

PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: May 8, 2016

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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Happy Mother's Day, 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!

Retired Member Session at Summer Conference

Let's get together in Seven Springs at the annual **PMEA Summer Conference July 12-13!** I will be offering a session - the chance to share ideas on transitioning to and enjoying a happy, healthy, and meaningful retirement for all retirees and soon-to-be retirees. (Anyone have an idea or suggestion for a "catchy title" of our collaborative workshop? How about "Retiring to Paradise," "Retiring = Retargeting + Retooling + Remaking, NOT Regretting, Retreading, or Retreating," or "Retirement is Not for Sissies?")

What a deal! The discounted retired member registration fee is **\$35** and includes lunch and dinner on Tuesday and breakfast on Wednesday. A golf outing (for golfers of all levels) is also being planned for Wednesday afternoon. In the event you are feeling a little nostalgic about curriculum writing, a pre-conference workshop on the **PMEA Model Curriculum Framework**, co-facilitated by retired member Sharon Potter and Past State President Scott Sheehan, will be offered on July 11 (and is included in the price of registration).



To read about more information on the other sessions, register, and make hotel reservations, please go to <http://www.pmea.net/2015-pmea-summer-conference/>.

Retired membership re-ups and stats

PMEA announced in its "Early May Update" that renewal forms for the 2016-17 school year will be mailed soon. Our "dues" are just **\$64** (PMEA & NAFME) or **\$30** (PMEA only). To help support the excellent work our colleagues are doing "in the trenches" throughout Pennsylvania, and retired members' recent projects in particular, you are encouraged to respond quickly. Online renewal is available by logging onto the [PMEA website](#) and selecting the join/renew menu option at the top of the page. I would like to see a **BIG** increase in retired member enrollments. As of March 2016, our numbers are: **Total Retirees = 412**, District 1 = **54**, District 2 = **17**, District 3 = **8**, District 4 = **25**, District 5 = **26**, District 6 = **15**, District 7 = **93**, District 8 = **22**, District 9 = **18**, District 10 = **32**, District 11 = **36**, District 12 = **52**, and Out of State/Unknown = **14**.

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Proposed Goals of the 2016-17 PMEA Retired Members

These are tentative and awaiting YOUR input/additions/changes/approval:

Continuation of...

1. Participation in PMEA events
2. Updates and service to Retiree Resource Registry
3. Revisions of community band, orchestra, and chorus lists
4. Sharing of stories in *PMEA News* & eNEWS
5. Fulfillment of volunteer work opportunities at conferences



New considerations in...

6. Compilation of a PA community theater group directory
7. Development of new avenues in communications (Facebook?)
8. Representation on TTRR Council
9. Session at PMEA Summer Conferences
10. Planning of conference sidetrips e.g. theater tour & sightseeing of New York City

Humorous retiree moments and quotes

(from <http://www.allinspiration.com/a/funny-teacher-retirement-jokes/>)

It was her last day before retiring and the kindergarten students wanted to give their teacher some gifts. The first student was son of the local nursery owner, and he handed her a package. Without opening it, the teacher said, "It's flowers." "Wow," said the boy. "How did you know?" "Just guessing," said the teacher.

The next student was the daughter of the local bakery. Without opening the box, the teacher said, "It's cookies!" "Wow," said the little girl. "How did you know?" "Just guessing," said the teacher.

The third student was the son of the local pub owner. When he handed the box to the teacher, she noticed it was leaking a little. She put a drop of the liquid on her finger and tasted it and said, "It's wine." The little boy told her, "No!" After several tastes and guesses, she finally says, "I give up." At that point the little boy yells, "It's a PUPPY!"

- "Like the truth, retirement can set you free. Or, like work, retirement can imprison you."
- Ernie J. Zelinski
- "Yes, I am thoroughly enjoying retirement! The best part is observing my neighbors drive off to work in the morning knowing that that their day will be filled with jerks, brainless and endless meetings, jerks, vendor lunches where you hold your breath just waiting for the sales pitch until you regurgitate your pasta, more jerks, and the eventual company reorganization of the section that was just reorganized last month!" - Bill Kalmar
- "Age is only a number, a cipher for the records. A man can't retire his experience. He must use it. Experience achieves more with less energy and time." - Bernard M Baruch



Good “reads” for reflection and renewal

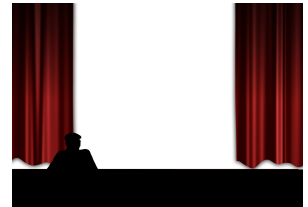
- I added another blog to my WordPress site: [“Lessons in Creativity”](https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/)
<https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/>.
- Try the inspiration of Wynne Huddleston, who wrote a teacher retirement poem [“Seeds You’ve Sown”](https://wynnehuddleston.wordpress.com/2011/05/25/teacher-retirement-poem/)
<https://wynnehuddleston.wordpress.com/2011/05/25/teacher-retirement-poem/>.
- On the national front, visit NAMM’s announcement of [“Make Music Day” June 21.](https://www.namm.org/news/press-releases/announcing-make-music-day-2016-%E2%80%93-tuesday-june-21)
<https://www.namm.org/news/press-releases/announcing-make-music-day-2016-%E2%80%93-tuesday-june-21>
- Have you seen NAFME Executive Director/CEO Michael Butera’s letter? [“Building Membership in our Family of Associations”](http://www.pmea.net/news/building-membership-in-our-family-of-associations/)
<http://www.pmea.net/news/building-membership-in-our-family-of-associations/>.
- You cannot miss these great [“Retirement Quotes for Teachers”](http://www.specialspeeches.com/retirement-quotes-for-teachers.html) (a few samples)
“The best teacher lodges an intent not in the mind but in the heart.” - Anne Michaels
“A teacher is one who makes two ideas grow where only one grew before.” - Elbert Hubbard
“The splendid thing about education is that everyone wants it. Like influenza, you can give it away without losing any of it yourself.” - Evelyn Waugh
<http://www.specialspeeches.com/retirement-quotes-for-teachers.html>.



“Project Amateur Theater” update

Check out the first draft of community theater groups in Pennsylvania (attached). Please proofread and send corrections/additions to paulkfox.usc@gmail.com.

Representing another resource for people with “much more free time on their hands,” this will join what PMEA retired members have already posted under their section on the PMEA website: directories of community bands, orchestras, and choruses.



This project is challenging! Just because you profess to be a local “civic theater” in Pennsylvania, it does not mean you offer “open” auditions for non-Equity actors, or seek volunteers to lend a hand making the sets/costumes or running the stage tech (although they all seem to want money or unpaid ushers!). We found some semi-professional companies act very “community” oriented, while others are really “closed shops!” FYI, if I was uncertain about their “amateur” status or opportunities for nonprofessionals, I would include the name of the organization... to allow our members to find out for themselves if the association would accept non-union actors, etc.

Another problem is that many small theatre groups do not maintain a webpage. We know we are probably missing scores of amateur drama companies. Can you help?

Retirees, please take care! Don't forget to pass on “good news,” new ideas, or happenings from around your area. **Happy trails, retirees!** PKF

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