

The 2012 Reno Convention And Beyond (continued from page 8)

I would like to say congratulations to Neil Lantz for being selected as our new President. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Neil on several occasions and he has always impressed me as being a qualified, knowledgeable leader. I have no doubt that with his positive attitude and "can do" spirit, the FFS will be in very good hands. We are with you all the way, Neil.

We also have two new Fresh News Editors. Congratulations to Barbara Meyers and Donna Gallaway. That is not an easy task, but I know they will do a blockbuster job!!!! Thank you for taking on this ominous responsibility.

Fort Wayne is shaping up to be another terrific convention. I look forward to seeing all of you there. Don't miss it. This is where it all started back in 1948.

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FINISHING 2012 WITH A FLOURISH! (continued from page 5)

Mid September marked the release of the latest Freshmen CD, *Love Songs*, and it is proving to be a real gem! The beautiful vocal arrangements and a new composition all by Brian, the very tasteful ensemble and solo work by the guys and the lush backings by the strings from Prague, Czech Republic make this a real keeper! Copies of *Love Songs* are also available from the Music Mart and make great keepsakes and gifts.

Also released last fall, just in time for the Reno convention, was the new limited edition coffee table-sized edition of *Now You Know, The Story of The Four Freshmen*, originally written by Ross. Published by Russ Cochran, this striking leather bound version features many never before released photographs, a forward by Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys, and a beautiful heartwarming "Last Letter to Ross," chapter lovingly written by Sue Barbour after Ross' death. Copies are available from the Music Mart at a discounted price for FFS members.

Adding to the excitement last fall was the wonderful Society Convention held in Reno, Nevada, October 4 to 6. Under the leadership of Chairperson Jay Woode-Dobies, her energetic husband Dennis, and a hard working Convention Committee, the 25th annual gathering of the Society had to rank as one of the best ever. Without question, the Thursday night jam session in Sammy's Showroom, named after Sammy Davis, Jr., established a new high in jamming by talented FFS members. Attendees enjoyed the newly formatted "Fresh Memories" session by past FF members Bill Comstock, Rod Henley, Greg Stegeman, and special guest, Sue Barbour. And who can ever get enough of the opportunity to sing Freshmen charts in the Wannabee session each afternoon? Of course, all of this and more led up to two wonderful concerts by Bob, Brian, Vince, and Curtis with Saturday night's performance featuring selections from the new CD and backed-up by a twenty piece string ensemble under the direction of Rod Henley. It was, indeed, an evening to remember!

More 2012 good news came in Reno with Membership Director Chaz Cone's report that "new memberships have grown significantly this year." According to Chaz, household memberships declined somewhat in 2008 and 2009, likely due to the economy, but have been trending upward since 2010. In view of our obvious age demographics, that's great news. Clearly, much has to do with the quality of the Freshmen but also with the "fun" aspect of the Society and the mutual interest we all share in this great music and its history. Of course, there's always room for more of us in the FFS, so I encourage each of you to recruit new members. I have yet to meet a new member who didn't say they wished they had known about the Society sooner. So, please help us get the word out. All ages are welcome, and membership is easily available by contacting Chaz at 6900 Hunters Knoll NE, Atlanta, GA 30328-1763 or via our website at www.fourfreshmensociety.com. Let's continue to grow!

Lastly, I hope you're making plans to attend the 2013 Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana, September 5 -7. This will be the 26th annual gathering of the Society and will celebrate the 65th uninterrupted year of worldwide performances by our favorite musical vocal group. Of added significance is the fact that the Convention will be held in the Grand Wayne Center on the exact site of the former 113 Club where the original Freshmen began their first professionally booked appearance on September 20, 1948. Co-Chairpersons Marlene Lobsiger and Dave Blackwell and their committee are working hard to make this one a great convention; be sure to see the details in this issue, and I look forward to seeing you in Fort Wayne.

So as of this reporting everything is looking up! The Freshmen are sounding great and the Society is active and growing. With your support, 2013 can be another wonderful year.