



**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. Thank you for staying involved in PMEA!

## **"Ghostly" Halloween jokes from "Boy's Life"**

<http://boyslife.org/home/23079/funny-halloween-jokes/>



Comic by Scott Nickel



Comic by Jon Carter

What are a ghost's favorite rides at the fair? *The scary-go-round & rollerghoster!* (Sarah O., Springfield, MO)

Why do ghosts like to ride elevators? *It raises their spirits.* (Matthew R., Dix Hills, NY)

What do you get if you cross Bambi with a ghost? *Bamboo.* (Joshua T., Cheltenham, PA)

Why didn't the skeleton like the Halloween candy? *He didn't have the stomach for it.* (John C., Houston, TX)

What do you call wood when it is scared? *Petrified!* (Daniel B., Lincoln, NB)

What did the ghost say when the skeleton lied to him? *I can see right through you.* (Stephen S., Knoxville, TN)

Why couldn't the ghost see its mom and dad? *Because they were trans-parent.* (Jacob C., O'Fallon, IL)

## **Web updates... for your online reading list**

**"Ethics Follow-up"** by Paul Fox (October 19, 2017)

<https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2017/10/19/ethics-follow-up/>

**"T-Minus Three Years... and Counting"** by Paul Fox (September 30, 2017)

<https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2017/09/30/t-minus-three-years-and-counting/>

**"Retirement Lessons"** by Kathy Merlino (October 23, 2017)

<https://kathysretirementblog.com/2017/10/22/retirement-lessons/>

**"5 Ways Pets Can Add Love to Your Retirement"** by Dave Hughes (October 16, 2017)

<http://retirefabulously.com/blog/2017/10/16/5-ways-pets-can-add-love-retirement/>

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## One “spooky” hobby from a retired member – **Greg Maiocco**



What's a perfect pastime for “scaring the children” during this Halloween season? How about building horror and science fiction models for fun and competitive shows? (These pictures even frightened my wife!)

Retired in 2011 from the Northern Cambria School District, Greg Maiocco also shared that he has an N-gauge train layout and competes in NRA sanctioned indoor pistol and outdoor rifle shooting leagues.

He is a member of the **Retiree Resource Registry**, and has offered to help other PMEA members and pre-service teachers in



the following areas:

- ES Band
- MS Band
- HS Band
- HS Choral
- MS General Music
- MS Jazz
- HS Jazz



It probably does not come as a surprise to anyone who knows this former District 6 and Cambria County festival host - music is never far from him. “I also keep busy performing in several different bands,” said Greg.

After perusing these unique retiree diversions, I just have to wonder how Greg is going to “dress up” when he greets those “trick-o-treaters!”

## **Still looking for retired members' hobbies... this series and in *PMEA News***

Sometimes it is challenging to obtain feedback from our retirees... How's everything? What are you doing now? What would you like to know, learn, or do? How can I help?

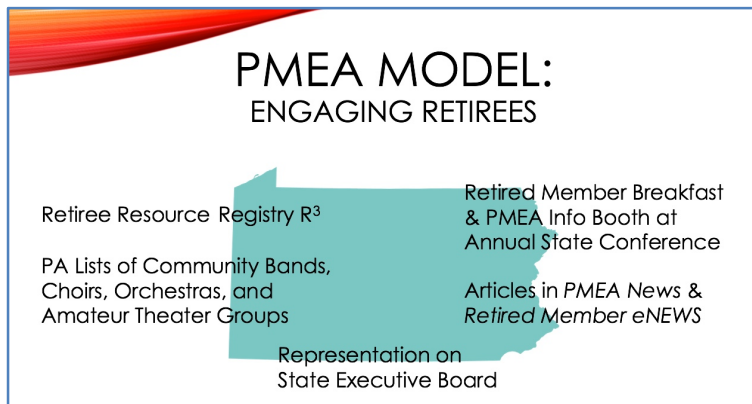
As they say, “a picture paints a thousand words.” If you could take a moment and send me a couple photos like Greg did after reading the last **Retired Member Network eNEWS** (featuring David Levin's “lathed” creations), I would be most appreciative. Include a description of your pastime or a couple picture captions. At least, it will confirm to me that at least several colleagues are actually reading this e-newsletter!





