

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 via this e-mail address. Thanks for staying involved in PMEA and our profession!



A lot has been happening since my last message of nine days ago!

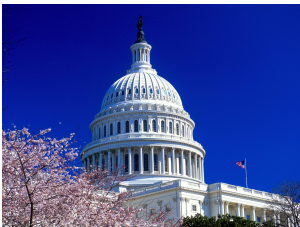
Urgent! E-mail your U.S. Congressman TODAY!

NAfME sent out the following notice to all members to **"TAKE ACTION: Urge Congress to Pass ESEA!** (See <http://www.nafme.org/take-action-urge-congress-to-pass-esea/>)

"Congress reached a compromise agreement to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The compromise bill, known as the "Every Student Succeeds Act," includes music as part of the new "Well-Rounded Education" provision (previously known as "Core Academic Subjects"), which provides increased opportunities for access to music education.

"To that end, the time has come to act once again to urge Congress to fix NCLB and pass a new version of ESEA; one that will improve access to music and arts for all students. We urge you to contact your members of Congress TODAY and ask them to support passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Please take action here below by sending your representatives and senators a short letter asking for their support of the bill.

"The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote on ESSA tomorrow, Wednesday, December 2nd. In the days after that, the Senate will follow suit. Our window of opportunity is short and NOW is the time to act to ensure our students receive a Well-Rounded Education."



This means, as soon as you read this, you need to send an e-mail to your representative... you cannot put it off another day! Here is what I sent to U.S. Congressman Tim Murphy, representing the 18th District of Pennsylvania (sample just to inspire your thoughts):

Please support the passage of the "Every Student Succeeds Act," the compromise bill that includes music as part of a new "well-rounded education."

It is essential that local, state, and federal governments promote increased opportunities for student access to music education. An education in the arts will insure enhanced exploration and mastery of "21st Century skills," a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits that are believed (by educators, school reformers, college professors, employers, and others) to be critically important to success in today's world. "P21" (as it is called by the proponents of the Partnership for 21st Century Learning) places greater priority on those things that music education does naturally... the learning skills of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication, and the life skills of flexibility, initiative, social skills, productivity, and leadership.

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PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: December 1, 2015

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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On Tuesday, December 2, 2015, you have the opportunity to vote FOR ESSA. Thank you for your continued help in providing a public school education in the best practices of creative self-expression!

What's next on our retired member "to-do list?" **How about notifying your senators?**

If you do not know who/how to contact your local U.S. Congressman or Senator, go to <http://whoismyrepresentative.com/>.

#GivingTuesday

PMEA sent out an update today regarding a way to support our scholarship/grant programs. Abi Young, Executive Director, informs me that PMEA's version of GivingTuesday is actually "Giving All December." To donate \$10 to the [Irene Christman Scholarship](#), [Jazz Scholarship](#), and [Margaret Bauer Grant](#) endowments, all you have to do is text **"MUSICED PA" to "20222"** and the one-time charge will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. You have until the end of the month to get involved! For more information, go to <http://www.pmea.net/news/support-pmea-on-giving-tuesday/>.

More proofreaders/researchers needed for community choruses

See attached "latest and greatest" PA listing of "places to go and sing out your heart!" We added a lot of Sweet Adeline and S.P.E.B.Q.S.A. groups. Did we get your favorite local choir? Can you confirm the city of each ensemble? (It is okay that some choruses are listed more than once in the second "sorted by location" section, which begins on page 4 of the attached file.) Please send all corrections/additions to paulkfox@gmail.com.

The Retiree Resource Registry has been updated!

The R³ was revised on November 25, now available at <http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>.

Share PMEA Retired Member news and views!

As your Retired Member Coordinator, it is awfully lonely (and totally boring) not to hear from you! In every issue of *PMEA News*, we plan to spotlight a retired member or two... but, for this to work, someone has to send an update or "happening" about our retirees. Yes, everyone would love to hear what's up in your life!

Try to keep in touch by checking out our retired members section of the PMEA website (under "focus areas") or e-mail me directly paulkfox.usc@gmail.com. **Happy trails, retirees!**

PKF



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