

Preparing for & fostering “living the dream!”

PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS

Spring/Summer Issue – April 21, 2025

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

“Dare to live the life you dreamed for yourself. Go forward and make your dreams come true.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Happy Spring!

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EDITOR'S NOTE

How are you doing?

Retirees, those soon-to-retire, collegiates, and active members: Join in celebrating & contributing to the *combined might* of our expertise, endowments, and encouragements that only your TEAM PMEA has to offer!

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

Do you have any “hints or hacks” 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

Transitioning to a Satisfying Retirement... It's All About “Rewirement!”

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!

We’re here to help you “grow” in all phases of your life & career!

Sister Kathleen Doult probably said it best after serving on the Retirement 101 guest panel for the 2025 PMEA Annual Conference: We are “REWIREES (love the word - should go into Webster’s!). I have already told people who ask me if I’m retired that I’m REWIRED!”

According to co-authors Jeri Sedlar and Rick Miners in their book *Don’t Retire, Rewire*, there are five steps to the process of transitioning to post-employment self-reinvention:

1. Seeing the opportunity: retiring is a *going from*, and rewiring is a *going to*.
2. Identifying your “drivers.”
3. Linking the drivers to your activities.
4. Creating your rewired vision.
5. Developing your action plan.

Reviewed in the November 2018 *PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS*, the primary focus of their

work is on “the aspect of retirement most people either ignore or can’t face: *what will I do, and how will I manage my time when I am no longer working?*”

Besides, “retired” is an awful word and frankly should be... retired. The average educator can leave the workforce before his or her magic Social Security age and launch new goals or venture into other pursuits and pastimes. Besides “rewired,” perhaps we should use the terms “refired,” “new beginnings,” “encore career,” or “next chapter” – portraying a journey to unique pathways, and for most of us, a state of flux, exploration, opportunities for retooling/retraining, and change!

RETIREEES – STAY ACTIVE IN PMEA! The super-power of PMEA is the SHARING of our combined clearinghouse and reservoir of experience and talent. The PMEA website archives contacts, links, webinars, documents, etc. – everything conveniently in one place: <https://www.pmea.net/>.

Join us in making a difference in PA music education!



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412-596-7937 <https://www.pmea.net/retired-members/>
Deadline for the next issue

September 1, 2025
Send “stuff” to:
paulkfox.usc@gmail.com



Retired Members – A Review of Our Involvement in the 2025 PMEA Annual Conference

by Paul K. Fox, PMEA State Retired Member Coordinator

Retirees are a valuable resource to PMEA! And, yes, many of us continue to share our expertise and experiences, remain active and engaged in, and contribute to “the BIG EVENT” – **the PMEA Annual Conference**.

I have always said, our highly knowledgeable and skilled retired members are among the best-trained (unofficial) mentors in PMEA. Facing many years of “boots on the ground,” we have at our fingertips numerous strategies to solve problems in education. Frankly, in my opinion, we have a lot to offer PMEA and “the future of the profession.”

By my unofficial count, more than 35 fully-retired PMEA members joined us April 9-12, 2025 at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos for the chance to “**c**atch-up,” “**c**onnect, “**c**ollaborate and “**c**ommunicate with other “**c**olleagues throughout the “**C**ommonwealth! At the “**c**onference, they served in many “**c**apacities (love that plethora of “**C**’s!”): PMEA officers, staff, board/council members, registrars, adjudicators, presenters, presiding chairs, chaperones, and retired resource registry advisors or official members of the PMEA mentor program for the launch of a new “coffee & connections” lounge (ask-an-expert “gurus” for PCMEA members, newcomers to a music education specialty, or recent transfers to the field). **Thanks for your help!**



Wednesday night, the PMEA Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention met, representing PCMEA, retired and active members with an emphasis on “the life cycle of a music educator.” Led by State TRI-M Chair and TTRR Council Chair Tina Bennett, we discussed the significant stress and funding issues of music education majors, recent activity/news from Advocacy & Public Policy, PCMEA, PMEA Mentors, PMEA Scholarships, Society for Music Teacher Education, TRI-M Future Maestros, and updates from another super-not-retired member – our PDE Fine Arts Consultant David Deitz. WOW! We learned from Dr. Kathleen Melago that 108 Slippery Rock University music students attended the conference!



