

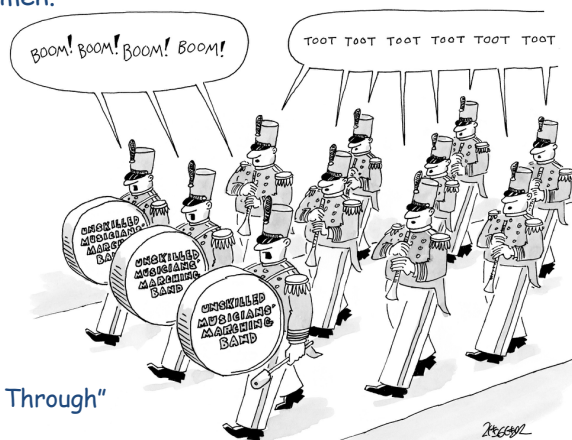


Welcome to the latest edition of **eNEWS** - the **PMEA Retired Member Network**... an informal alliance and forum for interconnecting retired **and retiring** music educators, sharing their ideas, stories, successes, news, and views. Thanks for staying involved!

## Eleven "dad" jokes fit for Father's Day

by Devon Broderick <https://www.inman.com/2019/06/13/11-dad-jokes-fit-for-fathers-day/>

1. I think I want to quit my real estate job. I'd rather clean mirrors for a living. It's just something I can see myself doing.
2. Wanna hear a joke about a stone? Never mind, I'll just skip that one.
3. Son: "Dad, are you alright?" Dad: "No, I'm half left and half right."
4. If you have 13 apples in one hand and 10 oranges in the other, what do you have? Big hands.
5. Know why they use knots instead of miles in the ocean?  
Because they've got to keep the ocean tide.
6. Daughter: "Dad, I'm cold." Dad: "Go stand in a corner. It's 90 degrees."
7. Jimmy (reading facts and figures from his dad's insurance tables): "Did you know that every time I breathe, a man dies?" Dad: "Why don't you use a little mouthwash now and then?"
8. Did you hear the news that a lot of applications just came in from people looking to pursue a career as the government's top-ranking medical official? Yes, there was a surge in general.
9. I've always admired fishermen. Now those are reel men.
10. "Have you heard of Murphy's law?"  
"Yeah."  
"What is it?"  
"If something can go wrong, it will go wrong."  
"That's right. Have you heard of Cole's law?"  
"No, what is it?"  
"Thinly sliced cabbage and mayo."
11. What do you call a bad joke? This.



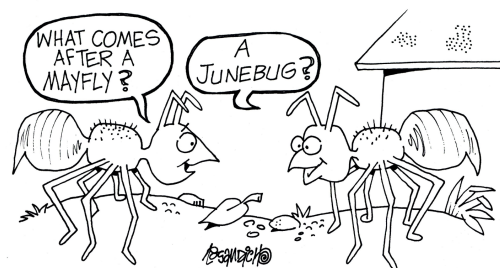
Unskilled musicians' marching band... well, at least they are "in step!"

## Summer jokes... some are not!

by Amber Broderick from "32 Summer Jokes for Kids to Get You Through"

<https://redtri.com/summer-jokes-for-kids/slide/1>

- What kind of tree fits in your hand? A palm tree!
- What's brown, hairy and wears sunglasses? A coconut on vacation.
- What did the little corn say to the mama corn?  
Where is pop corn?
- What is the difference between a piano and a fish?  
You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish.
- How do we know that the ocean is friendly? It waves
- What do ghosts like to eat in the summer? I Scream.
- Where do sheep go on vacation? The Baaa-hamas.
- And where do sharks go on vacation? Finland!
- Where do ghosts like to boat on vacation? Lake Eerie!



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## World Laughter Day... something to celebrate anytime!

