Day"
- 27 Take Your Daughter to Work Day 4th Thursday
- 28 Arbor Day always the last Friday in April



"If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring? Pilgrims!"

I thought I was well informed about these "celebrations," but I had to go to their website to look up "Tatting Day." Their definition: "Tatting is the skill of making delicate, elegant tatted lace." Any of you PMEA retirees "doing" "tatting?"

A retiree's "ramblings" for going to the PMEA Spring Conference

No one ever said that paying that whopping (?) \$15 Retired Member's registration fee meant that post-employed music teachers had to attend every workshop session on curriculum, teaching methods, technology, etc. Instead, we could "go out on our own" and do a little sightseeing... *Discover Erie...* and be back in time to catch the "big events!"

Thursday, April 20

8:30am General Session: Tim Lautzenheiser
 9:45am Exhibits Grand Opening
 10:30am U.S. Niagara/Maritime Museum
 Noon Advocacy or Research Poster session
 1:30pm Penn State Philharmonic Orchestra
 3:00pm Volunteering @ PMEA Info Booth
 4:00pm Splash Lagoon or Presque Isle Casino
 7:30pm U.S. Army Blues Swamp Romp

Friday, April 21

7am "Free" PMEA Retired Member Breakfast



8:15am Urban Music Ed Symposium Keynote
 Concerts: Singers (9:30am) or Strings (9:45)
 10:30am Erie Art Museum or Presque Isle Park
 Noon Lunch in Erie Wine Country
 3:45pm General Session: Scott Sheehan
 7:30pm All-State Jazz/Vocal Jazz

Saturday, April 22

8:30am "Free" PMEA Awards Breakfast
 11am/4pm All-State concerts
 and/or Tom Ridge Environmental Center
 7:30pm Showboat Musical @ Erie Playhouse

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How does Pennsylvania measure up? ArtScan at a Glance!

After its successful 2017 Arts Educations Partnership (AEP) State Policy Symposium bringing together around 140 arts and education leaders in Washington, D.C., the



AEP and its partner Education Commission of the States announced the release of a new resource, *2017 ArtScan at a Glance: Connecting the states and arts education policy*, which provides arts-in-education stakeholders with an up-to-date summary of arts education policies for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The review is available at <http://www.ecs.org/artscan-at-a-glance-connecting-the-states-and-arts-education-policy/> and in an online searchable database on the AEP website: <http://www.aep-arts.org/research-policy/artscan/>.

As you can see, it may be interpreted that PA is lacking in the following areas:

- No arts requirements for high school graduation
- No arts alternatives for high school graduation
- Limited arts education requirements for state accreditation
- Limited licensure for arts teachers
- No state arts grant program or school for the arts

	Arts as Core Academic Subject	Early Childhood Arts Education Standards	Elementary & Secondary Arts Education Standards	Arts Ed Instructional Requirement Elementary	Arts Ed Instructional Requirement Middle School	Arts Ed Instructional Requirement High School	Arts Requirements for High School Graduation	Arts Ed Alternatives for High School Graduation	Arts Ed Assessment Requirements	Arts Ed Requirements for State Accreditation	Licensure Requirements for Non-Arts Teachers	Licensure Requirements for Arts Teachers	State Arts Ed Grant Program or School for Arts	
Alabama	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Alaska	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Arizona	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Arkansas	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
California	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Colorado	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Connecticut	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
District of Columbia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Delaware	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Florida	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Georgia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Hawaii	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Idaho	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Illinois	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Indiana	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Iowa	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Kansas	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Kentucky	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Louisiana	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Maine	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Maryland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Massachusetts	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Michigan	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Minnesota	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Mississippi	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Missouri	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Montana	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Nebraska	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Nevada	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
New Hampshire	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
New Jersey	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
New Mexico	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
New York	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
North Carolina	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
North Dakota	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Ohio	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Oklahoma	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Oregon	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Pennsylvania	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Rhode Island	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
South Carolina	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
South Dakota	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Tennessee	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Texas	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Utah	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Vermont	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Virginia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Washington	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
West Virginia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Wisconsin	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Wyoming	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
	YES	29	49	50	45	45	44	26	19	17	17	34	43	20
	NO	22	2	1	6	6	7	25	32	34	34	17	8	31

For more detailed study, subscribe to the semi-monthly newsletter of the

Arts Education Partnership, the *Arts Ed Digest*, and/or go to the following link:

<http://portal.criticalimpact.com/vm2/59ecd65c8d391e07/25742/045b88b4beed8d9340b32229e92119a4>.