I enjoyed swapping stories with our retirees at the annual PMEA retired member breakfast (always scheduled for Friday morning at the conference). If you were there and I somehow missed giving you our limited-edition conference “swag” – a coffee mug with the saying “**retired... and taking life one sip at a time,**” please let me know. I have a few extras.

Hosting our “official workshop,” **Retirement 101 – Retiree Stories & Strategies** on Friday, I was blessed with the gifted contributions of a panel of PMEA Retired Members (many of whom are also not fully retired from the profession!):

- Rick Coulter
- Jeffrey Dent
- Sister Kathleen Douth
- Dan Klingbeil
- Chuck Neidhardt
- Louis Victor
- Rich Victor

Their informal observations were invaluable, and we left with those in attendance (most of whom said they were not ready to “take the plunge”) access to a virtual “curriculum” on retirement prep, *the who-what-when-where-why-and-how* of this incredible life passage, a PDF file also now posted in the Retired Member focus area on the PMEA website. Download this resource!

Let’s make plans to meet NEXT YEAR when we return to Kalahari Resort for another PMEA Retired Member Breakfast on my birthday – Friday, April 24, 2026. Who’s bringing the cake?

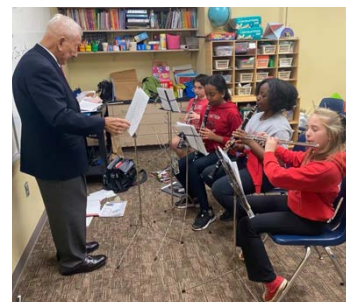
Just before this event that I look forward to every year, “yours truly” experienced a sudden and unforgiving setback, exploring “the wonderful world of sciatica.” I was that crazy PMEA photographer running around the multiple football field-lengths of the Kalahari Conference Center in an electric wheelchair (oh, what fun!). Although I am sure I missed many sessions and concerts (especially any offsite), I may have captured YOU and your friends and colleagues. Click on this link to see the action: https://www.flickr.com/photos/pkfox_fotos/54450477067/in/album-72177720325077286

"What's the Buzz, Tell Me What's a Happening!" – Member & Nonmember News



Perhaps "twice retired" from teaching jobs over the past 12 years, **Jim Scanga** would tell you he is as busy as ever! Leaving his position in 2013 as Director of Bands and Fine Arts Coordinator for the Farrell Area School District, he retired from Grove City College in 2023 as Guest Lecturer of French Horn. Currently, he is Instructor of Horn for the Canfield School District (near Youngstown, Ohio), does group lessons for horn players in grades 5-12 one day per week, and continues to teach private horn lessons. In January, he guest conducted the Mercer County Middle School Honors Band. With his remaining (ahem!) "free time," he "maintains his chops" as Principal Horn with the W.D. Packard Concert Band in Warren, Ohio, Principal Horn with the Greenville Symphony, a member of the Youngstown Fine Arts Brass Quintet, and the Bravura Woodwind Quintet. He frequently subs with the Butler Symphony and plays in the pit for numerous musical productions.

Guess what 90-year-old "distinguished" Penn State graduate and Director Emeritus for the Clarion University Bands retired in December 2024 after three decades of teaching in the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools of Charlotte, NC? It's not likely that anyone will be able to top the incredible record of **Stanley Michalski**, "a teacher of nearly seventy years in a band room," world-renown conductor-educator-performer, past President of the American Bandmasters Association, and Director/Soloist with bands in the US Armed Forces. According to WBTV, "At the final Christmas concert of the fall semester with all the Catholic School bands in Charlotte, the Diocese surprised Michalski with a plaque showing they are naming the band room at Charlotte Catholic High School the *Stanley F. Michalski, Jr. Band Room* in his honor."



