



PMEA Retired Member Network **eNEWS**: September 5, 2019

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Retired Members

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Welcome to the latest edition of **eNEWS** - the **PMEA Retired Member Network**... an informal alliance and forum for interconnecting retired **and retiring** music educators, sharing their ideas, stories, successes, news, and views. Thanks for staying involved!

Nyah Nyah! We don't have to go back to school!

Post-Summer Vacation Jokes contributed by *Boys' Life* readers

<https://boyslife.org/features/32016/back-to-school-jokes/>

Luke comes home from his first day of school, and his mother asks, "What did you learn today?"

"Not enough," Luke replies. "They said I have to go back tomorrow." *Submitted by Luke C., Somers, NY*

Nate: Why was school easier for cave people?

Kate: Why?

Nate: Because there was no history to study! *Submitted by Nathaniel R., Glendale, WI*

David: Why did the broom get a poor grade in school?

Dan: I don't know. Why?

David: Because it was always sweeping during class! *Submitted by David L., Hicksville, NY*

Teacher: Tommy, can you tell us where the Declaration of Independence was signed?

Tommy: Yes, ma'am. At the bottom. *Submitted by Luke M., Morganton, NC*

Teacher: Class, we will have only half a day of school this morning.

Class: Hooray!

Teacher: We will have the other half this afternoon. *Submitted by Kyle S., Chesapeake, VA*

Jacob: Why was the teacher wearing sunglasses to school?

Leonard: Why?

Jacob: She had bright students! *Submitted by Jacob B., South Bend, IN*

Teacher: Why did you eat your homework, Joe?

Joe: Because I don't have a dog. *Submitted by Austin C., Bowie, MD*

What kind of school do you go to if you're...

...an ice cream man? Sundae school.

...a giant? High school.

...a surfer? Boarding school.

...King Arthur? Knight school. *Submitted by Ryan K., North Platte, NE*



Books never written:

- *The Best Subject in School* by Jim Class
- *High School Math* by Cal Q. Luss
- *When Does School Start?* by Wendy Belrings

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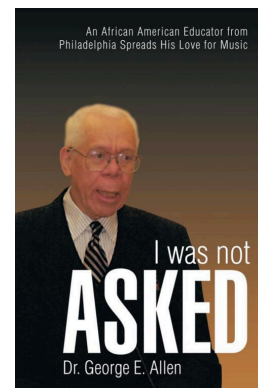


Autobiography: *I Was Not Asked!*

<https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/i-was-not-asked-1>

Excerpt from eBook online synopsis of retired member Dr. George Allen

*In his memoir, Dr. George E. Allen looks back at a career spanning more than five decades of teaching music to Philadelphia students. Early on in life, he learned about many styles of music, and he took his love of the art to college, where he earned multiple degrees before joining the Philadelphia School District. There, he earned the respect of students, fellow music teachers, and music administrators. It wasn't easy, but he did it his way and enjoyed positive results. He inspired the same type of dogged effort in his students, relying on a phrase that he placed at the beginning of all his syllabi: *It is better to know than to think you know.* [by Ellis Marsalis, the father of jazz musician Wynton] "It was time for me to begin serious work on writing about my experience as a music educator in Philadelphia because I did it differently with satisfying results." - Allen*



WE WANT YOU: "Give me your retired and retiring members..."

Okay, this may sound a little like an advertisement! (It is!)

However, every association *needs* their most senior members to step up and serve as "sages," "gurus," "consultants," and "navigators" - to help sustain the mission of PMEA!

It's all about "giving back to the profession" and helping newer or less experienced teachers. Now that you have more "free" time, we suggest getting involved in new ways:

- Join the Retiree Resource Registry (R³ survey at <https://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>)
- Accompany, coach, or guest conduct a music festival or school/community group
- Judge local/state adjudication festivals
- Participate as guest lecturer or panel discussion member at a conference, workshop, or college methods program.
- Promote the cause of music education during political forums like PMEA Advocacy Day
- Serve as conference presiding chair, INFO booth aide, or member of the PMEA planning or listening committees for future sessions or rank participants for All-State/All-East
- Write for PMEA or NAFME publications
- Run for local or state PMEA office or council position

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.



What Retirees need from PMEA

- Recognition and archival of their past and current professional accomplishments, assignments, interests, and awards.
- Sessions for retirees, perhaps the exploration of topics such as planning retirement, finding purpose in post-employment years, and nurturing self-expression in community ensemble participation, etc.
- New "brain-engaging" outlets for learning, leadership, advocacy, "encore career" professional development, and service.
- Discounts for attending festivals, workshops, and conferences.

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More retirees **"on the move!"**

"A busy retired member is a happy retired member!"

Send your vacation, "encore career," or pet pics to paulkfox.usc@gmail.com.



*Amy Perchy conducting the
Wehnwood Community String Ensemble*



*Ken Husler still providing school
service visits for Menchey Music*



*Number 1 Penn State fan?
Dr. Roderick Booker*



What island did the Galvins cruise to??

