



PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS: July 15, 2020

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!

"Social-distanced" humor

<https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2020/04/13-corny-grandpa-jokes-to-help-you-feel-better-about-the-coronavirus-pandemic.html>



Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.

I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks, we'd go from Standard Time to Twilight Zone.

I need to practice social distancing from... the refrigerator.

Every few days, try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believing all is well in the Kingdom.

My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.

Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

Homeschooling is going well: Two students were suspended for fighting and one teacher fired for drinking on the job!

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into the house, told my dog... we laughed a lot.

Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.

Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1.

Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said: "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year." I'm offended.

Laughing way too much at my own jokes!!

Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen." You must gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.



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A picture says a thousand words?

from PMEA members and various social media outlets

**How to frighten the new generation:
Put them in a room
with a rotary phone,
an analog watch,
and a TV with no
remote. Then leave
directions on how to
use in cursive.**



CUT THE BLUE WIRE,
GRANDPA. THE BLUE WIRE.

When bartenders find new jobs after all the bars close down



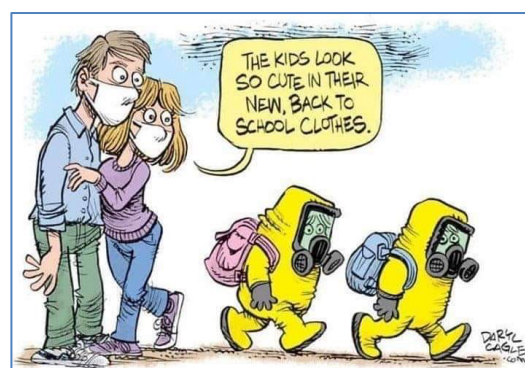
How to annoy a musician



They should have a follow-up to the G7 Summit a week later and call it the C Major Summit. Maybe that will resolve everything.

Makes sense to me

Did you know that every tyre comes with a prebuilt GPS chip, so that you can be located in 5G networks? If you don't want to be followed, you have to cut off the little antenna that sticks out.



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A “bunch of blogs” to bolster your mood

“The Purpose of Life Is Not Happiness: It's Usefulness”

by Darius Foroux at <https://getpocket.com/explore/item/the-purpose-of-life-is-not-happiness-it-s-usefulness>



Perhaps after reading Darius Foroux's excellent essay, you will echo, “Duh. I knew this!” But the question is, “Do you practice it?” For retirees, those soon-to-retire, and our colleagues still slugging it out in the trenches, “it” is all about giving back, “mattering,” finding purpose, and “making a difference” to the people in our lives and our community. *Happiness as an achievable goal is an illusion, but that doesn't mean happiness itself is not attainable.*

“65 Retirement Tips for a Healthy, Wealthy and Happy Retirement!”

by Kathleen Coxwell at <https://www.newretirement.com/retirement/retirement-tips-healthy-wealthy-happy-retirement/>

Liberally “stealing” from this DIY retirement planning association, I found a lot of wise suggestions to help steer you towards fully *living your dreams* during post-employment! Be sure to visit their website for the “whole picture!” A few of my favorites:

- “Have a sense of purpose and meaning.” (Sound familiar? Look at the first blogpost above!)
- “Think health not wealth.” (Priority #1 is staying mentally and physically healthy!)
- “Volunteer and feel great.” (Use your skills and experiences to help others.)
- “Leave behind more wealth than you had when you retired.” (Even become a millionaire... later!)
- “Avoid retirement depression...” (It is more common than you think, and you can combat it!)
- “Aging is... optional?” (This from a Harvard professor who wrote the book *Lifespan: Why We Age and Why We Don't Have To.*)

“The Positives of a Pandemic”

by Fritz Gilbert at <https://www.theretirementmanifesto.com/the-positives-of-a-pandemic/>



With the Pandemic still around us, from the author of our last book-of-the-month feature in the last **eNEWS**, we can soon take a moment, “hit the reset button,” and...

“Looking back with the benefit of hindsight, I suspect we may face the realization that The Pandemic had presented an opportunity unique in human history. A giant reset. An emergency stop that gave us all the rare chance to...

