

Hello, Retired Colleagues!

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, & Joyous New Year from your Retired Member Coordinator. Best wishes for happiness, good health, and prosperity in 2025! Please enjoy the holidays with your family and friends and stay connected with your colleagues in PMEA!

This informal seasonal greeting (which may be blocked by many spam filters) is to update you on upcoming "happenings" and the PMEA Annual Conference at Kalahari Resort/Poconos!

Attached (and at this link: <https://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/PMEA-Retired-Member-Network-eNEWS-s120424.pdf>) is the Winter 2024 edition of the *PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS*. Did you have a chance to read it? Please, before you forget, send me stuff (news, events, awards, jokes, etc.) by March 1 for the Spring issue.

Some of you are quick-on-the draw. After the eNEWS went out on December 11, almost instantly I received responses from Louise Victor, Rich Victor, and Jeffrey Dent to join the guest retiree panel for the Retirement 101 session on Friday, April 11, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. We are looking for a few more volunteers from the retired member ranks, and of course, assist us in getting the word out to invite anyone who is considering "pulling their pin" (a.k.a. retire) over the next couple years!

If you are available and plan to attend anyway, would you consider sending me an email to confirm adding your name to the panel. Besides my PowerPoint presentation on the Who-What-When-Where-Why-and-How of Retirement, we could explore a few these questions:

1. How have you found happiness and success in retirement?
2. What "new" hobbies, volunteer projects, trips, family connections, and encore careers have you been exploring?
3. What did you do to reinvent yourself and how did you satisfy those essential "big three" goals of post-full-time employment: finding purpose, structure, and community?
4. How did you navigate the early phases of retirement? imagination, anticipation, liberation, etc.
5. What were some of the transitional "ups and downs" you experienced and how did you cope with them?
6. What are you still doing in music and education?

Friday morning, we will also "break bread together" in our annual Retired Member Meeting... and breakfast is on Abi! Also, there is a chance we could help out at the conference advising PCMEA members and newcomers to the profession (informal sessions "coffee & conversations" or "ask an expert") or serving as Presiding Chairs. Keep your eyes out for more information from the PMEA staff.

By the way, did you see this in the December 20th *Digital PMEA News*? There's still time to make a tax-deductible donation for 2024. Visit: <https://portal.pmea.net/i4a/ams/publicLogin.cfm>.

Finally, from time to time I write blogs about retirement transitioning... but this time, I let ChatGPT read my notes. Check out (and share) my latest posting with a lot of these announcements at <https://paulfox.blog/2024/12/24/retirement-transitioning-advice-from-ai/>.

Take care! Please keep in touch! How can I help YOU?

Paul K. Fox, PMEA State Retired Member Coordinator
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