It's time for some name dropping and reminiscing... and something you won't want to miss: Retired West Mifflin Area School District music educator **Vito DiSalvo** has launched his own "Memories of a Musician" Podcast Series. Click here to view past episodes:

<https://www.vitodisalvo.com/memories-of-a-musician.html>.

You might recall many of these featured VIPS ("famous" retired PA educators):

- Clem Rolin: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/12KNvmGKmpF/>
- Ernie Pontiere: <https://www.youtube.com/live/wx0S5iIqIzo?si=vnqQum1Ry3300iM9>
- Judi Figel: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19MPRHrq5M/>

Did you know that there is a catalog (not totally up-to-date – please help!) of published music by PMEA-member composers in the Retired Member focus area on the PMEA website? For example, from his Facebook page, we learned that Moravian University Adjunct Instructor and Assistant Conductor of the Allentown Band **Doug Bolasky** has a new arrangement, *Journey Over Jordan*, published by Cimarron Music Press for tuba/euphonium ensemble (5-part) and trombone choir (6-part). The Kutztown University Trombone Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Dan Neuenschwander premiered the trombone setting in November, 2023.



Visit this link to view other publications "created" by PMEA members:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FUKjHuBhhLfszWkXql7FD73lTfaXrj9m1JHJ3seRjjg/edit?usp=sharing>



Lorraine Milovac is Artistic Director of *Belle Voci*, a community-based, adult treble choral ensemble, and is in her 25th year as the Director of the University of Pittsburgh's Treble Choral Ensemble. She is also the Assistant Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair. Ms. Milovac recently retired from the Upper St. Clair School District. During her tenure there, she conducted multiple-level choirs, sponsored both the International Thespian Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society, and served as vocal director for the musicals. Her choirs and vocal students were consistently selected to perform in the PMEA All-State and NAFME All-Eastern Division and National conferences. Looking for a choral festival director? She has served as guest conductor for ACDA, PMEA, and County Chorus festivals.

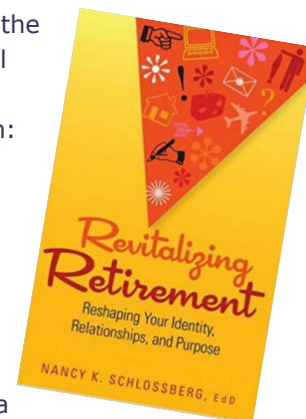
Keeping Our Hands in it!

How Retired Members Can Continue to Help PMEA & PA Music Education Programs

Do you feel “needed” and know you “make a difference?” Research has showed that the one of the most important motivators for involvement in a professional association is that its members feel they are essential for its success. This quote is from *Revitalizing Retirement: Reshaping Your Identity, Relationships, and Purpose* by Nancy Schlossberg, attributed to Rosenberg/McCullough:

“It has been suggested that one problem of retirement is that one no longer matters; others no longer depend on us... The reward of retirement, involving a surcease from labor, can be the punishment of not mattering. Existence loses its point and savor when one no longer makes a difference.”

Retired members DO MATTER, and we NEED YOU! Even though anytime a retiree wants to, we can always say “NO!” or “Not interested!” or “It’s not my sandbox anymore,” there may be a few areas we could offer our assistance. Here’s a quick brainstorm... and we hope you’ll pick at least one or two!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PMEA VOLUNTEERISM (Ask Abi Young or Paul Fox how to get more involved!)

