

PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: September 3, 2016

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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Happy Labor Day Weekend and welcome to the latest edition of **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!



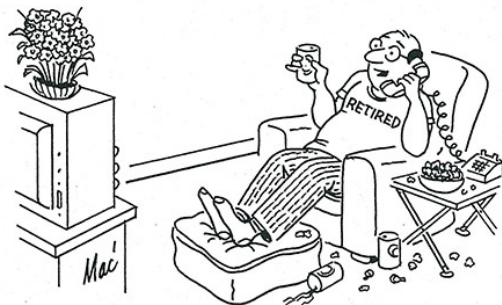
As for the upcoming September 5th holiday, according to the History Channel,

"...Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, parades and athletic events." - <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/labor-day>

While we retirees celebrate our own version of "labor-less day," we can definitely enjoy all the partying, picnics, and other merriment with our family and friends! Go have fun!

Definitions of retirement... in case you didn't know!

- **Webster and other online dictionaries** (archaic): "seclusion from the world, privacy, withdrawal, the act of going away, retreating, or disappearing"
- **Huffington Post** "It's Time to Retire Our Definition of Retirement" http://www.huffingtonpost.com/arianna-huffington/its-time-to-retire-our-definition-of-retirement_b_5774878.html
- **CBS MoneyWatch** "How Do You Define Retirement?" <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-do-you-define-retirement/>
- **The New Retirement: Discovering your Dream** by Richard P. Johnson, PhD "The 'new retirement' is not an ending, it's a new beginning, the start of a new life journey of vastly expanded proportion." <http://www.icoachdesign.com/info/retirement-book-intro.pdf>
- **American Psychological Association** "A New Face to Retirement" <http://www.apa.org/monitor/nov04/retirement.aspx>
- **Saturday Evening Post** "Cartoons: Retirement" by Diana Denny <http://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2012/03/21/humor/cartoons-retirement.html>



"I'm sorry, you have reached a non-working number."

Paul K. Fox
1564 Hastings Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241
(412) 596-7937 or (412) 854-3459
paulkfox.usc@gmail.com <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/>



RIP – C. Dean Streater – August 20, 2016

In this issue of the eNEWS, I am saddened to report the passing of our colleague, master teacher, and friend, **C. Dean Streater**. Since I have had the honor and privilege of learning from him for nearly 40 years - probably "the best band director" I have ever known - and this is my "bully pulpit," I am going to get *personal*.



Dean was a mentor, model professional, and literally "my hero!" If you can find it, go read the piece I wrote on my Facebook page about those "very scary" first two days of student teaching being assigned to him at the Bethel Park High School. I was blessed with one of the hardest task masters who seemed to "set the bar" above anyone else, but it made all the difference in training for my music teaching career of 35+ years.

He knew how to prepare, rehearse, assess, and master any musical score. "The maestro of details" was an amazing adjudicator and music director, and although he could be extremely critical at times, he placed the same high standards on himself.

He taught me to be a perfectionist in conducting and that "whenever it wasn't working, it was the music director's fault." He said, for example, "If you want staccato articulation from your ensemble, show it in your hands." He inspired greatness in everyone, and under Dean's tenure, Bethel Park's ensembles became locally and nationally recognized for musical excellence. A few of his other achievements...

- Chairperson/PMEA Music Booster Affiliates 18 years
- PMEA District 1 President and Secretary
- Chairman/District 1 Honors Band reorganization
- Judge/PMEA Adjudication Festivals
- Director/Church Choir 50 years
- Co-Founder/Director of Community Band South since 1986
- Director/Pittsburgh Syria Shrine Band
- Trustee/Bethel Park Community Foundation, and Founder/Organizer of summer concert series (renamed the Dean Streater Tower Concert Series in 2014)
- Recipient/PMEA Lifetime Achievement Award/Hall-of-Fame in 2013
- Volunteer/PMEA Retiree Resource Registry since its inception, offering to assist others on band topics such as "by-products of marching band organization, 'it's about time' constructing order of music styles for rehearsals and performances, and expressive rehearsal conducting - to replace excessive talking."
- Professional percussionist

For more details, visit the Post-Gazette online obituary:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=181143790>

