

# Mike McCoy, Longtime FFS Member, Remembered

By Wayne Corey,  
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Michael McCoy, Wisconsin State Representative for the Four Freshmen Society, passed away in September. Mike, age 77, had battled multiple health issues during the last years of his life. He was a good man and a great Four Freshmen fan. At his last Four Freshmen concert, in March in Milwaukee, Mike was at the CD table in the lobby pitching the benefits of FFS membership. He was extremely enthusiastic about the Group 24 edition of the Freshmen and hoped to attend the 2016 convention to hear more and greet old friends. He was a frequent FFS convention attendee and numerous friends asked about him when he was unable to attend in San Antonio and Louisville.

Mike joined the FFS in May, 1991 at the same time as this writer. Both of us were enrolled by the late FFS legend John Bangs at a Four Freshmen concert in Madison, WI. Mike's last Four Freshmen activity was attending John's memorial with me in May of this year. He attended numerous FFS conventions and events.

Mike was an Indiana University graduate where he played trumpet in the marching band. He played in bands and sang in choruses most of his adult life. He was a big supporter of barbershop singing. He was a huge fan of passenger rail and, when possible, he "went by train."

Mike was a professional newspaper reporter prior to a career in public information for the State of Wisconsin. He is survived by his son, daughter, six grandchildren and many, many friends.

Mike was noted for his compassion for people less fortunate and his joy at "fellowship" with people of all interests and stations in life. He was a faithful life-long Presbyterian. A sticker in his auto's rear window read "Four Freshmen Society." A bumper sticker proclaimed "Grace Happens." Mike's life was filled with grace and his friends are very fortunate to have been blessed by his presence with us.



# Jonathan Gaines

Born in 1992, Jon Gaines was introduced to the world of music at the age of five when he began taking piano lessons from his grandmother in his hometown of Derry, NH. By fifth grade, young Jon was expanding his musical talents to the trumpet, but it wasn't until Jon first heard a recording of Louis Armstrong that a passion was sparked and this new found love of jazz set him on a life long pursuit for musical excellence. Gaines's high school years were spent performing with a wide variety of concert and jazz bands as well as several vocal ensembles. After high school, Jon attended the prestigious New England Conservatory where he furthered his studies in jazz

improvisation with the likes of educators John McNeil, Jerry Bergonzi, and Frank Carlberg. Jon also continued to advance his trumpet technique through lessons from venerable instructors Steve Emery and Laurie Frink. Along with all his instrumental studies on trumpet and piano Jon also undertook several years of vocal instruction before earning his bachelors degree in 2014.

Outside of his music career Jon is an Eagle Scout and when not performing in his current home town of Boston he enjoys exploring the great outdoors, in particular the woods of Northern Maine.



## EDITOR'S NOTE:

It is my great pleasure to announce that Donna Galloway will be re-joining me as Co-Editor. She took some time off to help her parents. I feel with my last two surgeries in the past two years and my advancing age, when I feel the need to step aside I will have someone to step right in and carry on without any interruption. Barb Meyers