



**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!

### **Senior funnies: Are these both humorous and true?**

Here's somebody who has as *questionable (?)* a sense of humor as your Retired Member Coordinator! These *hee-haws* are from fellow retiree Dr. John V. D'Ascenzo. Thanks! (Have something better? Send *your* funniest senior citizen quip or joke to [paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com).)

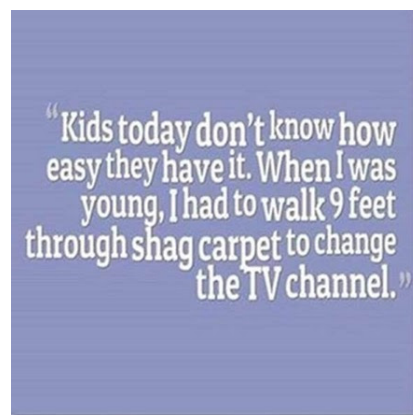
If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.

A whale swims all day, only eats fish, and drinks water, but is still fat.

A rabbit runs, and hops, and only lives 15 years, while a tortoise doesn't run, and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years. And they tell us to exercise? I don't think so.

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.
3. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
5. If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
6. It was a whole lot easier to get older than it was to get wiser.
7. Some days, you're the top dog, some days you're the hydrant.
8. I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
9. Kids in the back-seat cause accidents.
10. Accidents in the back-seat cause kids.
11. It is hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
12. The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
13. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
14. When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.
15. It is not hard to meet expenses. They're everywhere.
16. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
17. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter... I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after."
18. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
19. It is a lot better to be seen than viewed.
20. Have I sent this message to you before... or did I get it from you?





## Sudler Silver Scroll recognition

Has your community ensemble won competitive awards, been showcased at numerous conferences, and "made it big" on YouTube? Kudos and bravos go to the Montgomery County Concert Band directed by **Chuck Neidhardt** which did all of these things performing Robert W. Smith's *Winds of Poseidon*. Check out the performance of their audition piece: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsQA--wIysw&feature=share>.

Chuck is understandably thrilled:

"I am very proud of the Montgomery County Concert Band for being selected the second time to perform at the 2019 convention of the Association of Concert Bands next April."



Presenting the award plaque to Assistant Director Bret Mascaro (left) and Director Chuck Neidhardt (center) is Ron Keller (right), Chair of the Sudler Silver Scroll Committee.

The Sousa Foundation presents the prestigious **Sudler Silver Scroll Award** "to identify, recognize, and honor those community bands that have demonstrated particularly high standards of excellence in concert activities over a period of several years, and which have played a significant and leading role in the cultural and musical environment in their respective communities." The band received the award during the 2017 Mid-West Clinic. According to Chuck, "We are only the fourth community band from PA to receive this." It involves a lengthy process, including submitting a 30-minute CD, six reference letters from college directors and community members, evidence of educational outreach, and publicity records. (See <http://www.sousafoundation.net/Default.aspx?ID=15>.)

## What does the concept of "rewirement" have to do with retirement?

- **Rewirement — As Good As It Gets!** by Eve Beck in *HUFFPOST*:  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/eve-beck/rewirement-as-good-as-it-\\_b\\_5807452.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/eve-beck/rewirement-as-good-as-it-_b_5807452.html)
- **The Age of Rewirement** by Jeff Weiss in *Age of Majority*:  
<https://www.ageofmajority.com/the-age-of-rewirement/>
- **Are You Ready for ReWIREment?** by Deri Latimer in *Positively Speaking*:  
<https://www.derilatimer.com/are-you-ready-for-rewirement/>
- **Rewirement - Live with Zest - Find Your Path** by Laura Galbato in *North of 52*:  
<https://northof52.com/rewirement-path/>
- **Rewirement vs. Retirement** by Glenn Baja in *Thrive After 50*:  
<https://thriveafter50.com/rewirement-vs-retirement/>

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/>





## Trolling the Internet... for “golden” retirement sites

- “Retirement Stories by Real People” in *Life After Job*  
<https://www.lifeafterjob.com/retirement-stories-by-real-people.html>
- “The Incredible Power of Positive Affirmation to Change Lives” in *Satisfying Retirement*  
<https://satisfyingretirement.blogspot.com/2018/08/Power-of-positive-affirmation.html>
- “Retirement and Pets: Do They Limit Your Lifestyle?” in *Satisfying Retirement*  
<https://satisfyingretirement.blogspot.com/2018/08/having-pets-during-retirement.html>
- “The Best Retirement Blogs of 2018” in *Mason Finance*  
<https://www.masonfinance.com/blog/the-best-retirement-blogs-of-2018/>

