

Welcome to PMEAs Retirees...

On behalf of the 400+ retired members of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (not to mention the 4000+ regular and collegiate members), congratulations and welcome to retirement!

When (now) Immediate Past President Dennis Emert appointed me two+ years ago to the position of State Retired Member Coordinator, I had no idea what I could offer... except to serve as a “cheerleader” and represent the interests of our music teacher retirees. This e-mail is to acquaint you with the many resources PMEAs offers to its retired members, and to “catch you up” on a few of our *Retired Member Network eNEWS* issues and other documents.



[Please see attached files from the “welcome email” you were sent. Download, read, and save these documents to refer back often.]

If I can ever be of any help, please don’t hesitate to call (412-596-7937) or email me (paulkfox.usc@gmail.com).

Research indicates that people either LOVE retirement or HATE it, and their journey to the blessed “golden years” can have many ups and downs, especially for type-A, peak-performing individuals who (used to) spend large amounts of time and personally identified with “the job...” like many music educators. Since retiring from the Upper St. Clair School District in June 2013, my goal is to help others achieve a happy, healthy, and meaningful retirement. Serving in the position as PMEAs State Retired Member Coordinator, my objectives for 2016-18 are:

- Continuation and expansion of PMEAs Retired Members’ projects started in 2015-16, including the Retiree Resource Registry (R³), PA community band, orchestra, chorus and theater group listings, volunteering at conferences, sessions on “how to retire,” etc.
- Exploration of new and unique ways to inform, motivate, engage, and activate PMEAs retired members, to enhance their feelings of value, purpose, and being “needed and useful” in support of PMEAs and the music education profession: “The mission of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association is to advance comprehensive and innovative music education for all teachers and students through quality teaching, rigorous learning, and meaningful music engagement.”
- Improvement in data tracking of retired members’ membership status and contact information
- Publication of news, awards, appointments, and successes of retired members
- Promotion of additional tools for a smooth transition to happy retirement

Your first stop for retirement resources should be the PMEAs website (look under “Focus Areas”), where we post past issues of the digital newsletter *Retired Members Network eNEWS*, relevant articles from *PMEAs News*, etc. Check it out at <http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>.

Are you still willing to “lend a hand” on PMEAs projects or share your expertise and provide a free (but priceless) consultant service to new/transferred PMEA members and officers? We update and publish a **Retiree Resource Registry** (<http://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Retired-Resource-Registry-updated-05-15-2017.pdf>) and the accompanying **R³ Help Index** <http://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/R3-Help-Index-012317.pdf> on the website. This project is a “win-win” as it also allows the retired member a place to archive all his/her achievements, awards, past and current assignments, interests, and hobbies. To join this prestigious roster of “who’s-who of past music teaching leaders in PA,” please go to <https://pmea.wufoo.com/forms/pmea-retiree-resource-survey/> or the website to complete the R³ sign-up survey.



Now that you are retired, you will receive discounts galore! For example, registration for retirees at the **PMEA Spring Conference** is... (drum-roll, please!) ONLY \$10 or \$15! However, our next conference is the **PMEA Summer Conference** held at the Penn Stater Hotel/State College on July 18-19, 2017. The summer fee for retired members is \$35 (discounted \$15). I will be doing a session entitled “Retirement Planning – It’s Not About the Money.” Go here for more details: <https://www.pmea.net/2015-pmea-summer-conference/>.

FYI, materials from my numerous conference sessions, “Surviving and Reveling in Retirement” and “Living the Dream” are also in the retired members’ section. Feel free to download the workshops’ slides (<https://www.pmea.net/2015-pmea-summer-conference/>) and the recently revised handout (<http://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ultimate-retiree-resource-guide-060617.pdf>), the latter probably the most comprehensive “reading list” ever published for music teacher retirees.

Finally, I have an extensive blog-site with articles on retirement from music teaching. You are invited to visit <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/for-retirees/>.

Please keep in touch. We would love to hear from you! PKF

Paul K. Fox,
State Retired Member Coordinator/Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
Chair/PMEA State Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment and Retention
Founding Director/South Hills Junior Orchestra
Trustee/Community Foundation of Upper St. Clair
Steering Committee/UPPER ST. CLAIR TODAY magazine

Retired Performing Arts Curriculum Leader/Music Teacher/PR Assistant
Upper St. Clair School District

1564 Hastings Mill Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241
412-596-7937 cell
412-854-3459 voice mail
<https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/>