



Welcome to the latest eNEWS from 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 contributing to and staying involved in PMEA and our profession!

## **Those Lazy Days of Summer, but Fox is never at a loss for "WORDS!"**

Retirees are blessed with free time to explore new "adventures in learning" for themselves. This could mean *anything!* We could go out and learn a new hobby (or "get good" at something we have always done), perhaps a sport, media app/program/website, reading, research in genealogy or other subject (making friends with the local librarian?), gardening, music/art venues such as singing or playing in a community ensemble, etc. - before which we never had enough time to do! Of course, high on our overflowing "bucket lists" could also be sightseeing/travel, babysitting grandchildren (or my favorite - walking puppies!), or to "beef up" our social connections - meeting friends, former coworkers, and other retired people for breakfast/brunch and other outings.



One of the things I decided to do almost immediately was to focus on my **WRITING!** How do you find ways to assemble your thoughts and perspective, and then share them with colleagues, friends, or people with like-interests? This is coming from somebody who has limited experience using social networks like Facebook and Twitter. I know they are popular, but early on, teachers were told to "stay away from them" or "be careful," especially if you had any intent to communicate with your students (or try to get a job). However, I have discovered **WordPress**, a web-based tool that lets you draft and post articles, journals, discussion points, even jokes, artwork, or photography.

Now I know not everyone has a burning desire to write, so this may not be your ticket to creative self-expression! But, WordPress gave me an outlet and a "storage vault" to practice-practice-practice, to "write out loud" as they say, and even house previously published articles for **PMEA News** and workshop handouts. Resembling the website SchoolWires/Centricity program my school district taught us to post "teacher pages" for the parents and students, WordPress is FREE and not hard to learn. You can add photos or illustrations to your blogs, make your own creations, or go online for license-free graphics/pictures (<https://dailypost.wordpress.com/2014/04/30/free-images>).



WordPress provides the opportunity to "get something off your chest," and then, if you are active on Facebook or Twitter, share it with everyone you know. Eventually your piece will be Google/Yahoo/Bing searchable, and hopefully garner a response from others who may care to agree or disagree with you.

Please feel free to peruse what I have done so far, albeit still in the learning phases. My WordPress site can be found at <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/>. As you can see, it spans an entire career in music education (click on the site categories in the right bar) - **interview techniques/strategies for marketing professionalism, creativity in education, and retirement resources.**

The only thing I'm a little puzzled about is the slow response to my posts. Of course, "this blogging scene" is kind of its own unique culture of people who habitually scan the web, read/reply to blogs, share their own writings, and make comments to wikis and other sites. To date, three individuals have responded to my articles: a young sci-fi writer from California, someone called "the Protein Connoisseur," and a twenty-four-year-old writer from Brisbane, Australia. If you have the time, check it out!

## What's up in your neck of the woods?

Now that I have spent most of this eNEWS sharing my latest pastime, it is now time for YOU to make a contribution... update us with a few happenings or excitements in your life since you retired!

**What have you been doing since retirement? What's new? What's fun? What trips have you taken? What is inspiring you to do this or that?**

Let's hear from YOU, and any news you have heard from/about our 400+ retired members! Please send your e-mails [paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com).

## Coming Soon!

- A new revision of the **Retiree Resource Registry (R<sup>3</sup>)** is due out momentarily. Please keep a lookout for it on the retired members' section of the PMEA website: <http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>. This is also where you can find past issues of eNEWS and other PMEA retiree resources.
- Our focus for future network communications and *PMEA News* articles is a listing of the **community choruses throughout Pennsylvania. Where do YOU sing?**



Happy trails, retirees! Take care! Write something to me... soon? PKF

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