## Revisiting one of our favorite “retirement gurus!”

Dave Hughes has just released several great blog posts, and announced his work on a third book, *The Quest for Retirement Utopia: How to Find the Retirement Spot That's Just Right for You* (planned for release in 2019). We treasure his perspective:

- “Retirement Is Like a Buffet - Will You Stuff Yourself or Starve?”  
<http://retirefabulously.com/2018/08/03/retirement-buffet/>
- “Let's Skip the Silly Euphemisms and Embrace Our Age”  
<http://retirefabulously.com/2018/08/12/skip-silly-euphemisms-and-embrace-our-age/>

If you have not already enjoyed Dave Hughes' two outstanding paperbacks (for which we have reviewed in past issues of eNEWS), go purchase them TODAY. His website's e-commerce is at <http://retirefabulously.com/books/>.



## Will the quill ever run dry?

PMEA values the vast wealth of experience and contributions of our retired members, which constitute approximately 10% of all PA music education colleagues who annually pay their dues. Our professional association needs your support and *action*!

In short, I am not a “mind reader.” I rely on retirees to respond to my call for personal anecdotes, suggestions, and updates of their local news, honors, and other happenings. Otherwise, how would I have known about Chuck Neidhardt and the Montgomery County Concert Band receiving the Sudler Silver Scroll Award, or be able to feature an article about William Naydan organizing the building of a monument in the next *PMEA News*? Thankfully, retired members register for the **Retiree Resource Registry**, help edit and add to the **PA Amateur Band, Chorus, Orchestra, and Theater Group Directories**, and have just launched a **PMEA Member Composition List**. Well, our former retired member coordinator Ben Holste often told me it might be a challenge to hear from the retirees - even perhaps to receive a guest-authored piece or to share a joke or two! **Please HELP!**

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/>

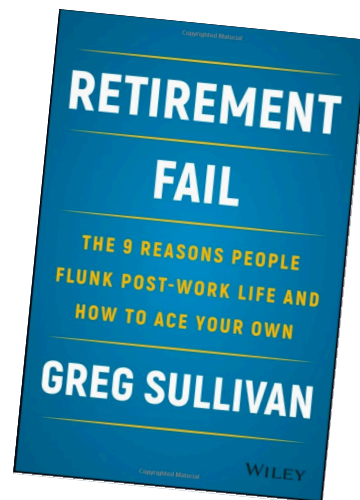






### Book-of-the-month – *Retirement Fail*

You may have noticed that in this forum we tend to shy away from books with a primary focus on finances, investments, and estate planning. However, for this issue, we take an exception. Wealth adviser Greg Sullivan, author of the hardback *Retirement Fail - The 9 Reasons People Flunk Post-Work Life and How to Ace Your Own*, provides real-life stories that "explore the difficult financial situations people have found themselves in and how they managed to come out on the other side." As quoted from the side panel, "Sullivan takes the contrarian view that it isn't poor portfolio performance that breaks the retirement bank. The real reason retirees get into financial trouble is the emotional decisions they tend to make with their assets." He jokes with his clients that "the things you have to care for that weigh more than 50 pounds" wreak havoc on retirement finances! "Grown kids, houses, horses, cars, boats." His "mission" and the purpose for his published work can be framed in a single question: "What is most important to you in your post-work life and how can you translate that into your day-to-day living and decision-making?"



Sullivan's Table of Contents covers a lot of topics:

1. A (Too) Free Flow of Cash
2. The Nest That Won't Empty
3. Graying Divorce
4. That Home Away from Home
5. The Lure of the Entrepreneur
6. Swindler's Mark
7. Health Matters
8. Life's Unpredictabilities
9. Underliving Your Wealth

Want to get ahead of "The Fox?"  
Future book reports...

- *I've Decided to Live 120 Years* by Ilchi Lee
- *The New Retirement: The Ultimate Guide to the Rest of Your Life* by Jan Cullinane and Cathy Fitzgerald
- *12 Rules for Life - An Antidote to Chaos* by Norman Doidge

The final section provides recommendations on and a checklist for finding the right financial advisor.

**Happy trails, retirees.** Best wishes in your pursuit of full-time post-employment bliss! Please send me *stuff*... What have you been up to? "Action photos" are always welcomed! Also, if you have not done so already, please renew your PMEA retired membership. **Otherwise, this may be your last edition of eNEWS!** PKF