- Pause,
- Be introspective, and
- Think about what really mattered in life.”



“Leadership Lessons Learned from Horatio Hornblower”

by Amro Masaad *Photo of Hornblower played by Ioan Gruffudd in movie "The Duchess and the Devil"*
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/leadership-lessons-from-horatio-hornblower-amro-mosaad/>

How about a change of pace... a historical fiction series from the Napoleonic-Wars era? You will need to borrow at least one of the C.S. Forester books to accompany this piece. (I promise you'll love the character Hornblower!) And besides, as music teachers, we *all* were “leaders...” so I added my 2-cents worth in “Leadership Lessons” at <https://paulfox.blog/>.





This month's "Fox Finds" – Tools of the trade

Are you still giving private lessons or working with a church choir or marching band?

Many of our retirees continue to contribute to the profession by offering their services part-time... everything from coaching an ensemble to singing or playing in a community group. This is no less true since COVID-19 "dropped in!" For example, my wife has expanded her string studio using Zoom and is following in the "expert" footsteps of her former student teacher, Susanna Sonnenberg, who wrote an insightful article on the subject of virtual lessons:

<https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Teaching-Online-Lesson-Basics-101.pdf>.



Another example is that the two of us just launched the South Hills Junior Orchestra **Summer Online Academy**. (What's the big deal? "You *can* teach an old dog new tricks!") We are going through a significant *learning curve* in discovering how to create lessons and assessments in **MusicFirst Classroom**, **PracticeFirst**, **Sight Reading Factory**, and **Musition**. We plan to hold Zoom sectionals and repertoire classes and use the virtual conference app to present special interest seminars like leadership training, student conducting practice, and "legacy of listening" video forums like "The Best of Bernstein." We were able to budget the cost of these online programs for under \$17/participant. The best part? I feel my mind is expanding... more challenged, enriched, and energized. I am learning this "21st Century stuff" at pace I never thought was possible!

You should give it a try. Not everything has to cost money. You are welcome to peruse and use with your students the free library of digital links and materials we mentioned in a past "Tech Talk" developed since the coronavirus shut down our rehearsals:

<http://www.shjo.org/clips>. All we were trying to do was **keep 'em practicing & exploring music**.

In addition, there are easy "tech hacks" you could add to your teaching. Most people have a smartphone that will record a video of their practice. "Keep it simple." Have your private student (or friend or family member) send you a "problematic passage" or musical excerpt (what they are working on), and you can email or text back suggestions or even demonstrate appropriate fixes and "tech tips." Send them a PDF file of a duet along with a recording of you playing or singing the second part... instant chamber music? Use Skype or Facetime or Zoom and hold mini-master classes... even just check-in with your fellow community musicians/singers. Music is a perfect way to **keep connected!**

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Lessons in life

"Upbeat Leaders" Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/238379780620680>

A wise teacher once brought balloons to school. She told her pupils to blow them up and write their name on one. After the children tossed their balloons into the hall, the teacher moved through the hall mixing them up. The kids were given five minutes to find the balloon with their name on it, but though they searched frantically, no one found their own balloon.

Then the teacher told them to take the balloon closest to them and give it to the person whose name was on it. In less than two minutes, everyone was holding their own balloon.

The teacher said to the children, "These balloons are like happiness. We won't find it when we're only searching for our own. But if we care about someone else's happiness, it will ultimately help us find ours."



Comics for Charity!

My prayers have been answered! Do you remember a past eNEWS when I asked for volunteers to create editorial cartoons on issues that might amuse a retired teacher? (Not me! I can't draw a straight line or a decent circle!) Well, three local HS student artists from my last teaching assignment announced a philanthropic fund-raiser to commission original artwork. For a small and very reasonable fee with proceeds going to the local food banks, they will make custom digital pictures... and are willing to help me introduce a little more eNEWS humor (sarcasm?) in these comics! They will even create personal logos or illustrations for greeting cards, musical t-shirts, stationary, or concert fliers or posters... Check out my new *memes* (below left)!

