

Preparing for & fostering “living the dream!”

PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS

Fall Issue – September 21, 2022 | Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

“Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds”
– Alexander Graham Bell

Happy Autumn!

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EDITOR'S NOTE

How are you doing?

Retirees, those soon-to-retire, collegiates, and active members: Join us in celebrating the awesome super-powers of what TEAM PMEA and what we as a group have to offer!

Send us your news, views, stories, and even *funnies* to the next edition of this forum.

Do you have any advice or hints to share with our colleagues? Please contribute YOUR articles, notices, or suggestions!

We want to hear from you!

That's why “we” are here! PKF

Another Day Year, Another Dollar? NO – SOMETHING MORE!

Hope this e-publications finds you happy, healthy, financially secure, and fully engaged in the good work of teaching and making “life-long music!”

Welcome to a new edition of **eNEWS – the PMEA Retired Member Network** – an informal alliance and forum for interconnecting pre- and in-service music educators and retirees sharing their ideas, updates, successes, and perspectives! Thanks for lending your support and staying involved in the profession!

Now More Than Ever... Let's JOIN FORCES and share resources!

The POWER of any association is in its *collaboration*... and this e-newsletter seeks to promote timely communications of tips and information among its members. Another school year has commenced! In the grips of the post-pandemic, so many of our music educators need YOUR inspiration and service... proposals or insight for conquering declining enrollments, program cutbacks, and teacher shortages, counteracting the effects of what most have experienced has become a *gap year* in our PA music programs. It is time to BUILD NEW BRIDGES towards musical success.



Our experienced retired members are already the best-trained mentors in PMEA. Facing many years of “boots on the ground,” we have at our fingertips numerous strategies to solve problems in education. In addition, as a benefit to connecting with them, colleagues who plan to retire over the 1-5 years can learn valuable techniques for a smooth transition to post-full-time employment and successfully reinvent and “refire” themselves in finding essential purpose, structure, and community throughout their “golden years!”

We witness very few retired music educators who withdraw totally from MUSIC. Our “calling” for the life-long pursuit of creative self-expression and personal artistry will be continue for decades. The options are endless: accompanying, conducting, singing, or playing in community or church ensembles, composing or arranging works, writing drills, directing, producing or choreographing shows, teaching college classes, coaching or adjudicating school groups, adjudicating festivals, presenting workshops, etc. – you name it! If you have not noticed it, most retirees feel like they are busier than when they were gainfully employed!

Finally, the best part of this is most of our combined clearinghouse and reservoir of talent is easily accessible for no additional cost. The PMEA website archives contacts, links, documents, webinars, etc. – everything conveniently in one place: <https://www.pmea.net/>. **Join us in making music meaningful in PA!**

Paul K. Fox, Chair PMEA Council TTRR & Retired Members
1564 Hastings Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241-2860
412-596-7937 <https://www.pmea.net/council-for-ttrr/> and
<https://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>
Deadline for the next issue
December 1, 2022
Send “stuff” to:
paulkfox.usc@gmail.com



WELCOME TO 2022-23! What's New and "On the Horizon" for PMEA?

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

Frankly, are you even able to **keep up with PMEA?**

Your music education colleagues in the state and our PMEA and NAFME leaders are actively planning a busy year of worthwhile projects. Start off by viewing this video: <https://vimeo.com/745517664>.

Here's a quick summary of what you can look forward to... doing your part for continuing active engagement in your professional associations:

- Take Note Podcasts <https://www.pmea.net/takenote/>
- Music in Our Schools Month (March 2023) and State Capital Performances <https://www.pmea.net/music-in-our-schools-month/>
- Professional Development Conferences and Opportunities to Catch-up with Colleagues:
 - NAFME National Conference in Maryland (near Washington D.C.) November 2-6, 2022 <https://nafme.org/events/2022-nafme-national-conference/>
 - **PMEA Annual Conference in Kalahari/Poconos April 19-22, 2023** <https://www.pmea.net/pmea-annual-in-service-conference/>
 - NAFME Eastern Division Conference in Rochester, NY April 13-16, 2023 <https://www.nyssma.org/eastdiv2023/>
 - PMEA Summer Conference in Harrisburg July 17-19, 2023
- PMEA Long Range Calendar of Student Events and Conferences <https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/PMEA-Long-Range-Calendar-1.pdf>
- Awards, recognitions, and scholarships nominations/information <https://www.pmea.net/scholarships-and-awards/>
- PMEA Band, Chorus, Jazz, and Orchestra Lending Libraries <https://www.pmea.net/lendinglibrary/>
- Opportunities for Music Education Research and 2023 Proposals Due <https://www.pmea.net/research/>
- PMEA Strategic Planning Process (more details coming soon)
- Search for PMEA Director of Meetings and Membership and PMEA Job Board <https://www.pmea.net/job-board/>



