

Our
President,
**Neil
Lantz**



TEAMWORK Makes It Happen

As President of the Society, it's my pleasure to work with the many faithful fans of the Freshmen and tireless supporters of the FFS. I've written previously over the years in recognition of our Convention Co-chairs and the great work they have done to make the annual celebrations memorable for our membership. In that regard, I would be remiss if I didn't salute the continued dedication and teamwork of the Board of Directors whose behind-the-scenes leadership guides our organization year after year. At the risk of overlooking anyone who has continued to contribute to the team, I encourage everyone to take special note of the Board as listed in this edition. Specifically, I call special attention to current members whose responsibilities are performed year-round in service to the FFS membership with absolutely no financial compensation for their work.

I would first like to commend the Chairman of the FFS Board, Gil Peterson, with whom I communicate closely on a very regular basis. My special appreciation is for his leadership as Chairman of the Convention Coordination Committee, his dedication in seeking appropriate locations for future conventions, and his overall guidance and support of the Convention Co-chairs. Such responsibility is significant and ongoing.

Another key individual in the FFS organization is Treasurer John Emerson. Obviously, accurate management and reporting of the organization's financial resources are essential responsibilities. John also assists his wife Barbara Emerson, who is not a member of the BOD but continues her dedicated work as Director of the FFS Music Mart.

Donna Gallaway, Secretary of the Board, wears two important hats. In addition to her responsibility for keeping an accurate record of Board action, she assists Barb Meyers as Co-editor of Fresh News.

Barb Meyers continues as Editor, soliciting interest and appropriate content and directing each quarterly edition through its important development, production, and distribution.

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ANNOUNCEMENT:

Unfortunately, the 2020 Four Freshmen Society Convention scheduled for September 24-26 in Bay City Michigan has been canceled. This decision was made due to an abundance of caution brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who have already registered will receive a full refund. The convention will be rescheduled in 2021.

See you next year in Bay City!

New to the Fray

By: Bob Ferreira

Greetings fans and friends. Change has been an integral part of what has kept The Four Freshmen moving forward for what will be 72 years come this September, and I realize that there has been a lot of rumors circulating (and as some of our performance ads in recent months would indicate) that there may have been a personnel change in the group. Well, the rumors are true. After three years of contributing his wonderful talents both vocally and instrumentally, Jon Gaines decided it was time to get off the road to settle down with his family. Jon was a wonderful addition and brought his heart and soul to the stage every performance. We will always be appreciative for Jon's contributions to the group and we all wish Jon the best in all his life's endeavors.

I also want to take this moment to thank Curtis Calderon for stepping in during the transition period when schedule conflicts made it difficult for Jon. Curtis has always proved himself an asset to the group and it was a sincere pleasure to once again share the stage with him. Thanks, Curtis!

Through Tommy and Jon we were able to come in contact with a very gifted musician by the name of Jake Baldwin. We as members, fans, and friends of The Four Freshmen have been very fortunate over the years to find talented musicians to perpetuate this great sound, and Jake epitomizes all the attributes one would expect in maintaining the quality and high standards of The Four Freshmen legacy both on and off the stage.

I won't go into Jake's background as Jake has contributed an article to this edition of Fresh News (please read "Jake - The New Guy" page 9), but I will say that I could not be happier with the level of dedication, excitement, and level of performance Jake has put out in the handful of shows that we have had with him. I have no doubt that you all will feel the same once you see Jake perform on stage and meet him in person.

So please join me in welcoming Jake Baldwin to the fray as our newest "Freshman."

Long live Group 26!