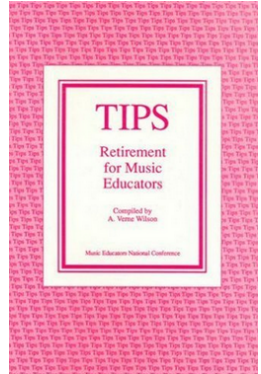
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Retirement quote and book of the month

"If you were planning to spend the rest of your life in another country, you would want to learn as much about it as possible. You would read books about the climate, people, history, and architecture. You would talk to people who had lived there. You might even learn a bit of its language. Old age is like another country. You'll enjoy it more if you have prepared yourself before you go." - B. F. Skinner and Margaret Vaughn in *TIPS Retirement for Music Educators*, MENC 1989

Compiled by A. Verne Wilson, Past MENC National Chairman for the Retired Music Educators Committee, *TIPS: Retirement for Music Educators* is "designed for retired music educators (and those about to retire) who need some specific suggestions on how to live a healthier, happier, and more satisfying life after retirement." Although it is not listed in the NAFME digital catalog (<http://rowman.com/Catalogs/NAfME15/>), a copy of the 17+ -page pamphlet can be obtained by calling 800-462-6420. Be sure to mention you are a member of NAFME to receive a 25% discount (code = "NAfME25" or your ID #). Here is the layout of the chapters:



- Before Retirement
- During Retirement
- Sharing Your Talent and Expertise
- Being an Articulate Advocate
- Bibliography

Welcome to our newest retired members!

"A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policing, and coercion are fruitless. We find that after years of struggle that we do not take a trip; a trip takes us." - John Steinbeck

Joining the ranks of others now "living the dream," here is the latest induction of PMEA "explorers" who have just ventured into retirement. Congratulations!

- Matt Boice
- Karen Cole
- Brent Lewis
- Joseph Lovecchio
- William Naydan
- Francis Nesta
- Denise Pearson
- Samuel Rocco
- David Swinehart

See July 1, 2016 eNEWS for the names of other recent retirees.

Crazy retiree website, but is it "G" rated?

I apologize if this one offends anyone (due to some questionable content), but all professionalism aside, if you think you can stand it (and don't say I did not warn you!), check out the amusing pictures and jokes at <http://www.geezerplanet.com/>.



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Who's new on the Retiree Resource Registry (R³)

Our next PMEA website update of the R³ is just around the corner, and two recent "Graduates from the Class of 2016" (retired members) have joined the registry:

William Naydan

- Retired from Hatboro-Horsham HS
- Taught choir, guitar, piano, theory, vocal class, Russian, and German
- Awarded PMEA Hall of Fame 2009, James Stewart Service Award, MENC Outstanding Educator, District 11 Citation of Excellence, Hatboro-Horsham Teacher of the Year 1994
- Currently conducting the Bucks Mont Camerata Chorus community choir, judging for Music in the Parks/Festivals of Music, presenting workshops, and serving as guest conductor



David Swinehart

- Retired from the Delaware Valley School District
- Served as Orchestra teacher at DVSD for grades 3 - 12 (at times), Drama Production Music Director (MS and HS levels), Music Department Chairperson, Interim Music Director for Pocono Youth Orchestra, and Co-Director for Hemlock Farms Choral Society
- Started the string program at DVSD and was recognized twice for "Who's Who Among America's Teachers"
- Currently composing and conducting music

If you have not done so already and want to be involved helping other PMEA members, we invite YOU to sign-up for the R³. Go to the Retired Members' section of the website, or click on this link: <https://pmea.wufoo.com/forms/pmea-retiree-resource-survey/>.

Bits and pieces from all over...

American's Aging Population and Slowing Economic Growth (The Diane Rehm Show)

<https://thedianerehmshow.org/shows/2016-08-25/how-americas-aging-population-may-be-slowing-economic-growth>

Can Testing Save Arts Education? (original article by Sarah Butrymowicz)

<http://hechingerreport.org/can-testing-save-arts-education/>

Give the Gift of Music (have you seen this website of various music charities?)

<http://givethegiftofmusic.info/give-the-gift-to-those-in-need/>

Happy trails, retirees, and try to stay connected! Check out the numerous resources archived in the Retired Members' section under "Focus Areas" of the PMEA website:

<http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>. PKF

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