



Welcome to the latest edition of **eNEWS** - the **PMEA Retired Member Network**... an informal alliance and forum for interconnecting retired music educators, and sharing ideas, stories, successes, news, and views. This *early-bird May edition* invites you to come to the **PMEA 2019 Advocacy Day** (turn to page 4). Thanks for staying involved!

Best retirement jokes from ThinkAdvisor

<https://www.thinkadvisor.com/2015/09/16/31-best-retirement-jokes/?slreturn=20190319085812>

- When is a retiree's bedtime? Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.
- A reporter was interviewing a 103-year-old woman. "And what do you think is the best thing about being 103?" "No peer-pressure!"
- "Today we would like to thank Albert for his service to our company. Albert is someone who does not know the meaning of 'impossible task,' who does not know the meaning of 'lunch break,' who does not understand the meaning of the word "no!" So, we clubbed together and bought him a dictionary."
- I was thinking about how people seem to read the bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me... they were cramming for their finals!
- A World War II veteran earned his HS diploma when he was 91 years old, 74 years after dropping out. When asked what happens next, he said: "College girls."
- You know you're over the hill when your back goes out more than you do.
- "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."
- A retired man who volunteers to entertain patients in nursing homes and hospitals went to one local hospital in Brooklyn and took his portable keyboard along. He told some jokes and sang some funny songs at patients' bedsides. When he finished, he said in farewell, "I hope you get better." One elderly gentleman replied, "I hope you get better, too."
- Remixes of famous songs: "You're So Varicose Vein" by Carly Simon, "How Can You Mend a Broken Hip" by the BeeGees, "I Can't See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash, "These Boots Give Me Arthritis" by Nancy Sinatra, and "Once, Twice, Three Trips to the Bathroom" by the Commodores.
- You know you are a retiree when... You and your teeth don't sleep together.
- You know you are a retiree when... You try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks and discover you aren't wearing any.
- You know you are a retiree when... Your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio.
- An elderly gentleman who had had serious hearing problems went to the doctor to be fitted for a hearing aid. The elderly gentleman went back for further tests a month later and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." To which the gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times."



Image by Christian Dorn (Connongt) from Pixabay.com





Rogues' gallery... PMEA retirees are always on the move!

Please send more "stuff" to paulkfox.usc@gmail.com



1. What do these three photos have to do with a retired (but multi-talented) music teacher?



2. How many instruments can this former PMEA District President play simultaneously?

3. Weren't you invited to the party?? Where were these happy retirees "breaking bread"?



4. Who is this familiar face recognized at the conference for her service to PMEA?



5. In case you missed it, who was running the 2019 NafME/PMEA INFO BOOTH?

Answers:

- 1. Doug Bolasky, a race car driver (August 2018), coach bus driver for Perkiomen Tours & Travel, and tuba player in the Allentown Band, featured in the closing Showcase Concert of the 2019 New York International Music Festival at Carnegie Hall (NYC) on April 16, 2019.
- 2. Matthew Boice: As many as you need!
- 3. The annual PMEA Retired Members Breakfast Meeting at the spring conference, this one in the David Lawrence Convention Center.
- 4. Marie Weber: Life-Time Honorary Membership
- 5. Dr. John D'Ascenzo, former music teacher from the School District of Philadelphia





Answering that “age-old” question: “Are you really retired?”

Contributed by Douglas Bolasky - If you had to, how would YOU respond?

When people ask, I usually say "semi-retired" or "retired from public school teaching." But I classify myself less as "retired" (because for most folks, that conjures up images of an old man sitting on a couch watching game shows on TV with the volume cranked all the way up) and more accurately as "free." Free to do those things I never had time to do while still in the classroom. Free to have that second cup of coffee in the morning (or maybe spike that first cup with some peppermint vodka!). Free to go take a nap after I pack the Mrs. off to school. And yes, free to say "no" when asked if I want to work. I rather enjoy my "second career," so you may be right to comment that perhaps we do not often say "no" enough.



Relating his experience in playing at Carnegie Hall with the Allentown Band on April 16, 2019...

Playing on stage at Carnegie is amazing. Now, that's a word that is over-used these days, but there is no other way to describe it. No matter where you sit on that stage, you can hear all other parts and in great detail. The net result is the space actually makes it easier to be musical and artistic. Our conductor is always scolding us in the "heavy metal" section for playing too loud. And it's not that we don't take his word for it when he says it's distorting the balance, but we simply don't have the aural feedback to validate what he's saying. During Tuesday's concert, well, you can hear everybody else's part so clearly that you don't need the conductor's help setting up the proper balance. Just plain amazing!

