



Hello, retirees! (Back again, so soon?) Welcome to another 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!

Calling on PMEA retirees – Please send us your pet photos!

Selfies wanted! Or, have someone else take a picture of you holding, posing, walking, or playing with your furry family member! For a future article in *PMEA News* (a tribute to the benefits of pet ownership in retirement), I need **"the cutest pups"** (or other animals) in Pennsylvania alongside their happily retired owners! Of course, if we were having a contest, my own Brewster (left) and Gracie would win the prize!



Please send your dog, cat, hamster, horse, turtle, etc. photo to paulkfox.usc@gmail.com. Please include the name of you and your pet. I do not know which issue of *PMEA News* these may be placed, but the next article deadline is **August 1, 2016**... So find those pictures (or take a new one) to show off your "critter."

On the political scene... and how to make your voice count!



Mark Despotakis, State Chair of the PMEA Advancement of Music Education Council, sent out a **"PMEA advocacy action alert"** with information about the status of the PA state budget, the "fair funding formula" enacted in H.B. 1552, and the creation of a Pennsylvania Council on Jazz under S.B. 1234. Mark says it is critical that WE share our viewpoints... the more individual responses from taxpayers, the better:

Your voice is extremely important in getting a budget enacted that will include an increase in funding to the basic education subsidy. We're asking you to visit our website: <http://www.pmea.net/specialty-areas/advocacy/> and click on the Take Action button near the top of the page to send an email to your representatives in the legislature. It takes only minutes for your voice to be heard! (As always we encourage you to use your home mailing and email addresses.)

The "Take Action" button on the website makes it easy. All retired members, please urge your elected officials to "put more money into education" as soon as possible!

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PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: June 7, 2016

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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More details about Seven Springs

Thanks to the awesome work of PMEA State Executive Director Abigail Young and Professional Development Chair Johanna Steinbacher, the following sampling of session clinicians are planned for the **PMEA Summer Conference - July (11), 12-13, 2016:**

- **Band:** Kyle Glaser/Adam Gumble/
Linda Thorton/Andy Yozviak
- **Choral:** TBA
- **Classroom:** Bill Purse/Joanne Rutkowski/
Sarah Watts
- **Curriculum:** Sharon Potter/Scott Sheehan
- **General:** Ann Clements/Mark Despotakis/
Kathy Melago/Darrin Thorton
- **Jazz:** Kevin McManus
- **PDE Update:** O David Deitz
- **Social Media:** Heather McEndree
- **Special Needs:** O. David Deitz/Alice Hammel
- **Strings:** TBA
- **Technology:** Robin Hodson/Eric Lauver/
Michelle Morris/
- **World Music:** Giff Howarth

My own session is "**Surviving and Reveling in Retirement.**" Here is the description:

For retired members and soon-to-be-retirees alike, this informal and collaborative session is about transitioning the passage from full-time work to "living the dream" - enjoying a happy, healthy, and meaningful retirement. We will review research of and strategies to face this momentous life-style shift and changing perspectives and expectations. Retired members will be encouraged to share experiences, anecdotes about the retirement journey, alternative pursuits, secrets to successfully fulfilling "bucket lists," and reshaping fresh new goals leading to creative ways to self-reinvent and thrive.

I would really like to see you in **Seven Springs...** even just for the chance to hobnob and share stories about "the new you" in retirement. Besides, this conference site offers all of the amenities (A to Z) anyone could ask for a short get-away: Alpine Slide/Tower, bowling, EuroBungy, fishing, fitness training, hiking, horseback riding, miniature golf, mountain or hydro-biking, paddleboats, scenic chairlift, Segway rides, sightseeing, sunbathing, swimming, tennis, etc. - a perfect place to "goof off!"



To sign-up for the summer conference and **book a room (hotel deadline is June 10)**, go online to <http://www.pmea.net/2015-pmea-summer-conference/>. If you are interested in the **golf outing** (\$60/each 1:30 p.m. on July 13), please register by emailing abiyoung@pmea.net.

Websites to make you chuckle... or not!

- **Not Always Learning:** <https://notalwayslearning.com/category/musical-mayhem>
- **BuzzFeed:** https://www.buzzfeed.com/jessicamisener/33-teachers-who-got-the-last-laugh?utm_term=.ueyp42zY93#.epYdB6rp4R
- **Search Quotes (Funny Music Teacher Quotes):**
http://www.searchquotes.com/search/Funny_Music_Teachers/
- **CartoonStock:** http://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/m/music_teacher.asp

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Books to “ease” the “sometimes bumpy” transition to retirement!

Researching materials for the summer retirement workshop, I came upon the following publications... interesting reads:

- Blanchard, Ken; Shaevitz, Morton - *Refire! Don't Retire*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2015
- Borchard, David C. - *The Joy of Retirement: Finding Happiness, Freedom, and the Life You've Always Wanted*, AMACOM, 2008
- Cameron, Julie - *It's Never Too Late to Begin Again*, New York: Penguin Random House, 2016
- Chimsky, Mary Evan - *65 Things to Do When You Retire*, Sellers Publishing, 2013
- Jenkins, Jo Ann - *Disrupt Aging*, Perseus Books Group, 2016
- Reingold, Stella - *101 Fun Things to Do in Retirement: An Irreverent, Outrageous, and Funny Guide to Life After Work*, Sovereign Media Group, 2015
- Shultz, Kenneth S., Ph.D. - *Happy Retirement the Psychology of Reinvention*, Penguin Random House, 2015
- Wilson, A. Verne - *TIPS: Retirement for Music Educators*, Music Educators National Conference (NAfME), 1989 (If you decide to order this book, give them the code NAFME25 for 25% off.)

I have assembled “**The Ultimate Resource Guide/Bibliography for Music Retirees**” as a handout for the summer conference. After July 13, the plan is to share this four-page document on the PMEA website (look under focus areas/retired members).

Of course, I will shamelessly continue to “drum my own drum” promoting the perusal of my own WordPress site <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/category/retirement-resources/>.

Other Official Retired Member News

This is one more reminder to proofread the posted directory of Pennsylvania **community/amateur theater companies**. (On the www.PMEA.net website, look under “focus areas,” and click “retired members”.) Did we get your local groups? Please send all corrections to paulkfox.usc@gmail.com by **August 1, 2016**.

Don't forget to “re-up!” your PMEA dues/fees for 2016-17. Retired members pay only **\$64** (PMEA & NAFME) or **\$30** (PMEA only). See <http://www.pmea.net/membership-information/>.

Let's hear from you! No false modesty... we would love to hear any of your recent accomplishments, appointments, special events, or other news from around your area.



Final reminders: Don't forget to send me your “pet pictures” (frogs included) as soon as possible! Also, make your Seven Springs room reservation by **Friday, June 10**. Thanks!

Happy trails, retirees! PKF

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