1. Write an article or share a news announcement for *PMEA News* or this e-newsletter.
2. Participate in the PMEA Advocacy Day & make your voice heard by writing to your state/federal representatives.
3. Submit a proposal for the conference or a regional workshop session (with you as the presenter or on a panel).
4. Serve on the conference planning committee and judge sessions or performers online via the Submittable app.
5. Register for the annual conference and become a presiding chair for the sessions/concerts or a registration aide.
6. Nominate a colleague for the PMEA Citation of Excellence, James R. Stewart, or Hall-of-Fame awards.
7. Donate to the “Send a Collegiate to the Conference” to help music education majors attend our big event.
8. Contribute funds to the Irene Christman Scholarship or Margaret Bauer Grant programs.
9. Become an All-State Program Patron or assist any local/regional/state PMEA festival, MPA, or workshop.
10. Run for office or accept an appointment to your PMEA District/State Boards/Councils (Advocacy, C/I, PD, SPEC).
11. Become an official PMEA Mentor. (Register for the next one-hour training session with Co-Chairs Lisa or Susan.)
12. Volunteer to serve on a mock interview panel for future educators (listing your name on the PMEA website).
13. Assist the State Retired Member Coordinator in updating several databases on the PMEA website:
 - PMEA Member Compositions Library
 - Community Bands and Orchestras
 - Community Choirs
 - Community Theater Groups
14. Continue to help your local school music programs as an accompanist, chaperone, composer, conductor, music coach, etc.
15. Sign-up for the **Retired Resource Registry** to be available to offer advice to PCMEA, transfers, and newcomers to a specialty.



61 Current R³ Members as of 3/16/25

• Cynthia Miller Aungst (10)	• Joel Guldin (10)	• Francis Nesta (3)
• Nancy Beidler (10)	• Virginia Herrmann (11)	• Sean O'Neill (11)
• Tina Bennett (3)	• Robert Hoch (7)	• Denise Pearson (2)
• Gerald Black (2)	• Kathleen Horein (7)	• Jeffrey Puhala (4)
• George Bradshaw (7)	• Priscilla Howard (7)	• Robert Reid (2)
• Leslie Burnick (11)	• Mark Jelinek (8)	• Joanne Rutkowski (4)
• Michael Buterbaugh (10)	• Todd Kendall (8)	• James V Scanga (5)
• Christopher Campbell (7)	• Adrienne Kelly (1)	• Jennifer Schoener (12)
• Francis Caravella (7)	• Daniel Kershtsky (10)	• David Sheaffer (7)
• Richard Coulter (8)	• Julianne Laird (3)	• Philip Simon (8)
• David Cree (4)	• Michael Langston (11)	• Bernard Stellar (8)
• Owen Deitz (7)	• Mary Catherine Leo (9)	• Kathleen Thumpston (2)
• Jeffrey Dent (8)	• Sister Lauretta Linsalata (12)	• Richard Victor (4)
• John Devorick (7)	• Mary Loyer (7)	• John Vilella (12)
• Sister Kathleen Doult (12)	• Michael Martin (12)	• Ronald Wasser (8)
• Mary Jo Fadden (3)	• Bret Mascaro (11)	• George Weaver (12)
• Paul Fox (1)	• Richard Merrell (12)	• David Wenerd (7)
• William Galvin (1)	• Lorraine Milovac (1)	• David Withrow (5)
• Seth Gardner (12)	• Wendy Jo Nagy (6)	• Janet Yamron (12)
• R. Tad Greig (5)	• William Naydan (11)	
• Maryann Gross (11)	• Charles Neidhardt (11)	

Number in parentheses = District

"Put Your Hands Together..." Honoring These Retired Members! And the Awards Keeping Rolling in...

<https://www.pmea.net/scholarships-and-awards/>

PMEA Retired Members never let grass grow under their feet! It's even hard to have some of them stand still long enough to present them their special recognitions! Congratulations and thanks for your "awesome" service to our profession!

PMEA 2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

The PMEA Hall of Fame was established in July 2008 to honor music educators who, by virtue of their contributions, are recognized as being the most highly regarded professional leaders in music education in the state of Pennsylvania.