St. Marteen



*Is this Sherry Barben teaching at the
Central Oaks Heights Music Camp?*



*The Ohio Valley Community Band was featured
at Kennywood Park on July 2!*

Lists of
community
bands and
other
ensembles
are posted
online in
the PMEA
retired
member
focus area.



*Where were you on July 28? Did you play in D.C.
with the Hollidaysburg Community Band?*

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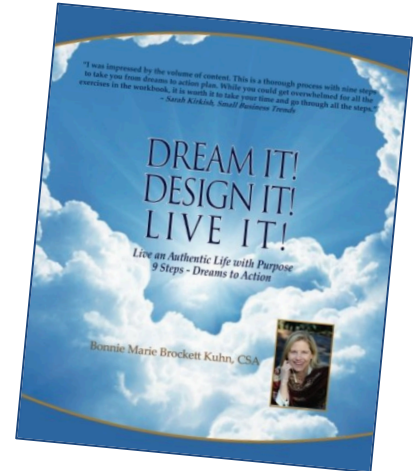


Book-of-the-month: *Dream It! Design It! Live It!*

by Bonnie Marie Brockett Kuhn

The illustration on the back cover summarizes it all:

"Connect, share, and celebrate with a community that will champion your dreams, your goals, and foster your success, so you can thrive." Author Bonnie Marie Kuhn introduces her book with this concept: "Creating a nurturing, advocating, and encouraging environment that supports your success will enable your goal pursuit to become much more effortless. Surround yourself with like-minded people who choose to make a difference and live life on purpose." As a professional "life coach," she poses these questions:



- Who do you want to be?
- What do you want to do?
- What do you want to have?
- What do you need?
- What do you want to give?
- How do you want to be remembered?
- What footprint do you want to leave as your legacy?
- How do you want to make a difference?

She defines her steps for self-realization (quoted from the back cover):

- Align your values, strengths, weaknesses, personality type, and cornerstones that authenticate your life.
- Get clear on what you want through an informative and thought-provoking account of the relationships, things and money you have now, what you desire and what you really aspire to have that will create the life of your dreams.
- Connect with your personal resources that in power, encourage, and motivate you.
- Achieve your goals with a timeless step-by-step process and practical tools to help you prioritize, organize, schedule, plan, implement and achieve your goals.
- Celebrate, nurture, and reward your progress achievements both great and small.

Offering a more positive, reflective, and inspiring perspective presented thus far to this forum, this publication is designed for anyone wishing to live a better life at any age: entering retirement, managing life/career transitions, reducing stress, improving health and wellbeing, filling and fulfilling bucket-lists, and finding true meaning and purpose "in a harmonious, joyful, happy, successful, enriching, and prosperous life."

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Be careful you don't accidentally "opt out" of PMEA UPDATES!

This may be your last eNEWS! Your 2018-19 PMEA membership ended on June 30. If you have not done so already, it is time to renew for 2019-2020! Dues are \$140 for active (working), \$67 for retired, and \$30 for PMEA-only retired.

If this is your first time signing into the PMEA website since June 1, you will need to create a new log-in. Membership can be paid online or from a mailed-in PDF invoice form. (See <https://www.pmea.net/membership-information/>).

General Communication Options

Note that if you select **Do Not Email?** you will not receive any email blasts, but you will still receive confirmation emails.

☐ Do Not Email?
☐ Do Not Mail?
☐ Do Not Fax?

Message Categories

Below you can opt out of certain "categories" of communication, allowing you to control what kinds of emails you get. When an email blast is sent, if you have chosen to opt out of the category you will be automatically excluded from the blast. Below are the message categories for which you will receive messages.

You are opted IN to these lists	You are opted OUT of these lists
Music Educators Journal	
Advocacy	
PMEA Updates	
Upcoming Events & Webinars	

Whatever you do, **don't opt out** receiving PMEA emails and notifications, and never hit the "unsubscribe" button at the bottom of the Constant Contact emailed bulletins. When you review your personal profile, make sure the box "do not email" is not checked under communications preferences (above), and new retirees, be sure to update your email account to a home or personal address. That's the only way to **stay connected** to PMEA!

Perusing the 'Net

It is amazing the variety of topics one can unearth with random Google searches. From buying a house to encore-career planning, take a moment and view these:

- "Over 60 and Buying Your First Home? Here's What You Need to Know" by Ilyce Glink and Samuel J. Tamkin (*Washington Post*) https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/03/18/over-buying-your-first-home-heres-what-you-need-know/?utm_term=.1c979761fa35
- "Global Summit 2019 - The Consumers of Tomorrow" by Ken Dychtwald (*Age Wave*) (start the video at 21:00) <https://wttc.wistia.com/medias/rdai6siz8j>
- "If You're Over 55, Take This Job and Love It" by Darla Mercado (*CNBC*) <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/02/17/if-youre-over-55-take-this-job-and-love-it.html>
- "Thinking Outside the Box When Making Career Changes" by Lori Schwartz Reichl (*NafME Music in a Minuet*) <https://nafme.org/thinking-outside-box-when-making-career-changes/>

Top ten crazy hobbies

by Balint (*Kaplan*) <https://www.kaplaninternational.com/blog/fun-facts-unusual-hobbies>

Have you ever seen these bizarre pursuits and pastimes? (Samples are at the above link!)

