

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

I am writing this column as we are under a tornado warning in northwest Ohio. Oh the many twists and turns of the weather here when Spring is approaching! The promise of Spring always is hope and new life as we enjoy the flowers popping up and blooming trees.

Our Four Freshmen Society is embarking on a new season of experiencing togetherness around performances by The Freshmen. We are calling them Gatherings, and you can find more details about them in this issue and the next one, so do check it out.

The *Fresh News* has always been the glue that keeps FFS members connected and up to speed on what is happening with The Freshmen. This issue we are going back to look at former events we call conventions or reunions. I have some special memories of so many of these over the 33 years I have been part of them starting in 1991 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. John Bangs was celebrating a wedding anniversary with The Freshmen as entertainment and a chicken dinner at the American Legion - the first of many such events that Tom and I enjoyed and learned to know as reunions/conventions for Freshmen fans. We were hooked after meeting so many like-minded fans of this great music and spending time getting to know The Freshmen.



A Sentimental Journey Thru the Years

by Marlene Lobsiger

"Gonna take a sentimental journey. Gonna set my heart at ease. Gonna take a sentimental journey to renew old memories" and that is the reason why over 200 Four Freshmen Society members journeyed to the 34th annual Four Freshmen Society's Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana, September, 2023.

How did these conventions come about? It was 1988 when Edd Townsend founded what was originally known as the Four Freshmen Appreciation Society. At a meeting with Bob Flanigan, Autie Goodman, Mike Beisner and Kirk Marcy in Fort Worth, Texas where the Freshmen were performing, Edd presented his idea to the Four. Bob Flanigan liked the idea and said "Okay Townsend...Let's do it." Thus the Society as well as the *Fresh News* newsletter was born and officially launched January 1, 1988. Many fans were anxious and excited to become members of the group. In later years the name Four Freshmen Appreciation Society was changed to The Four Freshmen Society.

Conventions have been held annually in various cities throughout the United States bringing members together from more than 40 states throughout the USA as well as from other countries outside the US. i.e. Denmark, Japan, Norway, Canada, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and others totaling 462 FFS members from outside the USA.

By attending FFS conventions hundreds of folks have helped support The Four Freshmen and made lasting friendships with one another and with the Freshmen themselves; now in their 76th year. Had it not been for the love of the Freshmen, their unique sound as well as those who have dedicated themselves in leadership roles as president, secretary, treasurer and the many volunteers who have spent hours keeping records and producing conventions, we may never have had the opportunity to hold the FFS convention in its final 34th year, as we have known conventions to be, or to have celebrated the 75th anniversary with a toast to The Four Freshmen.

The first line in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven, a time to weep and a time to love." FFS annual conventions will not be held as we have known them to be for the past 34 years. However, we have developed a plan in order to continue meeting with friends and fans before and after Four Freshmen concerts in your area, referred to as "The Gatherings." Now, isn't that *fresh news*, and isn't that great news?

PLEASE VISIT TheFourFreshmenSociety.com web site, click on "The Gatherings" to learn how we can continue to meet by keeping lasting friendships and love of The Freshmen alive.

My husband, Tom, was an obsessed collector of all things on vinyl related to The Four Freshmen. I still have that huge collection after he passed away unexpectedly in 2007. The Portland, Oregon convention that year was my first without him, but FFS folks were so kind and like family. They have been supportive ever since as I continued to serve as secretary of FFS for many years.

I have always looked forward to renewing those cherished friendships each year at conventions or FF shows on the road, and I hope we have found a way to continue to make that happen. I will be checking it out at the Tiffin, Ohio show in April.

Remember, Spring brings new, FRESH life!