George Bradshaw



David Cree



Chuck Neidhardt

2025 JAMES R. STEWART DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The prestigious James R. Stewart Distinguished Service Award is given to a PMEA member who has served the association at the State Level. Other criteria may include length of service, multiple PMEA state level offices, NAFME Eastern Division, and/or National Offices. It is named for late James R. Stewart, the only PMEA State President to serve two separate terms of office for our organization.

How can we describe the *eminence* of our 2025 recipient, Mary Lynne Peters, PMEA All-State Festival Coordinator? How about a few of these adjectives?

Outstanding – Celebrated – Illustrious – Reputable – Industrious – Exalted – Renown
Trustworthy – Dedicated – Tireless – Focused – Redoubtable – Respected – Noble

Never in one place very long (she plans and works all the All-State events at the conference), you may have seen her wearing a bright yellow PENNDOT vest at Kalahari... directing traffic?



Mary Lynne Peters

PHI BETU MU – NU CHAPTER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Richard D. Victor



PADESTA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

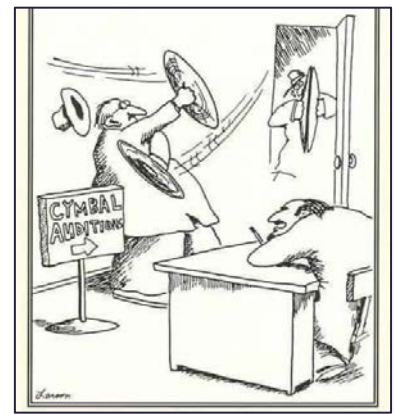
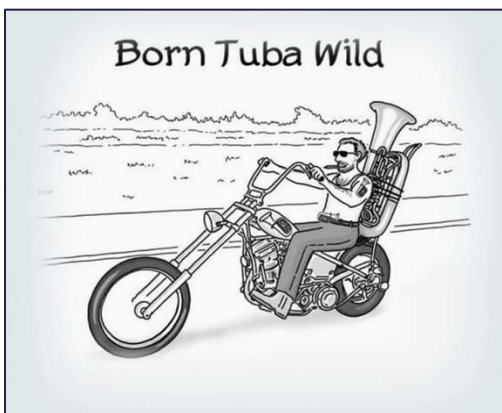
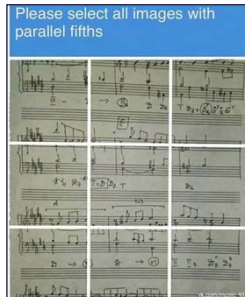


Marie Weber

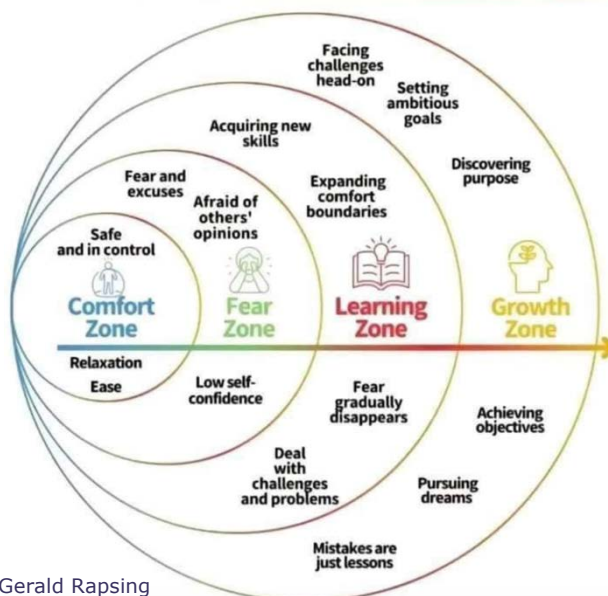


Graffiti – Inspiration and “The Funnies”

from our retired and active members surfing the “Net” – Send your humorous or thoughtful clippings to paulkfox.usc@gmail.com.



