

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS FFS Members

As you have likely noticed, the photo with this article is a change which came about in early May when Neil Lantz retired as president of the Four Freshmen Society. The Board of Directors encouraged me to consider a nomination to fill that position, and I was elected to serve as your president for the next three years.

My husband Tom and I joined FFS (which was then FFAS under the leadership of John Bangs) in 1990. I have served as secretary of FFS for more than 20 years and enjoyed every minute of that job, which did not require a lot of work. However, it did provide the welcome opportunity to really get to know a large number of dedicated folks who love and support The Freshmen and that fabulous music to which we are so addicted.

I have served on FFS convention planning committees for Virginia, Toledo, Ft. Wayne and the recent one in Daytonas well as helping with on-site registration at several others. I have also overseen the Silent Auction at a couple of those events. It has been through offering to assist at these reunions (we are like a family in FFS) that I have built relationships that have enriched my life more than I can say. I encourage each of you to get involved and make it a priority to attend the next FFS Convention in June of 2021 in Bay City, Michigan. I guarantee you will have no regrets and will go home having made many new friends and memories - including live music by our very own Four Freshmen!

I am honored to enter this new era as your president, but I realize I have big shoes to fill. Neil has done a remarkable job leading us for the past eight years. We all wish Neil and Sara Lou the best retirement possible, knowing we will still see them actively participating at every chance. I pray you have all stayed safe and healthy during this stressful time and have listened to some wonderful Four Freshmen music, as I have while painting my living room! I am looking forward to meeting and greeting all of you as we gather at Fresh events in the future.

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 has been rescheduled for June 9-11, 2021.

**See you next year
in Bay City!**

TIME TO RETIRE

As the saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun," and it's hard for me to realize that it's been nearly eight years since I was elected to the presidency of the FFS Board of Directors. Over that time, together with my hard-working and always helpful wife, Sara Lou, it's been a wonderful opportunity to serve the Society membership in faithful support of The Four Freshmen. My role since 2012 has afforded me the opportunity to work closely with members of the board, past and present, with dozens of FFS volunteers in the success of our annual conventions, and with countless other Society members with whom I share mutual love for the historic and continuing music of The Four Freshmen. As many of you know, however, earlier this year I decided to retire as President of the Board (on May 1) and to continue as a Board member until the next annual meeting in Bay City.

Over my term in office, Sara Lou and I have especially appreciated the opportunity to enjoy our personal friendship with The Four Freshmen. Unfortunately, we lost Bob Flanigan and Ross Barbour along the way. During the past several years however, we offered our very best wishes to former Freshmen Vince Johnson, Brian Eichenberger, Curtis Calderon, and Jon Gaines as they moved along to new opportunities; and it was our pleasure to welcome "new" Freshmen Stein Malvey, Tommy Boynton, and newest guy, Jake Baldwin. And, of course, it's been a special pleasure to work closely with the "old man" of our favorite group, Bob Ferreira.

As I said, it's been a fun and rewarding tenure to serve as the Society President, and I thank everyone for the opportunity. And now, I want to recognize our new President, Donna Gallaway. Donna has a long history in support of the Society and The Four Freshmen, having served most recently as Secretary of the Board and Co-Editor of *Fresh News*. It's been my pleasure to work with her over the years, and I look forward to her continued work as the eighth President of the Society Board. I urge everyone to congratulate Donna and to offer her their full support as the newest Society leader.

Neil Lantz