

# PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: March 17, 2016

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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**Happy St. Patrick's Day** and welcome to the latest **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! !

## **Senior Remixes** (source: <http://jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/retirementjokes.html>)

- "You're So Varicose Vein" by Carly Simon
- "How Can You Mend A Broken Hip?" by the Bee Gees
- "I Can't See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash
- "These Boots Give Me Arthritis" by Nancy Sinatra
- "Once, Twice, Three Trips to the Bathroom" by the Commodores
- "I Get By with a Little Help from Depends" by the Beatles
- "Talking' Bout My Medication" by The Who
- "Bald Thing" by the Troggs
- "You Can't Always Pee When You Want" by the Rolling Stones
- "I Heard It through the Grape Nuts" by Marvin Gaye

## **Retiree "surprise" at the conference!**

Yours truly will be attending the **2016 PMEA Spring Conference** and staying at the Hershey Lodge. Please look me up... I will be helping at registration on Wednesday afternoon, March 30 and Thursday morning, March 31, and hanging out at the PMEA Info Booth Friday afternoon, April 1. All retired members who attend the conference will receive a "small token of our appreciation" (no, I won't tell you what it is now!), and if you cannot attend our breakfast on Friday (see below), please find me! We also have special badge stickers to give out to all members on the **Retiree Resource Registry** (R<sup>3</sup>).

## **Announcements and other "stuff!"**

To help defray printing costs, any retired member who would like to participate in the **PMEA All-State Program Sponsorship** should complete the following form and mail a check made out to "PMEA" by **March 21, 2016**. Donor names will be listed in the 2016 PMEA All-State Festival program book as a thank you for the contribution. Donations may come from individuals (family, friends, etc.) or groups (school music department, music booster group, etc.) and are fully tax-deductible as a charitable contribution since PMEA is a 501c3 organization. There are three "giving" levels for you to consider: Bronze (\$25), Silver (\$50), and Gold (\$100).

Click on this link: <http://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/2016-Parent-Patron-Form.pdf>.

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The annual **PMEA Retired Member breakfast meeting** will be held on Friday, April 1 promptly at 7:00 a.m. **March 18 (tomorrow)** is the last day to RSVP. (Please e-mail me!) Also, up to **March 23**, you can register online for Hershey (retired members only \$15!).

A special welcome is extended to **Sheryl May**, PMEA retired member, who just joined the PMEA **Retiree Resource Registry** (R<sup>3</sup>) and whose name and information will be added to website during completion of the next update. Sheryl retired after 33 years at the Harbor Creek School District, and provided service to PMEA as the District 2 C/I Chair and State Early Childhood Chair. She continues her work in Kindermusik.

The **PMEA Summer Conference** will be held at Seven Springs on July 12-13, 2016. In order to better serve the goals, needs, and preferences of all PMEA members, an online questionnaire is posted asking for *your* feedback. Click on this link:

<https://pmea.wufoo.com/forms/pmea-summer-conference-survey/>. Your comments can remain completely anonymous... just omit your name and e-mail address on the form. **There's still time to make your "voice" heard!**



### Questions I would like to ask Retired Members...

1. How can I help you? How would you like to be involved in PMEA?
2. Are you "on" Facebook? (I just started social media... venturing out very slowly!)  
Do you think retired members would like to "connect" via Facebook?
3. What news or happenings are going in your life? Any views to share?

Please don't be a "stranger." E-mail your Retired Member Coordinator anytime:  
[paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com).

### Just for fun... a little online reading from "The Fox!"

My last "creation" posted on my WordPress blog, "**If I Were a School Superintendent... Creativity Would Join Literacy and Logic as the Top Three Educational Priorities**," is a fantasy about changing things up in a hypothetical district:  
<https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2016/03/09/if-i-was-a-school-superintendent/>

Another blog "**An Engaged Mind Makes for a Happy Retiree**" is all about remaining active, stimulating your brain, and improving your "CQ" (curiosity) during retirement:  
<https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2016/02/17/an-engaged-mind-makes-for-a-happy-retiree/>

I found it difficult to resist climbing up on my soapbox in "**Retirement = Deferred Gratification**" and listing "the good, the bad, and the ugly" about music education:  
<https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2016/01/23/retirement-deferred-gratification/>

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### **Kudos and thanks go to our PMEA Retired Member volunteers**

Below is the final version of the retired members schedule for the **PMEA info booth** during the spring conference. As I said before, we are flexible (if you have a change of plans). Other state officers and representatives will join us. We will put out a couple chairs next to the booth so that even if you have not signed up, you can "sit a spell" and chat with fellow retirees.