The Growth Journey



Mastering Time Management:

Book - The Art of Laziness

1. Plan your day.
2. Write everything you want to achieve in a day.
3. Write your goals on a physical paper.
4. Follow the 80/20 Rule. 20% of your work will bring you 80% of your results.
5. Stop Multitasking. Switching tasks significantly reduces your productivity.
6. Focus on one task at a time.
7. Remove all distractions from your environment.
8. When tired, take a nap.
9. Learn to say no. You will never have enough time if you say yes to everything.
10. Delegate all the non-important tasks.
11. Don't wait for the perfect time. Do It Now.
12. Anything that can be done in under five minutes should be done now.
13. Do the task that you hate first.
14. Set deadlines; the task will never be finished without deadlines.
15. Stop focusing on things that don't help you achieve your goals.
16. Don't be a perfectionist when it's not required.
17. Schedule a time when you're going to check your email.
18. Avoid all unnecessary meetings.
19. Avoid negative people at all costs.
20. Do what you love.

A Look at So-Called "Favorite" Book Lists...

"...And Where Is That Semi-Annual Retiree Book Review?"

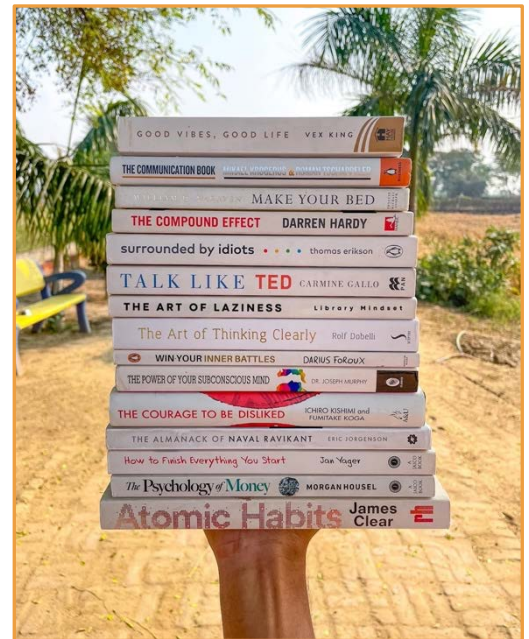
by Paul K. Fox, PMEA State Retired Member Coordinator

Breaking a longstanding tradition started by your PMEA State Retired Member Coordinator (now finishing his 11th year?), there will be no book report this issue! So sorry! I am too busy... reading a mountain of more books!

The character "Robert McCall" in the movie series *The Equalizer* (played by Denzel Washington) mentioned that his late wife was working through "The 100 Books Everybody Should Read" when she died, so he decided to carry on the tradition. It is not clear the exact list he was referring to, but we found a blog by Gillian that settled on the Goodreads "100 Books from The Equalizer" which thankfully also provides a convenient PDF check list to accomplish this daunting task. Look here: <https://uncomplicatedspaces.substack.com/p/100-books-everyone-should-read-pdf>
How many of these have you read?

On a slow day pushing wheelchairs at the local hospital in the Western PA suburbs where I live, my fellow volunteers (true "bibliophiles") and I brainstormed what were our most *inspiring reads*. Their list is likely a lot more spiritual, faith-based, or metaphysical than most:

- *Book of Joy* by Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- *Conversations with God* by Neale Donald Walsch
- *Jesus CEO* by Laurie Beth Jones
- *Many Lives, Many Masters* by Dr. Brian L. Weiss
- *Mutant Message Down Under* by Marlo Morgan
- *Return to Laughter* by Elenore Smith Bowen
- *Tying Rocks to Clouds* by William Elliott
- *When Bad Christians Happen to Good People* by Dave Burchett



You see I still "float" many images of recommended retirement books throughout these eNEWS issues. If you did not attend the *Retirement 101* session at the PMEA Annual Conference, check out more of these laid out in our PDF handout: <https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Retirement-101-PMEA-conference-revised-s041125.pdf>