So, drum roll, please! Let's unveil "our" first submission by **Kathleen Li**. If you have an idea for the storyline of a future editorial cartoon, please share. Just reminisce a little on a past "pet peeve" or teaching anecdote.



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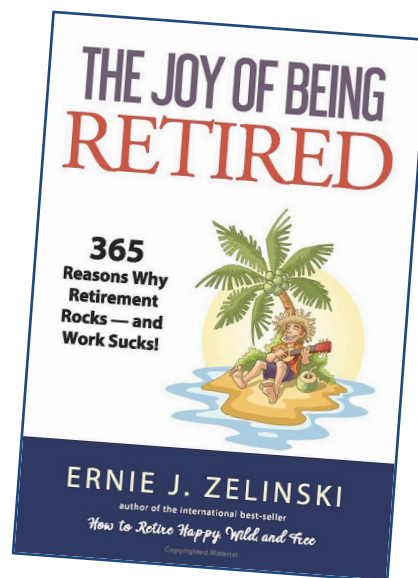
Book-of-the-month: *The Joy of Being Retired* by Ernie J. Zelinski

<http://www.erniezelinski.com/The-Joy-of-Being-Retired.html>

Let's slow down, chill out, get informal, and leave our troubles behind! It's "Ernie Time!"

I thought I was going to finalize the last review of a supposed trilogy of best-sellers by Ernie Zelinski. But then I open up to the first couple pages of his newest release and learned he has successfully published at least *five* more! It's hard to keep up!

- *The Joy of Not Working: A Book for the Retired, Unemployed, and Overworked* (reviewed in eNEWS at <https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Retired-Member-Network-eNEWS-050720.pdf>)
- *How To Retire Happy, Wild, and Free: Retirement Wisdom That You Won't Get From Your Financial Advisor* (reviewed at <https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Retired-Member-Network-eNEWS-081516.pdf>)
- *The Lazy Person's Guide to Success: How to Get What You Want without Killing Yourself*
- *Look Ma, Life's Easy: How Ordinary People Attain Extraordinary Success and Remarkable Prosperity*
- *Life's Secret Handbook: Reminders for Adventurous Souls Who Want to Make a Big Difference in This World*
- *Career Success without a Real Job: The Career Book for People Too Smart to Work in Corporations*
- *101 Really Important Things You Already Know, But Keep Forgetting*



Here's *The Joy of Being Retired: 365 Reasons Why Retirement Rocks and Work Sucks!*

"Talking like it is," his latest easy-to-read "quick study" is a "charmer," and offers a fun way, according to the bulleted messages on the back cover, to inspire you to:

- "Gain courage to escape the corporate world so that you don't spend the rest of your life trapped in a cubicle." (This is not probably a problem for most of us!)
- "Create more time in your life by slowing down." (Yep, that sounds like me!)
- "Regularly indulge in a good measure of creative loafing." (With permission from your spouse!)
- "Concentrate on the things that really matter and be oblivious to everything else." (OKAY!)
- "Experience true personal freedom in all areas of your life." (So what are you afraid of?)
- "Live life on your own terms and not someone else's." (I'm in! And, as Ernie says, the studies show that a lot more people now enjoy retirement than those who don't!)

Ernie Zelinski uses cartoons, wisdom, and a modicum of fresh humor to provide reasons (actually 415 in all) to "sit back, put up your feet, and use the power of creativity to get the most out of your retirement life."

Thanks, Ernie, for another "breath of fresh air!"



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“What’s the buzz, tell me what’s a-happening...” music teacher retirees!

Special days discovered trolling the Internet, searching social media platforms, and "hearing through the grapevine..."



Mary Ann Justham and son Stephen
(collage posted on his 58th birthday)



Happy 47th Anniversary,
Judy and Chuck Neidhardt!
Don't they "frame" the perfect pair?



It's wedding anniversary number 41
for Kim and Jim Scanga

This space is reserved... for you!