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More volunteers join the R³

Welcome and thanks go to the following retired members for recently signing on to the **PMEA Retiree Resource Registry**. While archiving their career assignments, interests, and accomplishments, their names will be added to the registry as informal mentors, advisers, and consultants the next time it is updated (after the Spring Conference).



- Lori Cole
- Dan Meredith
- Ronald Wasser

Congratulations

To join the R³, complete the survey at <https://pmea.wufoo.com/forms/pmea-retiree-resource-survey/>

Another Installment from Dave Hughes' *Retire Fabulously*:

"10 Factors You Must Consider Before Moving to a Retirement Community"

<http://retirefabulously.com/blog/2017/03/20/10-factors-must-consider-moving-retirement-community/>

"For over 60 years, millions of retirees have chosen to move to age-restricted active adult communities where they can live out their remaining years surrounded by golf courses, swimming pools, organized activities and - perhaps most important - other retirees."

"Many people are drawn by the appeal of living in a safe, leisure-focused environment that is isolated from many of life's realities, such as rush-hour traffic jams, undesirable neighborhoods and families with children..."

"While the lifestyle and amenities that age-restricted active adult communities offer are a good fit for many retirees, these places are not for everybody. If you are considering moving to a retirement community, here are ten questions you should consider before you put your house on the market and start packing." [Read the entire article \(link above\).](#)

Atypical interests and amusements?

It can be said that retired people have more unstructured time available on which to focus their existing hobbies and start new projects/learning. Former full-time employed PMEA members are no different. Along with the collection of music-related pursuits of personal self-expression (playing in a community band, church choir, conducting, composing, dancing, etc.) and the normal pastimes of babysitting grandchildren/nephews, travel, volunteer work, etc., many of our retirees face their "golden years" in good health, stability, and look forward to exploring the A to Z's of unique or new diversions.

A future article in *PMEA News* will dive into these (and we hope you will submit your favorites to paulkfox.usc@gmail.com). But, can you name a few of the more unusual leisure activities on the next page? Drum roll, please! For the "cruciverbalists," it's time for the Unique Hobbies Crossword Puzzle. [\(Answers on last page. Did we stump you?\)](#)

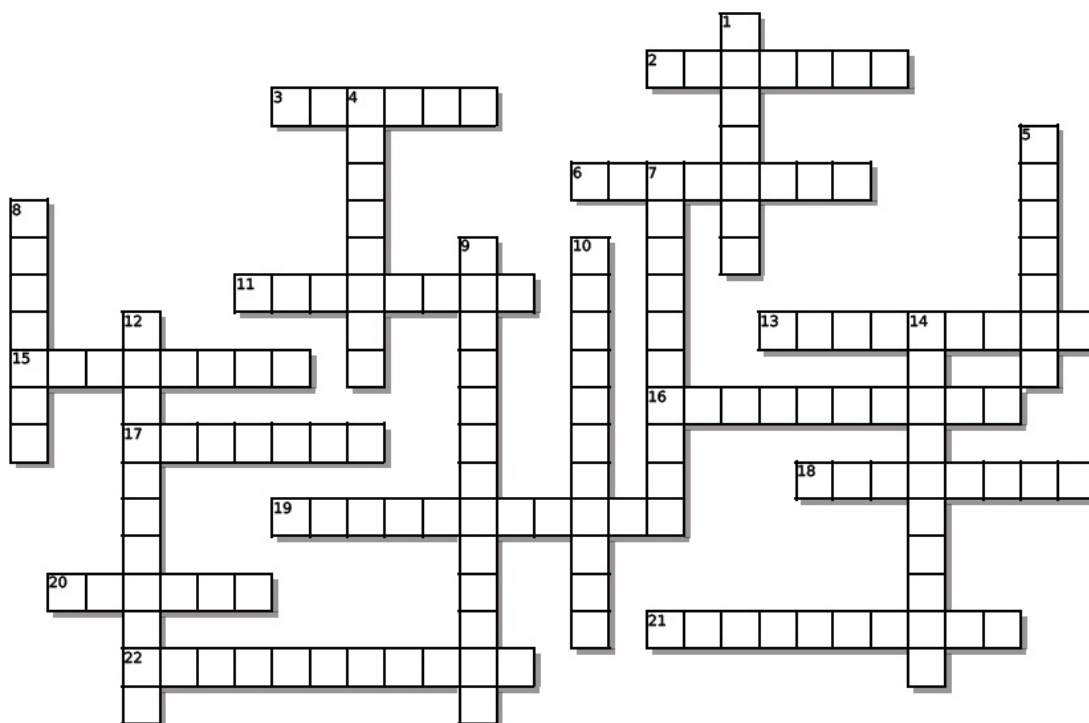
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Unique Hobbies