Thursday, March 31	10:45	Adrienne Kelly & Jane Wall
Thursday	12:15	Bill Pendziwiatr
Thursday	1:45	Bill Powers
Thursday	3:15	Susan Dieffenbach
Thursday	4:45	Susan Dieffenbach
Friday, April 1	9:45	Diane Maclay & Carl Barr
Friday	11:15	Adrienne Kelly
Friday	2:15	Paul Fox
Friday	3:45	Paul Fox

Speaking of Retired Member volunteers, if you would like to become a part of the PMEA **Retiree Resource Registry** (R<sup>3</sup>) and offer your expertise and services to other PMEA and PCMEA members, perhaps helping out at a festival, conference, or school music program, while archiving your past teaching assignments and achievements, you can sign-up on the PMEA website. Look under focus areas and "retired members" or click on this link: <https://pmea.wufoo.com/forms/pmea-retiree-resource-survey/>.

### **Looking for retiree "stories," like this one that made the news!**

The June 3, 2015 headline of our CBS Pittsburgh online edition read, "**Popular Music Teacher Retiring After 33 Years in the Classroom.**" Well-known KDKA newscaster Dave Crawley wrote about our very-own PMEA member **Adrienne Kelly**, who retired last year from the Minadeo Elementary School in the



Pittsburgh Public Schools. She remains very active in PMEA, is listed on the R<sup>3</sup>, and spoke at the last PMEA District 1 Fall Workshop. Check out this tribute to her career: <http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2015/06/03/popular-music-teacher-retiring-after-33-years-in-the-classroom/>.

We are always looking for articles about our PMEA retirees. No need for modesty! Share your thoughts, new jobs, and professional or personal activities since retiring. Also, would you like to be a "guest writer" for the PMEA Retired Member section in the *PMEA News*? Give me a holler via e-mail: [paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com)

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## March is MIOSM!

I don't have to remind you that we have passed the halfway point for the annual celebration of **Music in Our Schools' Month?** However, I hope you noticed the last e-mailed **PMEA Update** with the MIOSM schedule of performances in Harrisburg. If you are in the area, what a fantastic way to spend a portion of your day! Ahem... I guess our government officials don't have to pass a state budget in order to have "live music" presented in the Pennsylvania State Capitol Rotunda and East Wing. Well, I only hope this will inspire our legislators a little! *(Please see the attached file.)*

**Please add to your calendar:** PMEA's Annual **Music Education Advocacy Day** on March 30: <http://www.pmea.net/specialty-areas/advocacy/>.

## They always say, "End it on a positive note," right?

On the subject of inspiration and real "goosebumps," PMEA retirees **Lee Wesner** and **Otis Kitchen** sent us the link to a great story about **"the power of music."** Lee said he learned it from one of his American Legion Honor Guards.

This is what we need!

500 high school choir students sing the U.S. National Anthem in a high-rise hotel. Each night before curfew, they gather on their balconies to sing the Star-Spangled Banner from the balconies of the 18-story atrium at Louisville's downtown Hyatt Regency as part of the Kentucky Music Educators convention. Beautiful!

Check it out at <http://www.chonday.com/Videos/anthofius3>

God Bless America!

**[By the way, there's no truth in the rumor that today I am wearing a t-shirt with the saying, "Kiss Me, I Could Be Irish!" My grandfather was a "Dooley," so I come by my green coloring naturally!]**

Keep in touch! **Happy trails, retirees!** PKF

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	3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17	3/18
Rotunda	North Schuylkill JSHS Chorus, Brandi Kline, director	Red Lion Area HS Concert Choir, Thomas Wise, director	Governor Mifflin MS Select Choir, Travis Williamson, director	Palmyra Area MS/HS Choir, Alexis Farrell, director	Harrison-Morton MS Chorus, Jennifer Rarick, director
East Wing	Pittsburgh Obama Academy of International Studies Steel Drum Band, Kenneth Schrader, director	Fleetwood Area HS Saxophone Quartet & Jazz Combo, Charles Ebersole, director	Oley Valley ES Band, Andrea Vinanskie, director	North Schuylkill HS Wind Ens., Matthew Tenaglia, director	
	3/21	3/22	3/23	3/24	3/25
Rotunda	Susquehannock HS Concert Choir, Jay Althouse, director	Octorara JSHS Chorus, Steve McBride, director	Lehman Int. School Choir, Hillary Beal, director	Cocalico HS Choir, Kristen Diehl, director	
East Wing	Susquehannock HS String Ens., Zachary Levi, director		Lehman Int. School Instrumental Ens., Matthew Flicker, director	Emory H. Markle Int. School Show Choir & Chamber Strings, Tasha Koontz & Larry Kuntz, directors	
	3/28	3/29	3/30 *PMEA Advocacy Day	3/31	
Rotunda		Franklin Twp ES 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus, Bill Seifass, director	Salisbury HS Chorus, Rachel Reinecke, director		
East Wing	Bishop McDevitt HS Band, Faris Beshara, director	Fugett, Peirce & Stetson MS String Orchestra, Katrina Kelly, director	Central Dauphin HS Wind Ens., Matt Carraher, director	Quaker Valley HS String Orchestra, Cory Neville, director	