

# PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: July 17, 2016

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

Page 1 of 3

Welcome to another **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!

## **Volunteers needed for annual PMEA state office “work day”**

HELP WANTED! It's that time of the year, again! Executive Director Abigail Young has invited interested PMEA active and retired members to “roll up the sleeves” and participate in the **annual work day** at the PMEA state office on July 27 beginning around 10 a.m. Your assistance in sorting, filing, organizing, packing, etc. is requested! Lunch will be provided! The office's address is 56 S. Third St., Hamburg, PA 19526 Sounds like fun? Please email Abi ASAP if you are available so that she can get an accurate lunch count: [abiyoung@pmea.net](mailto:abiyoung@pmea.net).



## **Pet photo “exposition” ends Tuesday at Noon!**



I am surprised that we have had so few contributors of retired members + pet pictures for my upcoming *PMEA News* article “**Pet Ownership and Retirement**.” I thought more of you were dog, cat, hamster, etc. owners! So far, photo submissions from David Cree + Lily, Rich and Louise Victor + Fiona, and the “Foxs’ Den of Canines” have been received. Since the printing deadline is upon us, this coming Tuesday (July 19) will be the

last day I will be able to accept a picture of your “best friend(s)” e-mailed to [paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com).

## **Retirement is for... music education advocacy!**

This is from Rich Victor and the **PLAN** (**PMEA Leadership Advocacy Network**):

On Wednesday, July 13, the House Appropriations Committee will markup its version of the FY2017 Labor-HHS-Education bill. To coincide with the markup, NAFME has begun its grassroots advocacy push for Title IV, Part A funding. We urge everyone to contact your members of Congress and ask them to support music education by fully funding Title IV, Part A. Please take action by sending your Representatives and Senators a short letter using the tool found in the **NAFME Grassroots Action Center**.

There is an easy way to make your voice heard. Go online and “sign the letter” at <http://www.nafme.org/take-action/grassroots-action-center/>.

Paul K. Fox  
1564 Hastings Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
(412) 596-7937 or (412) 854-3459  
[paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com) <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/>



## PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: July 17, 2016

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

Page 2 of 3

### By all accounts, the PMEA summer conference was a super success!!

It does not take much to make *me* happy... a large, clean hotel room with a *breath-taking* view of the mountain slopes, *fantastic* eating, the choice of indoor or outdoor swimming plus indoor miniature golf and bowling, *ideal* weather for outdoor sports or just hiking, the *best* salted caramel ice cream, and a surprise meeting of Josh Harrison from the Pittsburgh Pirates and his wife in the elevator. Sounds like the perfect vacation, right?



Well, the **PMEA Summer Conference** at Seven Springs was a wonderful "get-away" with all of these amenities... and so much more! Besides moments of "mandatory fun" and relaxation, we were able to catch-up with colleagues from around the state, observe members of the state PMEA leadership team go down the Alpine Slide, and enjoy a conference packed with a variety of interesting

professional development. Some of the sessions were intimate (in some cases, almost like "semi-private lessons") with excellent Q/A and hands-on exploration and sharing). We were all updated on the latest PDE news and advocacy projects, the Model Curriculum Framework and designing standards-based instruction and assessment, new ideas, music, innovation, and technology for the classroom and the rehearsal, conducting and prep, jazz improvisation, tips from drumming to guitar playing, and "everything you always wanted to know" about special education, inclusion, diversity, and accommodation.



As your representative, I presented the attached "**State of PMEA Retired Members**" report, and attended meetings of the **Advancement of Music Education** and **Teacher Training, Retention, and Recruitment** councils. My "soapbox" was that all PMEA council members, elected officers, ex-officio, staff, and active and student members should take advantage of the incredible "asset" we retired members epitomize... our past experience, expertise, and willingness to "help out" where needed in music programs, PMEA events, teacher training, etc.

Two more FYI news: I was elected Chair of the Teacher Training, Retention, and Recruitment Council beginning in January 2017. In addition, the slide presentation and session handout for **Surviving and Reveling in Retirement** have been posted on the PMEA website: <http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>.

Paul K. Fox  
1564 Hastings Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
(412) 596-7937 or (412) 854-3459  
[paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com) <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/>



# PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: July 17, 2016

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

Page 3 of 3

## Please renew your PMEA retired membership today!

It is time to re-up your membership to PMEA. Why join PMEA as a retired member?

- **Stay involved in the profession** — Keep a finger on “the pulse of music and education” by reading PMEA/NAfME and *Retired Member Network eNEWS* publications, and attending workshops/conferences about new literature, resources, trends, innovation, and research.
- **Have a voice** — Retired member dues support music education advocacy efforts on the federal and state levels. In addition, retired members “make a difference” and help elect or serve as future leaders in PMEA.
- **Share your expertise** — “Keep your chops up” and remain active in the field of music education by joining the *Retiree Resource Registry* to function as an informal adviser/consultant for new or needy PMEA members or officers, or volunteer to assist on other PMEA projects like the spring conference info booth.
- **Earn exclusive discounts** — Save money on membership dues, spring conference registration (only \$10), summer conference, and other programs.

Dues for retired members are only **\$64** for **PMEA + NAfME**, or **\$30** for **PMEA-only**. Membership invoices have gone out and were due July 1, 2016. If you missed the mail or would like to join again after a several-year-lapse, please go to the membership section on the PMEA website: <http://www.pmea.net/membership-information/>.

## Interested in joining the Retiree Resource Registry?

As I proudly reported to the State Executive Board, **28% of all PMEA retired members** have enrolled in the *PMEA Retiree Resource Registry (R<sup>3</sup>)*, and are willing to serve as free (but priceless) advisers and consultants to first-year music teachers, those recently transferred/appointed to new positions, educators who have been assigned to a less familiar subject (e.g. someone now is directing choirs for the first time), PMEA staff, council representatives and officers, or anyone who needs a little help or insight finding resources or problem solving. Among the R<sup>3</sup> jobs in 2015-16 were listening/audition committee members, guest conductors, accompanists, adjudication judges, registration aides, clinicians, subject specialists, writers for *PMEA News*, etc. Interested in applying? This program is a “win-win” for all! You get to list your career accomplishments and assignments, special interests, and current activities on the survey, as you announce the areas on which you can assist. More information is at <http://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>.



**Happy trails, retirees,** and don't forget to send me your **pet photos!** PKF

Paul K. Fox  
1564 Hastings Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
(412) 596-7937 or (412) 854-3459  
[paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com) <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/>