From the Chair of PMEA Council TTRR – A SAMPLING OF OUR GOALS 2022-24

1. Recommendations towards addressing collegiate funding concerns to support retention of music education majors.
2. Recruitment, retention, and engagement of urban, rural, minority, disadvantaged, and more diverse music teachers and students.
3. Advocacy of post-pandemic music education introducing new strategies to cope with transitioning to "the new normal" and to build back and "grow" PA music programs.
4. Creation and marketing of new materials and PCMEA video(s) for preparation of HS students to succeed and thrive as future music educators.
5. Sharing strategies and resources for the PDE Career Education and Work Standards, and/or opportunities for job shadowing/interning.
6. Distribution/promotion of Council TTRR career development resources.
7. Support of in-person and virtual workshops, webinars, and conferences in career development.
8. Writing/distribution of PMEA e-publications: *Collegiate Communique* and *Retired Member Network eNEWS*.



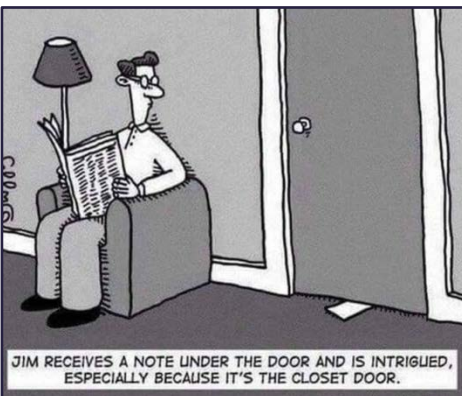
Retired Member A.C.T.I.V.A.T.E. Goals:

- 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 & personal growth.
- Engage** them to continue "making a difference" in PMEA and the music education profession.

THE FUNNIES PAGE

Sometimes Our Sense of Humor Is All We Have Left!

from retirees surfing the "Net" and <https://www.facebook.com/carrollcovet/photos/>



SHORT LISTS OF THINGS-TO-DO IN 2022-23

This e-communication seeks to facilitate sharing our combined assets... retired members, experienced teachers, and newcomers to the profession. Just like Lucy van Pelt's long improvement plans for Charlie Brown in the Peanut's cartoon series, there's always someone "out there" who is willing to advise you on making a few New Year's Resolutions.

For the good of the order, how many of these can you "check off?"



Active, Collegiate, and Retired Members

- ☐ Renew your P(C)MEA membership. What do we always say at music practices? "On time is late; early is on-time."
- ☐ Be as active as you can to contribute to your professional association as needed throughout the year.
- ☐ Register and attend the Annual Conference and become a presiding chair, info booth aide, or registration assistant.
- ☐ Volunteer to serve on a District, Region, or state PMEA or PCMEA chapter office, council, or special committee, e.g., festival coach, accompanist, chaperone, adjudicator, workshop clinician, organizer, assistant, or submittable judge.
- ☐ Participate in PMEA's Annual Advocacy Day and other public policy and PR/reach-out projects, and intentionally voice your support of music education to your state and national representatives, which our collective efforts may impact the future of our profession.
- ☐ Keep abreast of what's happening in the field of music education by thoroughly reading your professional journals.
- ☐ Submit an article, announcement, or other news for release in *PMEA News* or *PMEA/NAfME* e-publications.



Retired and Active Members, add these...