Daughter Kari Ann Maurer and
Kevin Maurer

Congratulations and best wishes!

Fred and Rebecca Danchenko
on their 30th anniversary!



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PMEA goes *virtual*!

<https://www.pmea.net/pmea-summer-conference/>

Thanks to the pandemic, we will take a *rain check* for the annual retired member meeting usually held in the spring, and even our traditional summer session "Retirement 101," typically reserved to meet, collaborate, and discuss tips/techniques for transitioning to and enjoying a happy and fulfilling retirement. We plan to be "back at it" (God willing)

at the next PMEA Annual Spring Conference in Erie, PA on April 15-17, 2021, at which time, we believe "breakfast will be on Abi" (PMEA) probably Friday morning, April 16. Please mark the date! Meanwhile, check out these *incredible sessions* planned for next week. **It's time to register!**



Monday, July 20, 2020

- 1 p.m. Keynote Session: More Than Music – Helping Our Students Be the Best They Can Be (Clinician: Scott Edgar)
- 2:15 p.m. PMEA Cares – Together We Teach
- 3:30 p.m. PMEA Virtual Social Hour (3-4 Discussion Topics)

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

- 9:30 a.m. PMEA Mentor Program Training (Hosted by Teri Myers)
- 11 a.m. Google Classroom, Part I (Clinician: Sue Basalik)
- 11 a.m. Social Emotional Learning and Music Education – Now More Than Ever (Clinician: Scott Edgar)
- 1 p.m. I'm Teaching What! Panel Discussion (Hosted by Sister Kathleen Douth)
- 1 p.m. Teaching Composing Through Distance Learning (Clinician: Travis Weller)
- 2:30 p.m. Finding Music in the Standards – Developing a Standards-Based Sequence of Music Literacy for MS (Clinician: Laura Petravage)
- 2:30 p.m. Google Classroom, Part II (Clinician: Sue Basalik)
- 2:30 p.m. The "In-Crowd" of Ensemble Musicianship (Clinician: Adam Grumble)



Wednesday, July 22, 2020

- 11 a.m. Social Justice Songs in the Choral Classroom (Clinician: Kyle Zeuch)
- 11 a.m. Teaching Students with Special Needs – Using Music Technology (Clinician: Angela Guerriero)
- 1 p.m. Recognizing the Need – Self-Care for Music Educators (Clinician: Angela Guerriero)
- 1 p.m. What You Can Do Now to Advocate for Your Music Education Program in the Fall & Beyond (Clinicians: Mark Despokatits, Mary Luehrsen)
- 2:30 p.m. Don't Focus on What You Can't Do – Focus on What You CAN Do! (Clinician: Keith Hodgson)
- 2:30 p.m. Navigating LGBTQ+ Issues in the Music Classroom (Clinician: Nick Holland-Garcia)
- 2:30 p.m. The Summer Before Year One – A Preparation Guide for the First-Year Teacher (Clinicians: John Obringer, John Rodesh)

Thursday, July 23, 2020

- 11 a.m. Effective Websites Make Communication Easier – Learning How to Get Your Program Online (Clinicians: Russell McCutcheon, Keith Gromis)
- 11 a.m. Rhythm Renovation Through Basic Bow Technique (Clinician: Jennifer Sacher Wiley)
- 11 a.m. Using What You've Got! (Clinician: Becky Burdett)
- 1 p.m. Comprehensive Curriculum – General Music as a Foundation for Success (Clinician: Cassandra Eisenreich)
- 1 p.m. Using the PMEA MCF to Design and Adapt Lesson Plans for Fall 2020 (Clinicians: Scott Sheehan, Teri Myers)
- 1 p.m. Yes, You Can Arrange That for Your Ensemble! (Clinician: John Mlynczak)
- 2:30 p.m. The \$ Cs – Bringing 21st Century Skills Into the General Music Classroom (Clinician: Sarah Watts)
- 2:30 p.m. ChoralWorks – Rehearsal Tracks on Your Smartphone for Free (Clinician: Robert Natter)



Friday, July 24, 2020

- 1 p.m. How to (Legally) Arrange Pop Music for Band, Chorus, or Orchestra (Clinician: Clifford Hall)
- 2:30 p.m. Closing Keynote (Clinician: Bob Morrison)
- 3:30 p.m. PMEA Virtual Social Hour

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The Dennis “Domains”

Happy Retirement to a great musician, teacher, and PMEA leader!

