



PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: March 11, 2017

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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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. Thank you for staying involved in PMEA and our profession!

St. Patrick's Day jokes and riddles

(For next week... these are silly and safe to share with grandchildren!)

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/jokes/topics/stpatrick.shtml>

Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

Real rocks are too heavy!

Why can't you iron a four-leaf clover?

Because you shouldn't press your luck!

What do you call a fake stone in Ireland?

A sham-rock!

What type of bow cannot be tied?

A rain-bow!

Where can you always find gold?

In the dictionary!

Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day?

Because they're already wearing green!

Why did the elephant wear green sneakers?

Her red ones were in the wash!

What did the leprechaun do for a living?

He was a short-order cook!

How can you tell if a leprechaun is having a good time?

He is Dublin over with laughter!

What happens when a leprechaun falls into a river?

He gets wet!

What is Irish and left out on the lawn all summer?

Paddy O'Furniture!

Why did St. Patrick drive all the snakes out of Ireland?

He couldn't afford plane fare!

When is an Irish potato not an Irish potato?

When it's a French fry!

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

Because they're always a little short!



Knock Knock
Who's there?
Irish!
Irish Who?
Irish you a happy
St. Patrick's Day.





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Vanguard “Retirement by the Numbers”

<https://personal.vanguard.com/us/insights/article/retirement-numbers-052016>

“When you’re young, you celebrate each milestone on the journey to independence: learning to drive at age 16, registering to vote at age 18, and raising a glass to toast your 21st birthday.

“There are milestones as you approach retirement too. And while reaching your full retirement age may not be as climactic as cashing your first paycheck, knowing what to expect can help you prepare for the long term.



Vanguard®

“Use the seven milestones below to guide you as you approach retirement—a journey that’s undoubtedly worthy of celebration.” [Read more...](#)

- **Age 59½:** Withdraw from your traditional IRA without being charged a penalty
- **Age 62:** Become eligible for reduced Social Security benefits
- **Age 64¾:** Enroll in Medicare
- **Age 65:** Medicare begins; Sign up for Medigap
- **Age 66-67:** Reach Social Security full retirement age
- **Age 70:** File for Social Security if you haven’t already
- **Age 70½:** Begin required minimum distributions (RMDs)

Your PMEA Retired Members’ to-do list

Aw, we’re retirees! Who’s telling us we have things-to-do’s or upcoming deadlines?

It's my fault! I am your Retired Member Coordinator, and yes, I need YOU!

Your help and feedback are necessary for several projects. PMEA can be meaningful and just plain “fun” in retirement if you just keep your “pinky in the water.” Hopefully, you can find a few moments to respond to the following reminders, and help me “bring it on” for future articles modeling “living the dream” as a music teacher retiree.

- **WANTED: What is your favorite hobby?** What do you like to do in your spare time? Please send me the details about your current pastimes and diversions, especially anything a little “out of the norm” like mountain climbing, cave diving, hang gliding, creating duct tape artwork, vegetable carving, catfish noodling, pooktre tree shaping, or even (god forbid) taphophilia. We are planning a future *PMEA News* feature about our unique retiree amusements and pursuits!
- Please share news about any **recent assignments or “happenings” in your life.**
- Can you help **serve a few hours at the PMEA Conference** Info Booth in Erie (April 20-21)?
- Are you coming to our annual **PMEA Retired Member Breakfast** on April 21? Please RSVP.
- Don’t forget to participate in the **Music Education Advocacy Day** on March 20. ([Read more.](#))

I need to hear from you... Please use my e-mail address: paulkfox.usc@gmail.com. Thanks!

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Conference (and city) hopping

The best part of retirement is that we can travel... almost at the whim of the season and our mood. No regular job to hold us back! No concerts, finals, or musicals upcoming! No principal to ask permission to attend a professional development conference!

It's different now. When I was still an active member focused on visiting the exhibits to find new methods, books, lesson materials, instruments or accessories, hearing "the best of the best" in concerts directed by my colleagues, going to those important sessions about things I always wanted to learn, and signing-up to do my fair share of serving as presiding chair and volunteer registration aide, I didn't have five minutes to spare at a PMEA State Conference. Of course, I'm a little nostalgic about those long drives (usually on the turnpike, my least favorite highway) recalling many happy memories of my specific All-State students, singing our choral parts in the car, swapping old stories about previous orchestras, choirs, conductors, and concerts, and reviewing a few last-minute tips on "acing" the auditions... all with great laughter and camaraderie!



But now, I am retired. I don't need Act 48 credits. I have no intention of writing any curriculum for the rest of my life. I do not need to find the "latest and greatest" technology for my classroom, nor dive into stacks of music for the next year's concerts.