- ☐ Become a PMEA Mentor: <https://www.pmea.net/mentor-program/>.
- ☐ Lend your hand sharing your vast knowledge, experiences, and unique talents for future conference sessions, webinars, workshops, discussion panels, or mock interviews.
- ☐ Speak at PCMEA or TRI-M chapter meetings and Region Workshops for prospective future music educators.

Active Members, add these...

- ☐ Prepare your students for District, Region, All-State, All-East, and Music Performance Assessment Festivals.
- ☐ Encourage and support your grades 7-12 music students to participate in the all-day the PMEA CRESCENDO virtual conference on January 31, 2023: <https://www.pmea.net/crescendo/>.

Retirees, add these...

- ☐ Sign-up for the Retiree Resource Registry (R³), from the link on the PMEA Retired Member webpage: <https://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>
- ☐ Contact a local K-12 active or higher education PMEA member to offer your help for his/her music program.

College Music Education Majors (PCMEA members), add this...

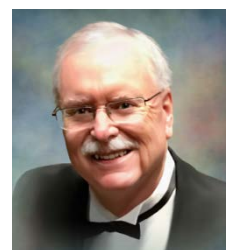
- ☐ Attend *religiously* all PCMEA chapter meetings and fully participate in their activities. PMEA, PCMEA, and NAfME are *your* professional associations, and the more you actively engage, network, and collaborate within them, the better prepared as a future music educator you will become... and more likely be successful in landing a job!

PASSAGES & TRANSITIONS

Our condolences and best wishes to the families, friends, colleagues, and students of these recently departed music educators, exceptional contributors to PMEA and Pennsylvania music education programs.



Matt Boice



Gary McKeever

PMEA "SENIOR CITIZENS" HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP YOU!

One of the lesser-known benefits of being a dues-paying PMEA member is access to the **R**etiree **R**esource **R**egistry (R³), a roster of informal mentors/consultants who are willing to provide on-the-spot quick-fixes or advice to solve something. "Been there done, done that," they would say. Have a pedagogical question? Having trouble with classroom management, creating that perfect lesson, or needing concert music ideas? Go to the Retired Members' page <https://www.pmea.net/retired-members/> and click on the links to the R³ registry and help index.

All you have to do is ask...



BLOGGING FOR PMEA (and Music Teachers Everywhere)

by Paul K. Fox, Chair of the Council TTRR and Coordinator of Retired Members <https://paulfox.blog/>

Many retirement counselors have recommended that one should not "retire from" something but instead "retire to" or "retire with" your skills and passions to something better! In *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free*, author Ernie Zelinski (one of these "experts") prescribed the most important axiom for "living the dream" and enjoying our "next chapter" – *"The three basic needs that work fulfills and are essential to retirement are finding purpose, structure, and community."*

Me? I decided to write, and it all began in June 2015 when I learned how to create posts on a (then free) WordPress site!

So... long story short: A vast library of articles have been created – a few of my personal "pet peeves" and opinionated commentaries (agree or disagree), but mostly "how-to" guides for educators in the grips of all stages of their careers: from collegiates, rookies, and veteran teachers to the post-employed. Since that time (and not to brag!), more than 165 blog-posts have been published penned by "yours truly" with a goal of providing a little insight, perspective, and at least a place to start to find more help... all begging for new readers. After all, **a mind & a blog are a terrible thing to waste!**

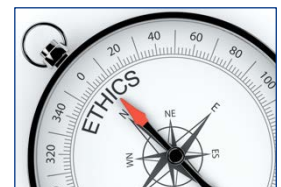
The categories came up as requests for workshops rolled in... and some were just "on my mind" based on past experiences and the needs of still working part-time in the field of music education:

- Care <https://paulfox.blog/care/> and <https://paulfox.blog/category/care/>
- Creativity <https://paulfox.blog/creativity-in-education/> and <https://paulfox.blog/category/creativity-and-education/>
- Ethics <https://paulfox.blog/category/ethics/>
- Fox Firesides for Students <https://paulfox.blog/foxs-firesides/>
- Job Hunt/Interviews <https://paulfox.blog/category/interviewing/> and <https://paulfox.blog/category/marketing-professionalism/>
- Pets <https://paulfox.blog/category/pets/>
- Retirement Resources <https://paulfox.blog/for-retirees/> and <https://paulfox.blog/for-retirees/>
- Training <https://paulfox.blog/becoming-a-music-educator/> and <https://paulfox.blog/category/training/>