What a bummer! This COVID-19 "thing" has everyone feeling a little down (as one would expect for "living through the challenges of a pandemic!") And, on top of that, somehow we just missed a special occasion - the first Sunday in May - "World Laughter Day!" - probably just when we needed it the most!

Well, Marie Weber has come to our rescue. She shared these quotes and photos to forget your troubles for a minute or two and **"put on a happy face!"** Thanks, Marie!

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."

— Yakov Smirnoff

"Laughter can help relieve tension in even the heaviest of matters." — Allen Klein

"All preconceptions when you laugh go out the window. Laughter kills it." — Chevy Chase

"Laughter is regional; a smile extends over the whole face."

— Malcolm de Chazal

"The appreciative smile, the chuckle, the soundless mirth, so important to the success of comedy, cannot be understood unless one sits among the audience and feels the warmth created by the quality of laughter that the audience takes home with it."

— James Thurber

"Laughter is America's most important export." — Walt Disney

"The child in you, like all children, loves to laugh, to be around people who can laugh at themselves and life. Children instinctively know that the more laughter we have in our lives, the better." — Wayne Dyer

"Laughter is the tonic, the relief, the surcease for pain."

— Charlie Chaplin

"Laughter is one of the very privileges of reason, being confined to the human species." — Thomas Carlyle

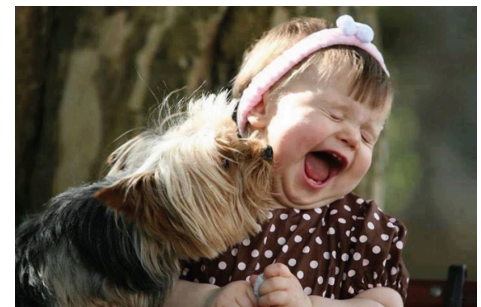
"In the sweetness of friendship, let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things, the heart finds its morning and is refreshed." — Khalil Gibran

"One should take good care not to grow too wise for so great a pleasure of life as laughter." — Joseph Addison

"Laughter heals all wounds, and that's one thing that everybody shares. No matter what you're going through, it makes you forget about your problems. I think the world should keep laughing."

— Kevin Hart

"Laughter need not be cut out of anything, since it improves everything." — James Thurber





## This month's "Fox Finds" – Online links to music learning FUN!

Over the past 12+ weeks of self-isolation and completion of the first-ever "virtual" spring semester by our "brick and mortar" schools, people (especially our full-time colleagues) are generally stressed out... and "tech ed out!" I don't blame them. Thankfully, our President (no, not *him*! – Tina Bennett, PMEA State President) has spoken to us several times to soothe our fears and reassure all of us that we will make it through this in one piece!

So, I will keep the "technology talk" down to a minimum. Besides, as retirees, most of us do not have to face all of the problems of connecting with and engaging our "kids" in music enrichment, and prioritizing what tech tools are actually applicable and beneficial and which ones are "over the top" (like large ensemble virtual performances which may require the skills of a professional editor).

As Chair of the PMEA Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention, I have been placed in the "driver's seat" for researching and sharing resources for digital, remote, and alternative music learning sites/applications for the at-home music classes. (See the PMEA website here: <https://www.pmea.net/council-for-ttrr/>). But, the immediate effect was to *overwhelm* many of our members! The "online music education" source (last link) contains more than 15 pages of over 225 separate solutions – a true overabundance of distance learning "places to go, things to see" especially to those who feel like music tech *novices*!

So, this time, I thought I would share a few "dazzling and delightful digital discoveries" (d<sup>4</sup>) you can peruse *for fun*! If you are asked to help a local school music teacher, or if you were teaching privately, or you just want to educate your grandchildren, these are "gems" – my "Top 7 List" – those I wish I knew had existed when I was still teaching!