So, yeah, in addition to just being on stage where some of the greatest musicians of all time have performed, it is an unparalleled musical experience.

So, when does he find time to do everything? Really?

Doug's possible "short list" of things-to-do:

- Drive a coach bus overnight to cities all over the east coast
- Conduct *Les Misérables* (or other musical) at Emmaus High School
- Add a new string orchestra music to his online library of Lehigh Valley Digital Music Press
- Practice his tuba for an upcoming Allentown Band event
- Arrange a new piece for brass instruments to be published by Cimarron Music Press
- Organize/write/edit for *PMEA News*.

Wow! Who can keep up with him?

Latest and greatest at <https://paulfox.blog/>

Blogs by Paul Fox, PMEA State Retired Member Coordinator

- "WHEN to Retire"
- "Unconditional Love (Dogs)"
- *Coming soon:* "Retirees - It's Not Your Sandbox"

The "one-stop link" to advice and resources on retirement transitioning, encore careers, "senior" health needs, hobbies, finances, travel, volunteering, and self-reinvention is...
<https://paulfox.blog/for-retirees/>.

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Join us for the 2019 PMEA Music Education Advocacy Day!

From by Mark Despokatiss, Chair of PMEA State Advocacy Council

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2019 PMEA Advocacy Day in Harrisburg on April 29, 2019. Your voice is valuable in our goal of making music and arts education a reality for every child in Pennsylvania. Retired music teachers can "make a difference," and besides, it's FUN to visit the Capitol and meet our elected representatives.

Here is the proposed schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. - PMEA Registration Table Open in Main Rotunda
- 9:00 a.m. - Advocacy Council Meeting (108 Irvis Office Building)
- 10:30 am - PMEA News Conference - Main Rotunda

Here are some documents to help in the background and planning of Advocacy Day:

How to Request A Meeting, Logistical Information

<https://cqrcengage.com/pmea/file/GT1zO1am31Q/2019%20Advocacy%20Day.pdf>

Please review this how-to-guide showing you how to request meetings with members of the Pennsylvania legislature, the advocacy day schedule, and logistical information.

2019 PMEA Legislative Recommendations

<https://cqrcengage.com/pmea/file/9HoXxuc3RK6/2019%20PMEA%20Legislative%20recommendations.pdf>

2019 PMEA Legislative Recommendations with Talking Points

<https://cqrcengage.com/pmea/file/bnvdkm1cDyv/2019%20PMEA%20Legislative%20recommendations%20with%20talking%20points.pdf>

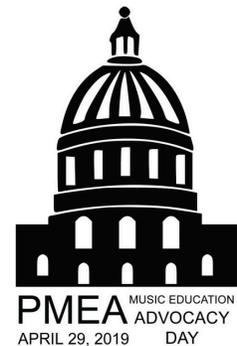
What to Expect in a Legislative Meeting

<https://cqrcengage.com/pmea/file/KJbRr5NnuDY/PMEA%20WhattoExpect.pdf>

Some quick information about what you might expect in a legislative meeting.

More information and a registration link are posted on the Advocacy Day website:

<https://www.pmea.net/specialty-areas/advocacy/>



“Cheesy” (?) music jokes...

Thanks to Elizabeth Mulvahill posted at <https://www.weareteachers.com/music-jokes/>

1. How do you make a band stand? Take away their chairs.
2. How many concertmasters does it take to change a light bulb? Just one, but it takes four movements.
3. Middle C, E-Flat, and G walked into a bar. "Sorry," the bartender says to the E-Flat, "we don't serve minors here."
4. What do you get if Bach falls off a horse but has the courage to get on again and continue riding? Bach in the saddle again!
5. Why was the musician arrested? Because she got in treble.



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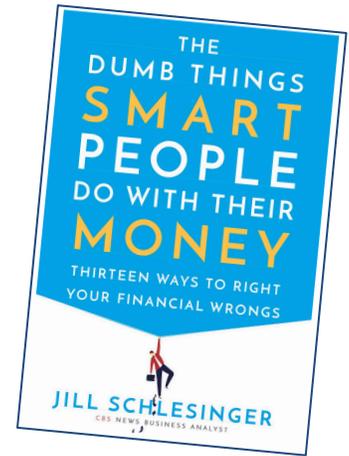




Book-of-the-month:

The Dumb Things Smart People Do with Their Money

One thing you can count on... radio talk show host and CBS News Business Analyst Jill Schlesinger will always "tell it like it is!" She shares her tips on breaking habits of bad money management, with pragmatic and accessible rules for avoiding well-intentioned mistakes (like taking on too much risk when you invest). Drawing on heartfelt personal stories, she argues that "it's not a lack of smarts that causes even the brightest, most accomplished people among us to behave like financial dumb-asses, but simple emotional blind spots."