Recent articles reflect on getting the school year started, preparing for employment screenings, retiring, and updating members on PDE ethics codes and PMEA conferences:

- Hacks to Help Music Teachers Organize (Part 1) <https://paulfox.blog/2022/06/19/hacks-to-help-music-teachers-organize/>
- Hacks for Music Teachers (Part 2) <https://paulfox.blog/2022/08/08/hacks-for-music-teachers-part-2/>
- Storytelling <https://paulfox.blog/2022/04/13/storytelling-etc-part-2/>
- PMEA Summer Conference <https://paulfox.blog/2022/06/29/its-time-for-the-pmea-summer-conference/>
- RECAP – Retirement Prep "Top-Ten" Treasures <https://paulfox.blog/2022/02/28/recap-retirement-resources/>
- PMEA's Unique "Together" Conference <https://paulfox.blog/2022/01/17/pmeas-unique-together-conference/>
- New Year's Resolutions for Retirees <https://paulfox.blog/2021/12/24/new-years-resolutions-for-retirees/>
- PA Educator Ethics Update <https://paulfox.blog/2021/10/06/pa-educator-ethics-update/>



BOOKSHELF – Recommended “Reads”

Some things old, some things new: Here are a few of “Paul’s Picks!”

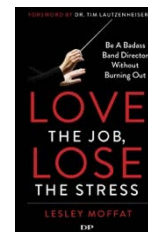
Burnout/Health & Wellness/Self-Care

Exhausted – Why Teachers Are So Tired and What They Can Do About It by Paul Murphy

Demoralized – Why Teachers Leave the Profession They Love and How They Can Stay by Doris A. Santoro

I Love My Job, But It’s Killing Me by Lesley Moffat

Love the Job, Lose the Stress by Lesley Moffat



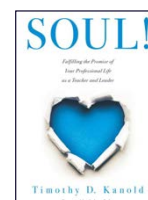
Education

Enhancing the Professional Practice of Music Teachers – 101 Tips that Principals Want Music Teachers to Know and Do by Paul G. Young

The World Becomes What We Teach – Educating a Generation of Solutionaries by Zoe Weil

Soul! Fulfilling the Promise of Your Professional Life as a Teacher and Leader by Timothy D. Kanold

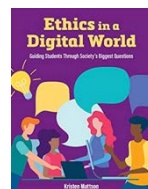
Riding the Wave – Teacher Strategies for Navigating Change and Strengthening Key Relationships by Jeremy S. Adams



Ethics

Model Code of Ethics for Educators revised by NASDTEC https://www.nasdtdec.net/page/MCEE_Doc

Ethics in a Digital World – Guiding Students Through Society’s Biggest Questions by Kristen Mattson



Retirement Preparation

How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free by Ernie Zelinski

The Quest for Retirement Utopia by Dave Hughes

Happy Retirement – The Psychology of Reinvention

by Megan Kaye, Kenneth S. Schultz, and Mike Annesley

Retiring with Purpose by Tricia Ryan Snow

Next Stage – In Your Retirement, Create the Life You Want by Tom Wilson

PMEA Retirement Book Reviews – Index:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bGkx4rqDE2m3JunmMailp2pThkSTWS1xWoiKIk3_qWA/edit?usp=sharing

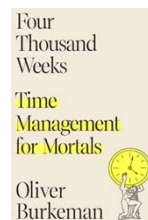
Time Management

Fewer Things Better by Angela Watson

Four Thousand Weeks – Time Management for Mortals by Oliver Burkeman

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey

The Weekend Effect by Katrina Onstad



PMEA WEB RESOURCES

Membership Has Its Privileges – You Are Free to Use These Tools at www.pmea.net



<https://advocacy.pmea.net/>



<https://www.pmea.net/resources/pennsylvania-dept-of-education-information/>



<https://www.pmea.net/council-for-ttrr/>



<https://www.pmea.net/focus-areas/higher-educationsmte/>



<https://www.pmea.net/focus-areas/pcmea/>