Want something new and refreshing for those who are already retired or soon-to-retire? I found this November 2024 Kiplinger post offering "Five Books About Retirement to Prepare You for Your Golden Years" by Jacob Schroeder:

<https://www.kiplinger.com/retirement/books-about-retirement-prepare-you-for-golden-years>

1. *Die with Zero: Getting All You Can from Your Money and Your Life* by Bill Perkins
2. *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante
3. *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life* by Arthur Brooks
4. *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
5. *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion

Finally, if you are looking for additional resources on how to prepare for that major life passage of transitioning to retirement, many books and websites suggested by your senior colleagues who have already "Cross the Rubicon," all you need do is visit the Retired Member focus area on the PMEA website and click on these links:

- **Ultimate Retiree Resource Guide:**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Rz9tTHD0pXWeUBJJjgogrWit3O2fEw2G_dYTsTWjmCE/edit?usp=sharing
- **Prepping for Post-Employment:**
<https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Retire-Prep-Revised-102219.pdf>
- **PMEA How-to-Retire Guide:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LluJ_OctC4o
- **Retired Member Network eNEWS Book Index:**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bGkx4rqDE2m3JunmMailp2pThkSTWS1xWoiKIk3_qWA/edit?usp=sharing

"Some of the best books about retirement are really about living life well. It's been said that a reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. So, if words on a page can introduce us to what it's like to live in another century or a faraway land, then why not introduce us to life in retirement, too?"

Heard Through the "Vintage" Grapevine

You were warned! Your Retired Member Coordinator has resorted to "trolling the Internet" and capture "rumors" like these! What's the lesson here? Please email paulkfox.usc@gmail.com "what's happening in YOUR LIFE," OR you might see an unflattering photograph from social media or a Google-search post here! Tell us about your grandchild(ren), pets, a fun vacation trip, new hobby, household renovation, musical pursuit, or ??? We need pictures, too!

psst...



ENCORE ENTERTAINMENT
FEATURING SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS "MUSICIANS' CHOICE"
3/9/25 · 3pm · TYDINGS AUDITORIUM

Join Southwest Symphony Orchestra as they play "Musicians' Choice"! All pieces have been chosen by our SWSO musicians! RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE CONCERT!

Sponsored By The Families of Joyce Walker & Maria Melis

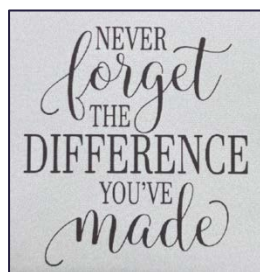
Tickets available at Music World, Q Systems Music & Sound, and at swsymphony.org 18 & under/college students with ID - FREE



We can always count on **Mark Jelinek** (District 8) to send us some "action" from his Southwest Symphony Orchestra in Hobbs, NM.

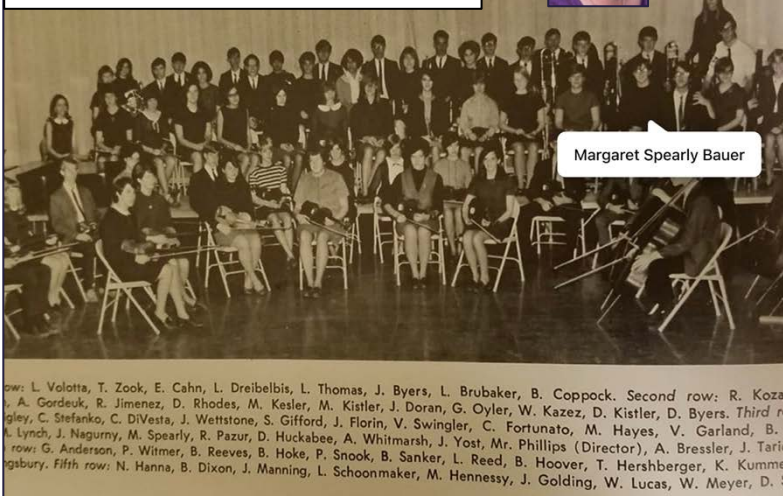
This was a "musician's choice" program he conducted on March 9, 2025.