Forget about Charlotte Danielson's *Four Domains*. “We” have had the benefits of the four “Dennis Domains,” modeling a framework of commitment, creativity, compassion, and collaboration that is the hallmark of the career of Past State President Dennis Emert, and celebrating a retirement this year from the Fox Chapel School District.



His leadership and service portfolio is vast. However, just as important, over the years, he has fulfilled major roles behind-the-scenes, insuring things always ran smoothly - from PMEA Executive Board and committee meetings to the PMEA State and NAFME Eastern Division Conferences. Here are “highlights” from an extremely productive professional legacy:

Recipient of PMEA James R. Stewart Distinguished Service Award 2020

NAFME Eastern Division Honors Ensembles General Chair 2019

PMEA State President 2014-2016

PMEA State Vice President 2012-2014

Guest Conductor of the PMEA District 5 JH/MS Band Fest 2012

PMEA State Vice President-Elect 2011-2012



Scott Pappal
May 30 · 🌐

Jumping in to the Way-Way-Back machine, we've got a picture from my sophomore year in high school, when I made PMEA All-State Band (and totally shocked myself.) I had only just started in band two years prior to this picture; this would end up being a defining moment for me, as it cemented with clarity in my mind what I should be doing with my life. #imstillatit27years later

This was all due to a band director/horn teacher who believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. **Dennis Emert**, congratulations on your retirement. You changed my life so much — for the better — that I can't imagine what my life would be had you not invested in me. There's no expression of gratitude that's sufficient here, and so I've always tried to pay it forward! #musicislife #musiceducation #artseducation



GOING TO ALL-STATE BAND — Four students from Marion Center High School will be attending the All-State Concert, April 15-17, with a free public concert planned for 2 p.m. April 17 at Kings College in Wilkes-Barre. Lewis Buckley of the U.S. Coast Guard Band will conduct the All-State Band. Marion Center students attending are, front row, from left, Scott Pappal, Charlene Jewart and Julie Kochman, State Band; and Melissa Clopp, State Chorus. Second row, from left, are Marion Center High School Principal Jeff Martz, band and chorus director Dennis Emert and assistant principal Anne Simmons. Only 300 students from the entire state were selected to perform in the All-State Band, Orchestra, Chorus and Jazz Band. (Guest photo by Teresa Pappal)

Originator/Organizer of the
PMEA All-State Composition
Contest

PMEA District 1 President
2007-2009

Instrumental Music Teacher
for the Fox Chapel Area
School District 2000-2020

PMEA District 3 President 1998-2000

HS Band Director of the Marion Center School District 1990-2000

French Horn private teacher in the Pittsburgh area

French Horn player for 35+ years in the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and for numerous other “gigs” in Pennsylvania

Indiana University of Pennsylvania Graduate (BS in Education 1985, MA 1989)

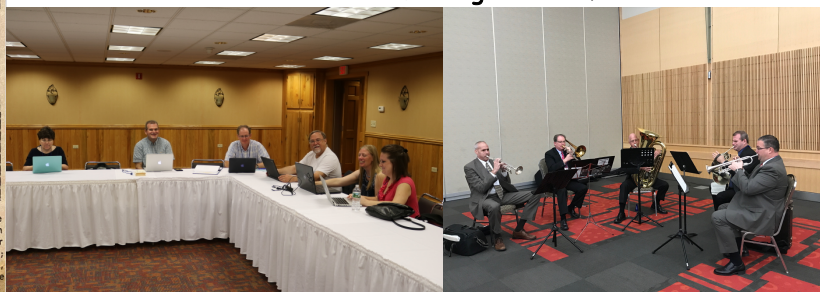
Countless PMEA board meetings and conferences



Longstanding Musical Pit Director;
Fox Chapel HS *Legally Blond* 2020



Yankee Brass Band at
Moravian College 2018



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PMEA member and PA ensemble virtual performances

PMEA Council TTRR focus area: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GNtPOM4C35FBUaAjHJPR4_TRGR9DQhQ3/

Take a break and enjoy some beautiful *virtual music* brought to you by your colleagues!