### **"I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine..."**

Pardon a moment of bragging, courtesy of your retired member coordinator: "PMEA's model of engagement for retired members cannot be matched by any other state!" During our retirement years, we have numerous opportunities for enjoying (what best-selling author Ernie Zelinski says are the three essentials for the job and life-after work): "finding purpose, structure, and community" within the profession.



Check out these benefits of membership:

- Recognition and archival of past and current professional accomplishments, assignments, interests, and awards.
- Sessions for retirees including planning for retirement, nurturing self-expression in community-based ensembles, and other inspiring post-employment enrichment.
- New "brain-engaging" outlets for learning, leadership, advocacy, "encore career" professional development, and service.
- Discounted membership dues and free or reduced-price admission to festivals, workshops, and (NAfME and PMEA) conferences. (How does \$10/early-bird registration for the coming PMEA spring conference in Lancaster, PA sound?)
- Once-a-year free retired member breakfast at the PMEA Spring Conference, a chance to "catch-up" with fellow retirees.

## What PMEA needs from its Retirees

- **Mentoring** of new/less experienced teachers
- **Advising** "best practices" in curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- **Serving** as leaders or consultants on local or state councils/boards
- **Volunteering** at local workshops and state conferences
- **Advocating** music education to the legislature and general public
- **Presenting** sessions at workshops or conferences
- **Conducting, coaching or accompanying** students at festivals
- **Assisting** in technology, teacher training, recruitment, auditions, etc.





## PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: October 27, 2017

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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Here are a few ways retired members can "return the favor" by helping PMEA.

1. Review the recently revised five-year PMEA Strategic Plan - posted online at <https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/PMEA-Strategic-Plan-2017-21-Final-1.pdf>. Focus on possible things in which you may have the skills or interests to contribute to our profession, and propose something new "for the good of the order." Here are sample objectives - any of these "strike a chord" with you?
  - 1E. Continue to improve and find new and innovative ways to engage PMEA members in advocacy efforts including Advocacy Day in Harrisburg and Music in Our Schools Month activities ("team-up" with retiree Chuck Neidhardt, PMEA State MIOSM Coordinator).
  - 2A. Explore topics of lifelong learning (music therapy, community music, service learning...)
  - 2E. Focus on topics of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access by providing space for dialogue, reaching more students beyond traditional ensembles, and identifying and promoting success stories and appropriate practices.
  - 3B. Investigate possibilities of various partnerships with other music associations.
  - 3E. Develop leadership (e.g. retreat and training sessions).
  - 4B. Promote and expand the Music Performance Assessment program (e.g. solo and chamber ensemble opportunities, virtual MPA's, and traveling adjudicators).
2. Still have your "conductor chops?" One way to encourage your colleagues to think of you in becoming a guest director or accompanist of a PMEA festival is to join the PMEA Retiree Resource Registry (see the retired member section of the website at <https://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>) and send an email sharing your interest and availability to the District President and the local Festival/Fest Coordinator.
3. Did you know that *anyone* can suggest a session for a local workshop or PMEA spring and summer conference? (See PMEA website) What's on your mind? What do you think is important to explore, collaborate, or exhibit? I know of few PMEA retired members who do not have a "special expertise" and passion about an area in music and education. Go ahead, "let the cat out of the bag" while it is still "fresh" in your mind!
4. Submit articles or reviews to our *PMEA News* editorial committee chair Doug Bolasky (also a retiree) for publication consideration in our state journal. Like #3 above, this is an excellent outlet to "get something off your chest," promote discussion on almost any topic, research areas you always wanted to unearth, share your thoughts and experiences, and state your opinion "for the record."
5. Offer to serve on a PMEA committee. For example, volunteer to serve on the listening or session evaluation committee. Prefer to stay "close to home?" Ask your District President if you can be appointed to (or be placed on the ballot for) one of the many leadership positions in need of caring, committed, and competent representatives. Also, PMEA always needs guest lecturers, panel discussion members, presiding chairs, and info booth volunteers for the spring conference.