1. Listen-Up Podcast Series (New Haven Symphony Orchestra) <https://sites.google.com/view/listenupquiz/home?authuser=0>
2. Free "Opera Up Close" Curriculum by Emily Murdock (Central City Opera) <https://ccoeducation.thinkific.com/courses/opera-up-close>
3. Comprehensive List of Music Education Resources (GCRTC) [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F211utluglSTpjcd2fL5tMhvFzHj\\_JHGYCEIMeo5V8/htmlview#](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F211utluglSTpjcd2fL5tMhvFzHj_JHGYCEIMeo5V8/htmlview#)
4. Beethoven Rocks from the Kennedy Center <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/music/beethoven-rocks/?fbclid=IwAR00d5K5ukXqAzcRYKerJL5hTawftP2RYBOdmV4wNbImOsGqyNtSvduPp8Q>
5. Ted Talks on Music <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LDwRjg02tY1kYvPEcFQvznJNlxHcmB2eIl6hNFpAKY/edit>
6. Music Tech Teacher by Karen Garrett [http://www.musictechteacher.com/music\\_quizzes/music\\_quizzes.htm](http://www.musictechteacher.com/music_quizzes/music_quizzes.htm)
7. Hampton City Schools Music-Alternative Learning Plan [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TiiGX2j7SkGc68i4EBnKNcEqTyUwDJJzI7XGbfGpp9I/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR1oXn\\_9zRVnOkRWnaMokBZ4\\_PKZWIEI\\_2IOiNNggqi3MS08esM6eMPpxs](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TiiGX2j7SkGc68i4EBnKNcEqTyUwDJJzI7XGbfGpp9I/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR1oXn_9zRVnOkRWnaMokBZ4_PKZWIEI_2IOiNNggqi3MS08esM6eMPpxs)

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## PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: June 4, 2020

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Retired Members

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### Last month's "Teacher Appreciation Day..." or "Week" or "Month" or "Year?"

To keep the alliterations going - Marie Weber's "magically motivating moments" - these "stirring" public service TV spots sponsored by the Foundation for a Better Life were shared, along with this message appropriate to all active and retired teachers:

**You make a difference in your school and daily life - making this a more wonderful world!**

- <https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-stories-tv-spots/70-everyday-heroes>
- <https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-stories-tv-spots/100-concert>
- <https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-stories-tv-spots/119-guitar-hero>
- <https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-stories-tv-spots/77-power-of-the-dream>
- <https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-stories-tv-spots/127-change-the-world>



This celebration made me think about the many other articles I have read regarding students reaching out to their former teachers in gratitude and love (and vice versa). You probably remember one or more of "your kids," now fully grown and with children of their own, emailing their thanks to you! My Facebook pages are full of these reunions. Did we really touch that many students? Don't we *love* hearing about their successes?

Take a trip down memory lane. Get out a box of Kleenex and check out these clips of now-retired teachers from across the country who are still "making a difference!"

- If You Love Helping Kids, Do It: <https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/co/2019/07/23/219341/>
- Six Over 60: Meet Retired Educators Who Are Still Making a Difference: <http://neatoday.org/2017/07/26/six-over-60-retired-educators-making-a-difference/>
- Retiring Teachers Share Memories, Advice, and Future Plans: [https://www.presspubs.com/white\\_bear/news/retiring-teachers-share-memories-advice-and-future-plans/article\\_47e0626c-a39b-11e1-9374-0019bb2963f4.html](https://www.presspubs.com/white_bear/news/retiring-teachers-share-memories-advice-and-future-plans/article_47e0626c-a39b-11e1-9374-0019bb2963f4.html)
- Retiring Teachers Say Goodbye to Students [https://www.dailypress.com/top\\_story/retiring-teachers-say-goodbye-to-students/article\\_094a5ffc-983f-11e0-9590-001cc4c002e0.html](https://www.dailypress.com/top_story/retiring-teachers-say-goodbye-to-students/article_094a5ffc-983f-11e0-9590-001cc4c002e0.html)

### More blogs to review

"Inspiration may be just around the corner... and yes, online!"