Retirees, what do you do in your spare time?



ACROSS

- 2 the art of shaping living trees
- 3 a living art form of growing a miniature tree in a pot
- 6 a boxer or fighter
- 11 a cutter, polisher, or engraver of precious stones usually not diamonds
- 13 creating or representing art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
- 15 a combination of acrobatics, yoga, and thai massage
- 16 a maker of clocks or watches
- 17 creation of a model representing a scene with three-dimensional figures
- 18 paddling in a low-to-the-water, canoe-like boat in which the paddler sits facing forward, legs in front, using a double-bladed paddle
- 19 recreational and competitive adventure sport of flying lightweight, free-flying, foot-launched glider aircraft with no rigid primary structure, with the pilot sitting in a harness suspended below a fabric wing
- 20 a Japanese peaceful martial art (or 'Budo') incorporating a series of twisting, throwing and joint lock techniques, combining the martial arts of Judo and Jujitsu
- 21 exploring of caves
- 22 students or collectors of coins, and those who study money and other payment media used to resolve debts and the exchange of goods

DOWN

- 1 the practice of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, or video game, especially one from the Japanese genres of manga and anime
- 4 fishing for catfish with your bare hands
- 5 a live-action role-playing game where the participants physically act out their characters' actions
- 7 an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a GPS receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world
- 8 the Japanese art of creating art through paper folding
- 9 one who studies the behavior, physiology, and conservation of birds and bird habitats
- 10 love of funerals, cemeteries, and rituals of death
- 12 the activity or skill of making things from wood
- 14 a collector of stamps and other postal matter as a hobby or an investment

We are looking for what "floats your boat!"
 What are your own favorite hobbies! Send to
paulkfox.usc@gmail.com.

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Open time slots to volunteer at PMEA Info Booth

My appreciation and "atta-boys or girls" go to the retired members who have signed up to help run the conference info booth, mostly a "meet and greet" opportunity, giving out directions, and selling a few PMEA collectables (shirts, mugs, tote bags, etc.). If you are planning to travel to Erie on Thursday or Friday, April 20-21, there's still time to let me know. In addition, please RSVP for our breakfast 7 a.m. on Friday (paulkfox.usc@gmail.com).

Tentative schedule of info booth assistants:

Thursday, April 20

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.	Jeff Miller
Noon to 1:00 p.m.	Paul Fox
1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	Samuel Rocco
3:00 to 4:00 p.m.	S. Rocco, A. Kelly, J. Wall
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.	Robert Drafall

Friday, April 21

8:15 to 9:15 a.m.	OPEN
9:45 to 10:45	OPEN
11:15 to 12:15 p.m.	Samuel Rocco
12:45 to 1:45	Samuel Rocco
2:15 to 3:15	Paul Fox

Unassigned but interested in helping

Matthew Boice, Debra Heiney, and Lori Luurtsema

Retirement Advice from Zelinski's "The Retirement Café"

<http://www.retirement-cafe.com/Retirement-Advice.html>

If you have not purchased *How to Retire Wild, Happy and Free* by Ernie J. Zelinski yet (the first "user guide" on retirement I bought), you can get a sneak preview at his "free" but comprehensive website. Check out these sections at <http://www.retirement-cafe.com/>.