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### **"I'm bored, and I don't know what to do..."**

Need a novel decision-making algorithm or "game" to help day-to-day retirement planning?

I've said it before... "Even the sky is no limit for retirees!"

First, recognize your "type" and make sure it is synchronized with the wish lists and needs of your spouse or other loved ones:



1. Would you prefer to stay home, take care of the grandkids, do some home improvements, cultivate a garden, and/or rescue a pet?
2. Or, what might "really float your boat" is to go on a cruise, take a road trip out west, fly to Europe, start a business, and/or accept a new full-time job?

Of course, these two sets of targets are not compatible. Worse yet, your family members may be on the opposite side to you for the planning/fulfilling of your joint retiree "bucket lists!"

Your former full-time music teaching employment automatically provided vast amounts of intellectual/emotional stimulation, recharging your curiosity quotient, and rekindling your creativity. Now it is "do-it-yourself time!"

Ignore negativity or being "tentative," like "I can't do that" or "How could I ever achieve \_\_\_\_?" The glass is half full or is it half empty? You taught to others the concepts of "stepping outside your comfort zone," personal leadership and adaptability your entire life... making choices in response to a challenge. Do you really have any limitations... other than your imagination? "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade!"

Do you want some divine intervention? How about a little "aleatory music" action? Here's the game: Roll the dice, and whatever number comes up first, do that (below):

1. Plan and complete a "random act of kindness."
2. Spend a half an hour or more perusing the <https://curiosity.com/> website.
3. Pick up the phone and call someone you haven't heard from for a while. If it's feasible, invite him or her to lunch.
4. Create something. This could be anything from a painting, doing a little bit of sculpture, a flower arrangement, new melody, poem, blog or article, etc.
5. Give something away or give an hour of your time to somebody. Double points if you can donate to someone needy. (There is really no scoring... just a feeling of success!)
6. Take the afternoon off and revisit a favorite book, movie, place to go, something that you did years ago... anything you have fond memories.





The six things-to-do are listed very generally, so if you spin the same number



consecutively, just do something different. (If you like #1 and had already done it this week, there's no rule you can't repeat it!) But, like the Monopoly board game, roll the same number three times in a row, "go directly to jail." Spend your time "in the cell" and reflect, and then as part of your parole, do something totally different... perhaps, make up your own random six things-to-try to inspire new goals.

To help you settle on a few new directions for your "free time," I recommend re-reading several of these eNEWS and other materials available at <https://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>, or even spring for the cost of a new book like the one I just ordered from Amazon: *What Color Is Your Parachute for Retirement* by John E. Nelson and Richard N. Bolles (Ten Speed Press, 2007).



## Halloween spoof! Gross... but, do you know the meaning of "satire?"

### "Spooky Retirement Home Leaves Dead Residents Out for Halloween"

by Blue Rock Public Radio (October 31, 2016)

<https://bluerockpublicradio.com/spooky-retirement-home-leaves-dead-residents-out-for-halloween-acd479d66573>

*Saying that he prides himself in making Halloween as festive as possible, Oak Pines Retirement Center manager Clark Johnston goes out of his way each year to decorate the facility with the bodies of its deceased residents.*



*"There's just something so magical about Halloween," Johnston explained, plugging his nose while motioning to a dead body propped up on the front porch. "We put Margaret out here in the front because she's definitely the spookiest."*

*"She died last Monday so she's even got some cobwebs," he added.*

*In addition to providing a more authentic and freaky Halloween experience, Johnston says the practice also saves money and allows the center's living residents to spend a little more time with their old friends.*

*"We usually lose at least one or two to fear-induced heart attacks along the way," he continued. "So, the decorations really just get better and better as the night goes on."*

BRPR programs are created, written, and performed by comedians acting as characters from the lovely town of Blue Rock, Missouri.