Blairsville HS Virtual Choir

Blairsville HS Virtual Marching Band

The Bucks Mont Camerata Virtual Chorus, PMEA members, and alums from the

Hatboro-Horsham HS Choirs: "You'll Never Walk Alone"

Carlynton Elementary Band: "Star Wars"

Carlynton Elementary Band: "Wade in the Water"

Central Catholic "We Want You Back"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Band: "Star Spangled Banner" arr. Dr. Jack Stamp

Council Rock HS South Virtual Band: "Pure Imagination"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Choir: "Across the Universe"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Choir: "Mr. Blue Sky"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Choir: "Tshotsholoza"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Choir: "River in Judea"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Orchestra: "Capriccio Italian"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Orchestra: "Defying Gravity"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Orchestra: "Ride of the Valkyries"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Orchestra: "Star Wars"

Council Rock HS South Virtual Spring Concert

DEHS Seniors Virtual Choir: "I Was Here"

Everett Area HS Tribe: "Alma Mater"

Everett Area MS/HS Choirs: "I Dream a World"

Great Valley School District: "The Star-Spangled Banner Project"

Hershey High School Virtual Spring Concert

Hershey Music Faculty: "Count on Me"

Hopewell HS Virtual Band 2020: "Pomp and Circumstance"

Hopewell Jr. Viking Band: "I Want You Back"

Indiana County Social Band Collective: "Courage"

IUP Tubaphonium Ensemble: "Together"

Lower Moreland HS: Spring Virtual Concert

Mt. Lebanon HS Band: "Something Good"

North Allegheny HS Virtual Choir: "Babu Yetu"

North Allegheny Strings Class of 2020: "Canon in D"

Northern Bedford County HS: "Beautiful City"

Northern Bedford County HS/MS Virtual Sendoff Concert

O'Hara Chorus: "A Million Dreams"

Penn Band Social Distancing Orchestra: "Fight On Pennsylvania" and "Cheer on Pennsylvania"

Peters Township High School Room 100 A Capella group

Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra: "Empire Strikes Back"

PMEA District 5 Virtual Chorus: "If Music Be the Food of Love"

Seneca Valley School District Virtual Choir: "You Raise Me Up"

St. Ann School Seussical Jr. Virtual Cast: "Oh the Things You Can Think"

Unionville HS Virtual Choir: "Remembrance"

Upper Merion High School Chamber Strings: "Ashokan Farewell"

Western PA Band Teacher Virtual Performance

Western PA Band Teachers - Memorial Day: "Stars and Stripes Forever"

Western PA musicians: "Into the Sky" Brass Fanfare by Brian Querry

Mark these dates on your calendar: April 15-17, 2021
PMEA Annual Conference at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center

It is time to renew your membership (2020-2021)

Now more than ever, *your PMEA association needs you...* and face it, you need PMEA, too, and are willing to give back a little, right?

Go to the PMEA website <https://www.pmea.net/membership-information/> and follow the instructions:

- Download the PDF file of the membership application and mail it in with your check, OR
- Click on "Join/Renew Now" on the top menu bar for online renewal.

The retiree fee is \$68 for PMEA + NAFME or \$31 for PMEA-only.

It is also important *not* to accidentally "opt out" receiving email notifications... or this may be your last eNEWS!



We Want You to Renew!

We always enjoy hearing from YOU!

Please send news, updates, and your own articles or tips on retirement for eNEWS, as well as photos of hobbies, encore careers, trips, music happenings, family/pet moments, or anniversaries to paulkfox.usc@gmail.com.

Happy Trails, Retired Members! PKF

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