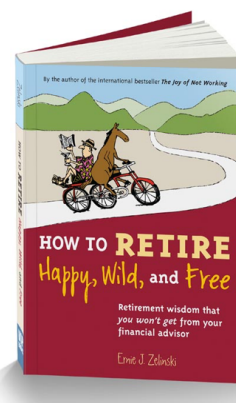
- Where to Retire
- Retirement Planning
- Retire Happy
- Retirement Jobs
- The New Retirement
- Retirement Resources

I came across this excerpt under his Retirement Advice, "You Are Never Too Young to Retire - Indeed, the Younger, the Better!"

"Maurice Musholt at one time had many fears about retirement. She feared that retirement would be one big rocking chair with nothing more to do and not knowing where to retire."

"After nearly two years of touring the country in a motor home, Maurice and her husband Wayne settled in Sun City Center, a Florida community of 16,000 retirees. They were lured by climate, 200 civic and social clubs, 144 holes of golf on seven courses and, 25 miles north in Tampa Bay, an array of spectator activities such as museums, professional sports, and performing arts."

"At 58, the retired elementary school teacher from Rockford, Illinois, told a reporter that she discovered a whole different lifestyle from what she had expected. 'We have no porch, no rocking chair — and no time,' Maurice said. 'My biggest need is a calendar because there are so many things to do. Now I encourage people to retire — the younger the better.' "



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Inspirational reading of the month:

“Saying Goodbye: Reflections of a Music Teacher”

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/03/28/395104736/saying-goodbye-reflections-of-a-music-teacher>

A classic “been there, done that” (and “felt that!”) story, this National Public Radio Ed feature is about the reminiscences of retiring Ohio music teacher Jackie Zielke. A few of her quotes bring back that time (and the stress) when all of us first considered responding with “retiring from my position” on the annual Future Employment Plans form.

“Early each December, the HR department of Orange City Schools in Pepper Pike, Ohio, places a checklist in our mailboxes. It asks about our employment plans for the next school year. Choices include sabbatical leave, acquiring advanced degrees, and the one everyone dreams of checking: *I will be retiring at the end of the current school year.*”

“When that paper arrived in my mailbox last year, I was feeling discouraged. Students weren't practicing their instruments, rude behavior was on the rise and a few parents were making me miserable. My retirement date seemed light-years away. I envisioned myself checking that elusive box and breaking out in cartwheels and whoops of joy.”

“When this year started, things were going so well, I hadn't even thought about the checklist.”

“Then one Wednesday afternoon, there it was. I picked it up and planned to walk back to my office to sign it in private.”

“But holding that paper in my hand, I was overwhelmed by thoughts and emotions I hadn't anticipated. The checklist suddenly made me feel useless, old, and sad.”

“I stood where I was, checked the box and sent it to HR. Then I walked the long hallway back toward the music rooms. No whoops of joy. No cartwheels.”

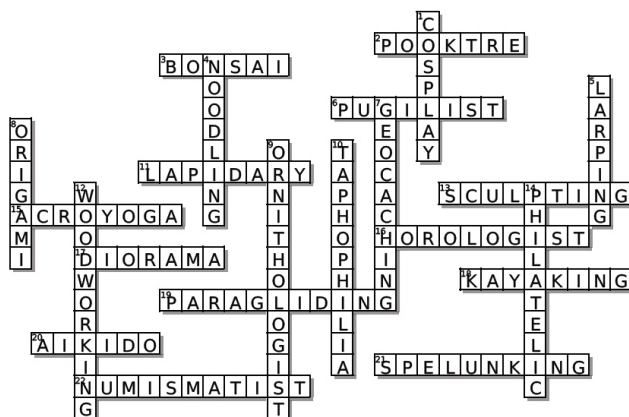
“Thousands of lesson plans later, I am grateful for the chance to have had important work to do each day.”

Read the entire article (link above).

Coda: “Believe it or not!” statistics from Gerontologist Ken Dychtwald

“From Baby Boom to Age Wave” at <http://agewave.com/>

- 99% of the 100,000 years that humans have walked the planet, the average age of life expectancy was under 18.
- When Otto von Bismarck created the first pension plan in Europe (1880) with age 65 as “the marker of old age,” most people did not live beyond 45.
- 2/3 of the people who have ever lived over 65 in the entire of history of the world are alive today.



Answers to Hobbies puzzle

Happy trails, retirees. Send me more “stuff!” “Are we having fun, yet?” Take care! PKF

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