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### Coming back to Lancaster, PA – like revisiting an “old” friend



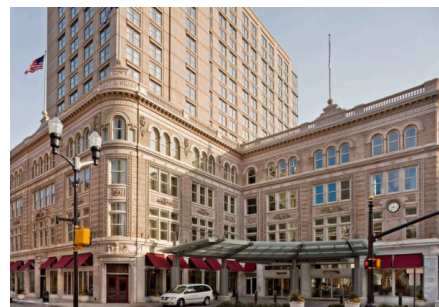
The 2018 PMEA Annual Spring In-Service Conference will be held April 19-21, 2018 at the Lancaster Marriott & Convention Center. Stay tuned for more details about sessions and performing groups. Hotels and registration information have been posted

online at <https://www.pmea.net/pmea-annual-in-service-conference/>.

One advantage of being a retired member is... **the \$10 early-registration fee.**

If you are an advance-planner and early-bird (like me), the “headquarters hotel” is the **Lancaster Marriott**, connected directly to the convention center. Additional hotels include the following (see above link for the group code):

- Hotel Lancaster
- Doubletree Resort by Hilton
- Lancaster Arts Hotel
- Cork Factory Hotel



Lancaster is a great place to take excursions. Did anyone suggest “road trip” for the grandchildren? Here are a few of the local (family-friendly) attractions you could

“squeeze around” the keynote presentations, innovative clinics, and featured concerts:

- Amish Farm and House Tour:  
[http://www.discoverlancaster.com/members/amish\\_farm\\_and\\_house.asp](http://www.discoverlancaster.com/members/amish_farm_and_house.asp)
- Dutch Country Roads: <http://visitpa.com/regions/dutch-country-roads>
- Historic Downtown Lancaster: <http://www.discoverlancaster.com/vacation-ideas/city.asp>
- Historic Lancaster Walking Tour:  
[http://www.discoverlancaster.com/members/historic\\_lancaster\\_walking\\_tour.asp](http://www.discoverlancaster.com/members/historic_lancaster_walking_tour.asp)
- Kitchen Kettle Village: <http://www.discoverlancaster.com/members/kitchen-kettle-village.asp>
- Lancaster Central Market:  
[http://www.discoverlancaster.com/members/lancaster\\_central\\_market.asp](http://www.discoverlancaster.com/members/lancaster_central_market.asp)
- Lancaster County Shopping: <http://www.discoverlancaster.com/shopping/index.asp>
- Lancaster's Wolf Sanctuary: <http://www.discoverlancaster.com/seasons/visiting-lancaster-in-spring.asp?story=lancasters-wolf-sanctuary>
- More Historic Sites: <http://www.discoverlancaster.com/vacation-ideas/towns-villages-trips.asp>
- More Things-to-Do: <http://www.discoverlancaster.com/activities/index.asp>
- Places to Eat: <http://www.discoverlancaster.com/dining/pennsylvania-dutch-dining.asp>
- Riverlands (the great outdoors):  
<http://www.discoverlancaster.com/towns-and-heritage/riverlands.asp>



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### Last minute musical costumes?

<https://www.pinterest.com/merideewinters/musical-halloween-costumes/?lp=true>

I said to my wife, I guess I'll go to the orchestra's Halloween party as a **fermata**... the giant notational symbol drawn on a white sweatshirt with the caption, "Please hold me." Or perhaps, I'll use the idea I gave to the members of my school drumline... rows of large **# & @ \$ \*** with the caption, "Look out for the cymbals!" (Not very original?)

Well, there are a lot of musician costumes out there... thanks to Pinterest (above link). Just take a gander. Don't forget to buy the candy!



### Upcoming conferences... "get-a-way" to do more "life-long learning"

#### NAfME National In-Service Conference

November 12-15, 2017 in Gaylord, TX

<http://nationalconference.nafme.org/>

#### American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Conference

March 7-10, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA

<http://acdaeast.org/pittsburgh-2018/>

#### 2018 Biennial Music Research and Teacher Education National Conference

March 22-24, 2018 at Atlanta, GA

<https://research.nafme.org/>

#### PMEA 2018 Annual Spring In-Service Conference

April 19-21, 2018 in Lancaster, PA

<https://www.pmea.net/pmea-annual-in-service-conference/>

#### PMEA 2019 and NAfME Eastern Division Conference

April 3-7, 2019 in Pittsburgh, PA

**Happy trails, retirees. Happy Halloween!** Hope to see you soon! Stay in touch PKF

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