- Lori Schwartz Reichl shares her "story" of pursuing her own work/life balance: A Personal and Professional Pivot - Make It Simple, Not Stressful <https://nafme.org/personal-professional-pivot/?fbclid=IwAR2AMMJgRBInEOtlc8YIKvM7fWOGpaFkU9hEeEqFNxH44VV2uBbTCQ6PvM>
- Is this a positive article or not? (There may be some dispute - please read the comments!) Here is my latest offering to you: One Happy But Solitary Retiree <https://paulfox.blog/2020/04/16/one-happily-solitary-retiree/>
- COVID-19 Instrument and Cleaning Guidelines <https://nafme.org/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines/>
- You've been "punked!" Didn't you notice my April Fool's joke? <https://paulfox.blog/2020/04/01/sharing-a-new-discovery-for-band/>



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## **Focus on “change!” What will be the “new normal?”**

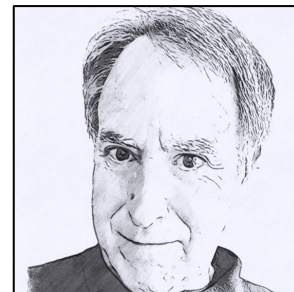
by Richard Victor (shared with his permission)

Excerpt from a lecture for his students at the University of Buffalo Graduate School of Education Global Campus

It seems slightly ironic and perhaps a bit prophetic that this week's presentation is on “change.” Nothing has occurred in my career that has changed education more dramatically than the COVID-19 pandemic

Eventually students and teachers will return to school. When that happens, what do you think might be the lasting impact of what we have experienced?

Assuming this crisis results in infrastructure that is created to provide internet access to all students wherever they may live, and one-to-one computing becomes a reality in all school districts - could we be looking at a school calendar where there are no snow days and/or no sick days?



Will teachers now be expected to have an appropriate online classroom presentation ready? (Sort of an “emergency lesson plan?”)

Could teachers be expected to teach on a snow day using a synchronous learning environment where their presentation is presented live as per the usual class schedule, or using an asynchronous learning method where they would record their class for the student to access at a time of their choosing?

If students could stay home but still participate in class via a platform such as Zoom, would they be less likely to go to school when they are sick and possibly transmit a disease to others? What would be required to make that a reality?

How about when the teacher is sick and possibly infectious? Could the teacher still present a lesson from home via Zoom to students who would be in their regular classroom but watching on their computers and supervised by a substitute teacher? Gone would be the need to find a substitute teacher qualified to teach that subject and the need for the absent teacher to write a detailed lesson plan. Do you think that is a possibility?

What other possible changes can you think of? I look forward to reading responses to the questions I have posed as well as learning of other possible changes to education that you think could occur due to our current situation.

Thank you and stay well!

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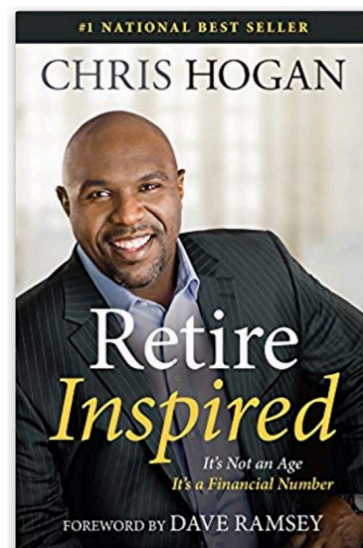
## Book-of-the-month: *Retire Inspired* by Chris Hogan

<https://www.chrishogan360.com/store/product/retire-inspired-by-chris-hogan>

Okay... I'll admit it. I bought this book "almost" sight unseen, just "liking" the title. Anything with the word "inspired" must be good, right?