From Amazon.com: "Practical, no-nonsense, and often counter-intuitive, *The Dumb Things Smart People Do with Their Money* tells you what you really need to hear about retirement, college financing, insurance, real estate, and more. It might just be the smartest investment you make all year."

Schlesinger sets the stage in her Introduction: "Some popular money books offer get-rich-quick advice or dumbed-down financial guidance. Not this one. As I found, most people prefer straight talk, usable money tips that help you navigate your financial journey, with common sense and an insider's perspective on how to manage your emotions. I've also found that as Julie Andrews says, 'just a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down,' so, we're going to spend just a little time laughing at our own folly. How could we not? We are all flawed human beings who make terrible choices (hello, from the woman with two failed marriages under her belt!), including financial ones. And while these choices hurt, many of them are also pretty damn funny, so long as you can come to except your flaws and forgive yourself for them."

The Contents "lays it on" with "The Dumb Things..." How many of these have you done?

1. You buy financial products that you don't understand
2. You take financial advice from the wrong people
3. You make money more important than it is
4. You take on too much college debt
5. You buy a house when you should rent
6. You take on too much risk
7. You failed to protect your identity
8. You indulge yourself too much during your early retirement years
9. You saddle your kids with your own money issues
10. You don't plan for the care of your aging parents
11. You buy the wrong kind of insurance, or not at all
12. You don't have a will
13. You try to "time" the market



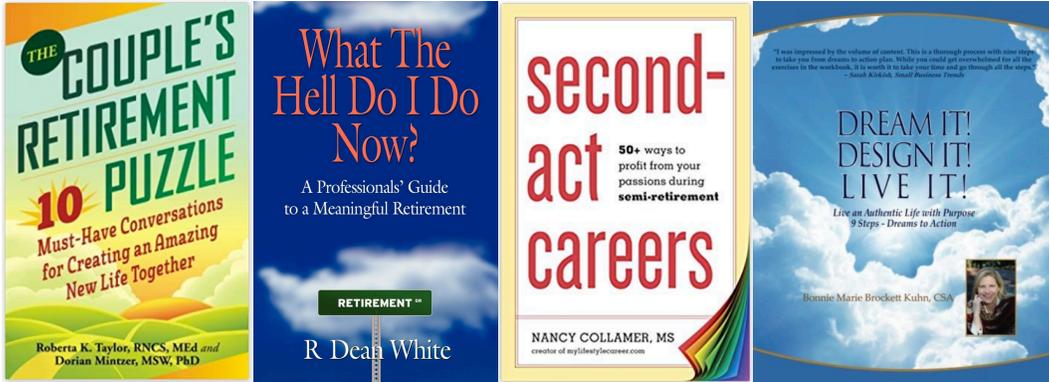
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Future “retiree reading reviews” – Want to get a head-start?



CODA: Look at these links...

There’s always something to learn “out there” on the World Wide Web!

- Retired Educators Rock! http://www.nea.org/home/62617.htm
25 Things to Do When You Retire: https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/baby-boomers/articles/2018-03-30/25-things-to-do-when-you-retire
20 Reasons to Thank a Music Teacher: http://sueonmusic.com/?p=339

FINE: Feedback requested! (Anyone out there?)

How are we doing? Are you getting what you want out of your PMEA Retired Member benefits? Do you agree with our stated “goals” listed to the right? Do you have any suggestions “for the good of the order?”

Second, we are always looking for articles for PMEA News and this e-publication.

Finally, don't force your retired member coordinator to “troll the Internet” to find out about your recent accomplishments and happenings! Please send retiree news, views, and even “heard through the grapevine” items about other members! Thanks for your help!

Happy trails, retirees! Please continue to “living the dream!” Bring on the spring season! PKF

- Assess
Collaborate
Transition
Inform
Validate
Advocate
Train
Engage



ACTIVATE PMEA Retired Members



GOALS OF PMEA: Assess the needs and interests of PMEA Retired Members. Collaborate on various new projects and programs. Help soon-to- retire members to Transition the passage to a happy and healthy retirement. Inform them of news and happenings from PMEA and its retirees and active members. Validate and archive their contributions to the profession. Advocate for them and their views and goals. Train them towards meaningful self-reinvention and personal growth. Engage them to continue “making a difference” in PMEA and the music education profession.

Number of PMEA Retired Members = 362 (as of 3/1/19)
Number of PMEA Retiree Resource Registry participants = 137

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