The one time I truly went "sightseeing" at a conference's city was when my school district sent me to a College Music Society meeting in Chicago during my second year of teaching. I hate to admit out loud that, other than the tech sessions, the workshops were unbelievably dry and boring (unless you like listening to the monotone reading of a clinician's thesis... something like the recent finding of a new 7th century African flute). I had to get away and see the sites... and the "windy city" had a lot to offer!

However, I don't know if you noticed it, but both PMEA and NAfME are providing a lot of variety for exploring our state (and the nation) during *this* year... the chance to discover and enjoy new landmarks, historic sites, monuments, and popular attractions:

- [NAfME Eastern Division](#) April 6-9, 2017 in [Atlantic City, NJ](#)
- [PMEA Spring Conference](#) April 19-22, 2017 in [Erie, PA](#) (Download the "[Retirees - Join Us...](#)" flier with a list of PMEA sessions, concerts, and many of the local Erie attractions at <http://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/PMEA-Retired-Members-Come-to-Erie.pdf>).
- [NAfME Symposium on the History of Music Education](#) May 31-June 3, 2017 in [Oklahoma City](#)
- [PMEA Summer Conference](#) July 17, 2017 in [State College, PA](#)
- [NAfME National Conference](#) November 12-15, 2017 in [Dallas, Texas](#)

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Retirement article on financial planning from *The Balance*

“10 Retirement Blogs Worth Reading”

Reviews and “difficulty ratings” by Dana Anspach

<https://www.thebalance.com/retirement-blogs-worth-reading-2388632>

1. [Retirement Researcher Blog by Wade Pfau](#)
2. [Nerd's Eye View by Michael Kitces](#)
3. [Pension Research Council E-News by Wharton](#)
4. [The Retirement Café by Dick Cotton](#)
5. [Retirement Security SmartBrief](#)
6. [Asset Builder by Scott Burns](#)
7. [Oblivious Investor by Mike Piper](#)
8. [Getting Your Financial Ducks in a Row by Jim Blankensmith](#)
9. [Squared Away Blog by Kimberly Blanton](#)
10. [Early Retirement Extreme by Jacob Fisker](#)



Welcome to our newest R³ consultant!

A standing ovation and our thanks go to a Retired Member Class of 2015 **Robert Drafahl** for recently signing-up for the PMEA Retiree Resource Registry. His name will be added to the volunteer corps the next time it is updated.

He earned the PMEA District Citation of Excellence Award and State College Magazine “Teacher of the Year.” His choirs sung at IMEA, PMEA, NAFME, and ACDA conventions.

Robert has expressed an interest in mentoring new teachers/transfers and helping in the selection of short/long range lesson planning and choral repertoire.

Another Installment from Dave Hughes' *Retire Fabulously*:

“8 Issues You Must Address if You Plan to Retire in Place”

<http://retirefabulously.com/blog/2017/02/27/8-issues-must-address-plan-retire-place/>

1. Does your current community have good infrastructure for supporting seniors?
2. Is your house adaptable to meet your needs as you grow older?
3. Are your house and yard small enough to maintain as you get older?
4. Is your current house in good condition and energy efficient?
5. Are most things you need available within a reasonable distance?
6. Are the amenities you wish to enjoy during retirement close by?
7. Will your neighborhood still be safe?
8. Does your area have good assisted living or nursing homes that you would want to live in?

Sign-up for his entire free series of articles on retirement... Read more about it at <http://retirefabulously.com/new-start/>.

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Guy Raz and the TED Radio Hour!

As a retiree, the responsibility is thrust upon us to seek our own intellectual stimulation, build on our curiosity quotient, and personally inspire new pursuits of learning. No more mandated administration-directed teacher in-service days (often not what I needed to "grow") with powerful (?) topics like "Music and the Common Core" and "Improving PSSA Exam Scores!" We are now masters of our own fate!



Driving to pick up some more food and treats for the pups, returning from my youth orchestra rehearsal, volunteering at the hospital, or meeting someone for lunch on the weekend, I always turn on NPR (in our area 90.5 WESA). I love public radio. It is one of the few forms of media I feel does not "drains my mind" with a constant repetition of social dribble, show-biz glitz, mind-numbing situation comedies or reality shows, etc.

