

Welcome to the latest edition of **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. We are sending this using *Constant Contact*. Thanks for staying involved in PMEA and our profession!

In memory of Ruth Miller Cox

We lost another music educator "star!" Our condolences and prayers go to the family, friends, and colleagues of **Ruth Miller Cox**, who passed away on September 11, 2016.

Retired from the public school music education in 1991, Ruth served in three school districts: Upper Darby, Haverford Township, and Lansdowne-Aldan/William Penn. According to her daughter Jennifer Cox, "She loved teaching high school choral music, and the beautiful candlelight Christmas concerts and annual early-spring shows that she directed were special occasions."



Ruth was a longstanding member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) and American Choral Directors Association. She served four years on the PMEA State Board and later was inducted into the PMEA Hall of Fame. In addition, she was a Life Member of the National Education Association. She was a featured retired member in the *Fall 2015 PMEA News*.

In 1988, she founded the Havertown Choristers, for which she directed for many years and in which she continued to sing and do behind-the-scenes work until her final illness. As a violist, she was a long-time member of Main Line Symphony Orchestra, serving as President for seventeen years. She also played her viola for many years as a member of Rose Valley Chorus and Orchestra.

Ruth sang with the Singing City Chorale, having the great joy of participating under the leadership of Elaine Brown when it was founded. She also sang with Temple University Choirs. Ruth served on the Board of the Alumni Association of West Chester University and was a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. A member of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, she was a faithful choir member, and also served as Choir President and Music Librarian.

Ruth Miller Cox will be remembered as "a joyful person and a born leader. She had a wonderful zest for life."



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by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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Ruth Miller Cox memorial contributions may be sent to
Lankenau Cancer Center
Heather Miller Cox Fund: Colorectal Cancer
Lankenau Medical Center
100 Lancaster Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096.



R³ update coming!

We are currently revising the **Retiree Resource Registry (R³)**, updating the data and adding new names, and will post new versions of the R³ Help Index and full Registry documents on the PMEA website over the next two weeks.

Interested in joining? Based on PMEA Retired Members' online survey responses, R³ archives a comprehensive record of music teacher retirees' present and past job assignments, history of career achievements and awards, current professional music and music education activities, and special talents and interests. The registry serves as a "who's who" directory of past leaders in PA music programs, as it documents the amazing contributions of some of the still most active albeit retired PMEA members.



The R³ shares this vast wealth of the PMEA Retired Member experiences and expertise in order to offer the entire PMEA membership access to a list of very willing and capable informal advisers or consultants if anyone needs "free" (but priceless) help on a specific issue, topic, or problem.

To sign-up for the R³, go to the Retired Members' section of the website, or click on this link: <https://pmea.wufoo.com/forms/pmea-retiree-resource-survey/>.

News from all over

One of the most important things "coming down the pike" from PMEA is the upcoming **election and proposed amendments to the bylaws**. Keep an eye on your "e-mail box" for the official state ballot (~ October 14), but before you vote, be sure to read the information PMEA Executive Director Abi Young previously sent to you (repeated at <http://www.pmea.net/news/important-pmea-election-information/>).

You will be asked to select a new **PMEA State President-Elect**, **General Music Content Area Rep**, and **Music Technology Content Area Rep**. In addition, you need to review and approve the changes to the **PMEA Bylaws** and governance. This is important stuff! Thank you in advance for your participation in guiding our professional association.

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One of the proposed amendments to the PMEA Bylaws defines the purpose and make-up of the **State Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention (TTRR)**... "The teacher training, recruitment and retention council shall discuss strategies which support the life cycle of a music educator." At the PMEA Summer Conference, I was elected Chair of the TTRR Council, which if approved by membership, will also be composed of a Society for Music Teacher Education (SMTE)/Higher Education coordinator, the PCMEA President, the PCMEA State Advisor, and others as determined by the State President with the approval of the PMEA State Board of Directors (likely to include Higher Education Reps from each PMEA District, the Mentor Program Chair, Tri-M Chair, Future Music Educators Honors Symposium Coordinator, and Research Coordinator. My opinion? Of course the bylaws have to be ratified first, but if you ask me, this is the "perfect council" on which retired members should assist. PMEA retirees are "natural-born" trainers, have vast experience in "recruitment and retention," and understanding first-hand our career's "life cycle." *Can I count on your help and support?*

Finally, your Retired Member Coordinator was asked to present at the **National Association for Music Education 55th Biennial Eastern Division Conference**. If you missed my session at the PMEA Summer Conference, I guess you'll have to go all the way to Atlantic City (April 5-8, 2017) to see the clinic "Living the Dream - Survival and Celebration of Retirement." When it is available, details about the Eastern Division Conference will be posted at <http://nafme-eastern.org/>.



Just for fun... sample retiree bumper stickers

- "Goodbye tension. Hello pension."
- "I'm speeding because I have to get there before I forget where I am going."
- "I may be old, but I got to see all the really cool bands."
- "Welcome to the Stone Age: Gall Stones, Kidney Stones, Bladder Stones."
- "You know that social security they keep taking out of your check? Well, it's going to me."
- "Over what hill? Where? When? I don't remember any hill."
- "Grandkids: life's little desserts."
- "Don't die wondering. Adventure before dementia."
- "Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional."

Thanks to <http://www.geezerplanet.com/>

Happy trails, retirees. Stay happy and healthy! Hope to hear from you soon! PKF