When I started reading it, I realize this was more about planning your finances... something, for the most part, we have avoided much discussion in this forum. However, I noticed the endorsement of Dave Ramsey, famous talkshow host and founder of Financial Peace University, bragging about having author Chris Hogan on his "team" as a presenter, and referring to these "baby steps" to financial independence in the Foreword he wrote for the book:

1. \$1000 "beginner emergency fund"
2. Getting out of debt using "the debt snowball"
3. Fully-funded emergency fund with 3 to 6 months of expenses
4. Saving 15% of your income for retirement
5. Saving for your children's college
6. Paying off the house
7. Building wealth and give



I don't know if you've ever listened to a Dave Ramsey radio show, but it is absolutely amazing to me "the magic" he accomplishes in providing advice to get people out of debt. When I was still working as an itinerant teacher, while driving from building to building, I recall listening to snatches of his programs on my XM radio. He extolled the virtues of "cutting up your credit cards" and setting up "the envelope method" for early budget planners. It was excellent advice... of course, most all of which I was not following. But I am definitely a fan of Ramsey. And this book looks like the work of an appointed protégé of his.



Here is a glimpse of Hogan's chapters:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Redefining Retirement - The Past, the Present, and the Truth | 7. Your Behavior - The Best Friend and Worst Enemy of Your Retirement |
| 2. Dreaming in High Definition - Know Your R:IQ                 | 8. Use the Time You've Got - Retirement by the Decade                 |
| 3. Budgeting - Be the Boss of Your Money                        | 9. Who Do You Trust? Assembling Your Dream Team                       |
| 4. Debt - Your Dreams Deferred                                  | 10. You're The CEO - Managing Your Family and Financial Business      |
| 5. Intentional Investing - A Great Retirement Is No Accident    |   |
| 6. The Investing Menu - Understanding Your Options              |   |

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This is promotional text from the front inside jacket of the hard cover:

*What do you think of when you hear the word "retirement?"*

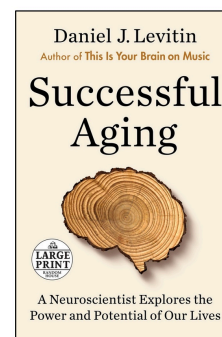
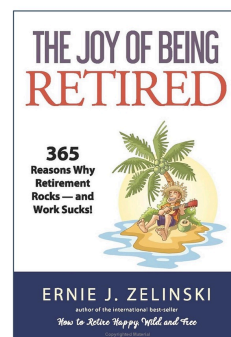
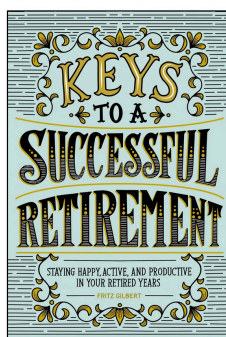
*Do you see yourself spending weeks at a time with your grandchildren? Volunteering your time to a worthy cause? Traveling to remote vacation spots you've always wanted to visit?*

*Those dreams simply don't line up with the reality of many working Americans. Rather than packing their bags for a month long escape, many retirees will be packing their lunch for an eight-hour shift. And it's not because they want to; it's because they're broke!*

*In Retire Inspired, Chris Hogan teaches that retirement isn't an age; it's a financial number - an amount you need to live the life in retirement that you've always dreamed of. Whether you're 25 or 55, you can start now. Chris will equip you with a plan to make your own investing decisions, set proper expectations with your family for retirement, and build a dream team of experts to get you there.*

In Chapter 1, he brings out his "five fundamentals of inspired retirement," which you can preview on his website: <https://www.chrishogan360.com/retirement/the-5-fundamentals-of-an-inspired-retirement>.

1. Dreaming
2. Planning
3. Execution
4. Commitment
5. Vigilance



Even though at this point in your life you may not need a lot of financial advice, this publication is a good review of "the basics." I particularly

Want to get a head-start on the next books up for review?

enjoyed Chapter 7 reminding me those tools and techniques we use at any age to "grow" our investments. One reason given that some people "retire broke" or run through a lot of their money early in their post-employment years is that they don't follow a few basic money management rules. According to Hogan:

1. They fail to invest.
2. They "jump off" or ride the "short term" rollercoaster of "ups and downs" instead of thinking long term.
3. They make stupid decisions with their money.
4. They fail to get good advice managing it.

