



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!

Project "Amateur Theater"

Retired members were successful in posting comprehensive directories of community bands, orchestras, and choruses on the PMEA website. Probably a bigger challenge, our next undertaking is to "find" local amateur drama groups for anyone interested in pursuing their love of the theater arts. Can you help? So far, our research has uncovered several websites that seem to provide the locations of theater companies and other community performing arts groups from throughout the state:

- <http://www.auditionsfree.com/theater-resources/pennsylvania-theater-companies/#>
- <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research/film/theater/companies.html>
- http://www.curtainrising.com/usa/usa_pa.html
- <http://www.pactheatres.com/>
- http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Performing_Arts/Theatre/Community_Theatre/United_States/Pennsylvania/

An important question we must grapple with is determining which groups are open to new members, nonprofessional actors, singers, dancers, stage tech, etc. for the listing?

Should we post ALL of the companies we obtain from the above (and other) websites, giving contact numbers when possible, and let our membership discover the necessary requirements for auditions, past experience/training, and credentials (if any)?



If you would like to help on this project, please e-mail a telephone number I can reach you: paulkfox.usc@gmail.com.

What is a "curmudgeon?"

Had to share the text on a business card Lee Wesner handed me at the PMEA spring conference retired member breakfast. Thanks, Lee. You're not really a "curmudgeon?"

Certified Curmudgeon

Capable of demonstrating superiority of mind and impatience with stupidity.

Also prepared to exhibit skepticism and mild sarcasm when prompted. Purveyor of common sense.
(Reverse side) Remember - Just because you're not paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get you.

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Spend your summer... conference at Seven Springs



The 2016 PMEA Summer Conference will be held on Tuesday, July 12 and Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, with a pre-conference workshop on PMEA's Model Curriculum Framework on Monday, July 11. Retired and collegiate members will be offered a reduced-cost registration this year (only \$35 - active teacher registration fee is \$50) - and this includes lunch and dinner on Tuesday and breakfast on Wednesday. A golf outing (for golfers of all levels) is also being planned for Wednesday afternoon, shortly after the conclusion of the summer conference. Tentative schedule will be available soon on the PMEA website!

Retired teacher quotables...

- *One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.* - Carl Jung
- *Never lose sight of this important truth, that no one can be truly great until he has gained a knowledge of himself, a knowledge which can only be acquired by occasional retirement.* - Johann Georg Von Zimmermann
- *Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them.* - Louis Armstrong

Did You Know?

- Archived digital copies of all issues of the [Retired Member Network eNEWS](#), as well as important reprints of *PMEA News* articles about transitioning to retirement, are posted on the PMEA website under "focus areas" and "retired members" - <http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>.
- There are twelve (and counting) articles about music teachers in retirement and successfully facing and enjoying this "life-changing passage" at this blogpost: <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/category/retirement-resources/>.
- Are you still conducting a community music ensemble? Did you know about the PMEA lending library resource? Login to the "members-only" section of the PMEA website to peruse music in the band, choral, orchestra, and jazz libraries: <http://www.pmea.net/member-information/>.
- You can add to or edit your listing in the Retiree Resource Registry (R³), a free consultant service for PMEA members, by e-mailing Retired Member Coordinator Paul Fox at paulkfox.usc@gmail.com. To sign-up for the first time, complete the survey on the retired members' section of the PMEA website, or click on <https://pmea.wufoo.com/forms/pmea-retiree-resource-survey/>.
- PMEA is on **Facebook**? Check it out: <https://www.facebook.com/pmeamusic>.

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by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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Here's your April/May reading list from "The Fox!"

The last two postings on my WordPress blog are "**Sing Your Heart Out... Now and in Retirement!**" (reprinted from the Spring 2016 of *PMEA News*) and "**Networking Niceties - the 'How to Schmooze Guide' for Prospective Music Teachers.**" Both can be found at <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com>.

New or soon-to-be retirees should purchase or borrow one of these **outstanding books**:

- *How to Retire Happy, Wild and Free* by Ernie Zelinski
- *How to Love Your Retirement: The Guide to the Best of Your Life* by Barbara Waxman
- *The Joy of Retirement: Finding Happiness, Freedom, and the Life You've Always Wanted* by David Borchard
- *The Joy of Not Working: A Book for the Retired, Unemployed and Overworked* by Ernie Zelinski
- *65 Things to Do When You Retire* by Mark Evan Chimsk

Remember, we "warehouse" all of the **retired member blogs and articles** in two places: the PMEA website (under the menu bar "focus areas" and link "retired members") at <http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/> and under the "retirement resources" category on the WordPress site: <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/category/retirement-resources/>.

Teachers About to Retire...

(From <http://www.cybersalt.org/clean-jokes/teachers-about-to-retire>)

You know you're a retiree-to-be when...

1. Fellow staff members greet you in the hall with, "Oh! Stop smiling!"
2. Your file cabinets are getting lighter, and your circular file is getting heavier.
3. The principal comes in for the final observation of the year, and you throw a party for your class with lots of snacks, games, and a visit from Frankie the Clown.
4. You get up to the checkout counter at Barnes & Noble, and you realize you're buying books you won't need next year.
5. You find yourself saying, "Yes!" whenever an administrator or union officer asks you to be on a committee next year.
6. You get in line at the copy machine and realize you don't have anything to copy.
7. You constantly find other teachers in your room measuring bookcases.
8. You respond to every new initiative with, "Been there! Done that!"
9. Other staff members complain that they can't get into the rest room because you're always in there, laughing hysterically.
10. Your final comment on the June report card is, "Bye!"

Hope to hear from you, soon! Please pass on any "good news," new ideas, or happenings from your area. **Happy trails, retirees!** PKF



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