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Tree shaping | 5. Stone skipping | 9. Competitive duck herding |
| 2. Beetle fighting | 6. Geocaching | 10. Toy voyaging |
| 3. Newsraiding | 7. Suing | |
| 4. Extreme ironing | 8. Element collecting | |

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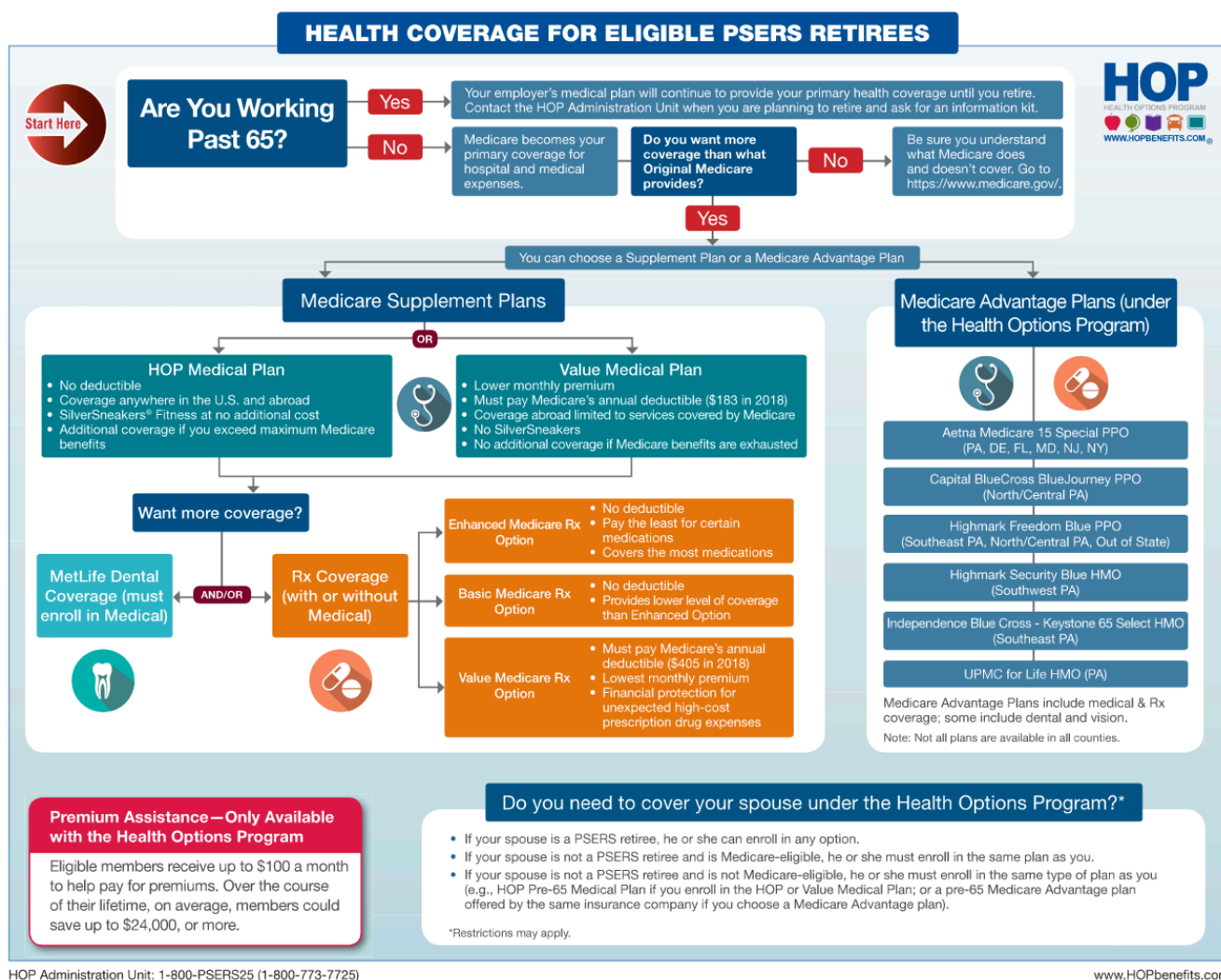


PSERS HOP study guide

Pensioners, are you a part of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS), and are preparing to make some new family health insurance decisions soon?

As promised, we will share stories about HOP and other medical plans. Any "more senior" retired members have any advice for us "newbies" about to reach our 65th birthdays?

Check out this chart summarizing the Health Options Plan. Download the full guide from PSERS: https://www.hopbenefits.com/pdfs/2019/PSERS_2019_Medicare-Eligible%20Guide_PRT.pdf



Happy trails, retirees! Keep connected with your active and retired colleagues! PKF

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