I was never going to be "independently wealthy" just because I contributed to a teacher's pension fund. As a member of PSERS, am I relatively safe and fairly secure? Probably. Rich? Not really! So unless you've inherited millions of dollars or hit the Powerball lottery big-time, like me, you will find this book a tremendously valuable read!







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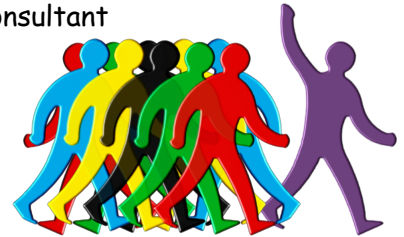
by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Retired Members

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### A salute to several retired members making a difference as "PMEA leaders"

- **Margaret Bauer**, Executive Director Emerita
- **Doug Bolasky**, PMEA News editorial chair
- **Dave Deitz**, PMEA's representative to PDE and PA Fine Arts Consultant
- **Paul Fox**, Council TTRR Chair and Retired Member Coordinator
- **Ron Haas**, District 10 Retired Member Chair
- **Debra Heiney**, District 10 Fest Coordinator
- **Lori Luurtsema**, District 5 Advocacy Chair
- **Chuck Neidhardt**, MIOSM Chair (State President 2006-2008)
- **Fran Nesta**, All-State Audition Tabulations Chair (State President 2008-2010)
- **Mary Lynne Peters**, All-State Coordinator
- **David Rohrer**, District 7 Retired Chair
- **James Scanga**, District 5 Festival Coordinator
- **Marie Weber**, District 7 County Rep
- **Diane Wojciechowski**, District 9 Retired Chair



**Thank You!**

These *currently retired members* have served in state offices:

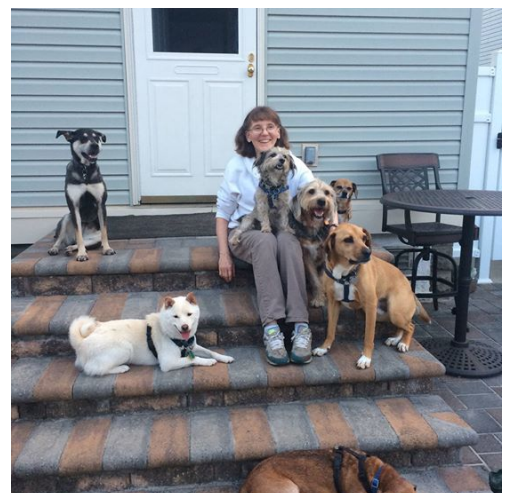
- **Nora Burrige**, State President 2004-2006
- **David Cree**, State President 1994-1996
- **John Gula**, State President 1996-1998
- **Ben Holste**, State President 2002-2004
- **Richard Merrell**, State President 1988-1990
- **Stanley Michalski**, State President 1976-78
- **Martha Miller**, State C/I Chair 2000-2003
- **Albert Nacinovich**, State President 1984-1986
- **Natalie Ozeas**, State C/I Chair 1986-89 and State President 1992-1994
- **Sharon Potter**, State C/I Chair 2003-2009
- **William Pendziwiatr**, State President 2012-2014
- **Richard Victor**, State President 2000-2002

### We still want to hear from YOU!

Please email news or updates, as well as pics of hobbies, encore careers, trips, music happenings, family/pet moments, or anniversaries to [paulkfox.usc@gmail.com](mailto:paulkfox.usc@gmail.com).

Happy Trails, Retired Members! PKF

How many pets does  
Sharon Wolfe Hotchkiss  
take care of today?



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