Hosted by Guy Raz and "based on riveting TED Talks from World's most remarkable minds," the TED Radio Hour provides a summary of reflections on a wide variety of interesting themes:

- "Spoken & Unspoken" <http://www.npr.org/programs/ted-radio-hour/?showDate=2017-03-03>
- "The Spirit of Inquiry" <http://www.npr.org/programs/ted-radio-hour/514152888/the-spirit-of-inquiry?showDate=2017-02-24>
- "Playing with Perceptions" <http://www.npr.org/programs/ted-radio-hour/358360814/playing-with-perceptions?showDate=2017-02-17>
- "Getting Better" <http://www.npr.org/programs/ted-radio-hour/514121462/getting-better?showDate=2017-02-10>
- And, one of my personal favorites: "The Five Senses"
<http://www.npr.org/programs/ted-radio-hour/510456207/the-five-senses?showDate=2017-01-20>

The best part? All shows are archived on the NPR website. You can listen to the podcasts at your leisure. If something "peaks your curiosity," go online and watch the full original Ted Talk presentation. Or if like a little "randomness" in your retired life, go to <https://www.ted.com/talks>, close your eyes, and click on any of the 2300+ speeches!

FYI... recent "paulkfoxusc blogs"

- <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2017/03/05/the-pmea-state-conference-primer/>
- <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2017/02/22/does-practice-make-perfect/>
- <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2017/02/13/how-retirement-has-changed-me/>
- <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2017/01/27/body-language-interviewing-for-a-job/>
- <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2017/01/13/essa-pde-and-lessons-in-creativity-iv/>

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There's still time to become an advocate and "make a difference!"

Retired members' voices are critical to the goal of making music and arts education a reality for every child in Pennsylvania. Here is some of the information about the **PMEA Music Education Advocacy Day** on March 20 that has been posted at <http://cqrengage.com/pmea/17advocacy>. You should visit this link to receive the 2017 PMEA Legislative Recommendations with Talking Points, our PMEA "asks," and background for you to be aware of prior to your legislative meetings.



Music Education Advocacy Day

Schedule

9:30 am - 10:30 am - PMEA Training/Briefing - Room 108 Irvis Office Building

11:00 am - PMEA News Conference - Main Rotunda

12:00 pm - Episcopal Academy Fifth Grade Band, Orchestra and Chorus - Deborah Newnham, Director - Main Rotunda

12:00 pm - Altoona Area Junior High School String Ensemble/Vocal Ensemble - Kelly Detwiler, Director - East Wing

1:15 pm - Plymouth Whitemarsh High School String Ensemble - Elise Derewitz, Director - East Wing

[Click here for "How to Request a Meeting with Members of the PA Legislature" + Logistical Information](#)

[Click here to register for PMEA Advocacy Day](#)

Speaking of schedules... here are the next MIOSM Harrisburg performances

Stop by the Capitol and hear your colleagues' Music in Our Schools' Month presentations!

	3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17
Rotunda	Exeter JHS Chorus & Strings, Melissa Crotty	East Stroudsburg HS North Choir, Keith LaBar, director	Lehman Int. School Choir, Hillary Beal, director	Annville-Cleona HS Concert Chorale, Sarah Strouse, director	Gettysburg Area MS Chorus, Jamie Bowman, director
East Wing	Milton Area HS Concert Band, Alyssa Williams, director	Loyalsock Township HS Brass Ens./ Small Vocal Ens., Ryan Bulgarelli, director	Springfield HS Saxophone Quartet, Marsha Bowe, director	East Allegheny JSHS String Orchestra, Stephen Ehrlich, director	
	*PMEA Advocacy Day 3/20	3/21	3/22	3/23	3/24
Rotunda	Episcopal Academy 5 th grade band, orchestra & chorus, Deborah Newnham, director	Spring Grove MS Show Choir & String Orchestra, Susan Gross, director	Bishop McDevitt Choir, Chad Reed, director	Middletown Area HS Select Choir, Andrew Vensei, director	Hershey HS Choir, Joe Farrell, director
East Wing	Altoona Area JHS String Ens./Vocal Ens., Kelly Detwiler, director	Jenkintown HS Honors Chorale/Brass Ens., Alyssa Davidson, director	Williams ES Jazz Band, Joel Guldin, director		McKinley & Overlook ES, Kevin Longwill, director
	3/27	3/28	3/29	3/30	3/31
Rotunda	Southern Huntingdon County HS Chorus, Trisha Johnson, director	Interboro HS Chorus, Hannah Knauss, director	Big Spring MS Chorus, Lori Shover, director	Gettysburg Area HS Chorus, Jamie Bowman, director	Pittsburgh Public Schools All City Chorus, Aubrey Ploesch, director
East Wing	Southern Huntingdon County HS Concert Band, Diana Miller, director	Philadelphia All Catholic Jazz Band, Matthew Schwartz, director	Coatesville MS Orchestra, Shawn Lee, director		



Happy trails, retirees. Best wishes on enjoying your "freedom!" Keep in touch! PKF

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