Beethoven: *Egmont Overture*, Op. 84
Smetana: *The Moldau*
Dvorak: *Symphony No. 9*
II. *Largo*
Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade*, Op. 35
IV. *Festival in Bagdad*
INTERMISSION
Holst: *The Planets*
Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity
Dai Porto, Mark: *Mystic Mountain*
Rimsky-Korsakov: *Capriccio Espanol*
Brahms: *Academic Festival Overture*, Op. 80



On November 10, 2024, the Assembly Church in Roaring Spring hosted the Altoona Brass Collective brass quintet who presented a Veterans Day program during the morning worship service:
Matt Stombaugh – Trumpet,
Jim Rumbarger – Trumpet,
Kelly Myers – French Horn,
Pat Sachse – Trombone, and
Jerry Berry - Tuba/Emcee.
(District 6).

We found this old 1968 school symphony orchestra photo with **Margaret Spearly Bauer** (our Executive Director Emerita) on the Internet. What school?



A very gimpy **Paul Fox** (District 1) stopped in with his electric wheelchair to see the 2025 PMEA All-State Nurses at Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. (It was great re-connecting with them!)

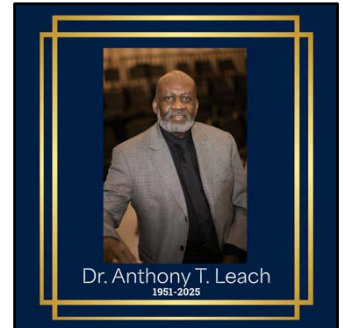
In Memoriam

Dr. Anthony T. Leach

With heavy hearts, the Penn State School of Music shares the passing of Dr. Anthony T. Leach, Professor Emeritus of Music and Music Education, and Founding Director of *Essence of Joy*.

Dr. Leach touched countless lives as a beloved educator, mentor, conductor, and friend. His remarkable contributions to our School and his dedication to building community will be remembered and celebrated by those who had the privilege to know him.

A more detailed statement honoring Dr. Leach's life and impactful legacy will be shared in the coming weeks. For now, we extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones, students, countless dedicated alumni, colleagues, and to all who were inspired by his work, infectious spirit, and his music.



Louis Munkachy

96-year-old Mt. Lebanon, PA resident Louis Munkachy passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

One of Louis's defining characteristics was his passion for music, which began in his native Hungary. After graduating from the renowned Liszt Academy of Music, he rose to become a conductor of the prestigious Hungarian Union Choir. When the Soviet Union invaded Hungary in 1956, Louis and his wife, Emily, fled to the United States with their one-year-old son, George, in search of freedom and opportunity. After arriving in America, Louis worked tirelessly in many jobs to provide for his family, including at a cabinet shop and as a night watchman.

Music remained at the core of his being, and finally, he landed an audition at Duquesne University's Department of Music, where the faculty immediately recognized his talent and admitted him into the graduate program with a full scholarship. He went on to earn a PhD in music education and became a distinguished professor of music at Duquesne, dedicating three decades to teaching and mentoring students. He was deeply respected and loved by students and colleagues alike, and his legacy lives on in the many he encouraged and inspired along the way.

Outside the classroom, Louis brought his musical gifts to the community, most notably as the longtime choir director at Saint Bernard's Church.

A memorial service to celebrate Louis's life will be held at a later date. Instead of flowers, the family requests donations to the Pittsburgh Opera or the Pittsburgh Symphony in honor of Louis's lifelong devotion to sharing music and culture.



RECAP –

"The Bridge Builder"

by Will Allen Dromgoole



Retired Members: We appreciate everything you are doing for PMEA, nurturing the inspiration, learning, leadership, and care of our members.

Paul Fox

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide –
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pit-fall be,
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."