

Next Stop - PITTSBURGH PA!

by Bob Baker, Chairman Task Force Office

The glow of the Amsterdam Convention remains bright, especially in the minds of all who were fortunate to attend. I believe it is also a perfect time to formally announce that the Four Freshmen Society's International 2006 Convention will be held at the beautiful Hilton Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. Dates for this grand event are Thursday, August 24 through Saturday, August 26. Wednesday the 23rd is being held open for an Officer and Trustee meeting. Many more details will be forthcoming in future editions of the Fresh News and also on the website. Start Planning!

What I wish to convey to our membership in this initial presentation is..."You will simply enjoy the City!" The Freshmen are the reason, but permit me to create some complimentary thoughts on why you should be with us next year.

Pittsburgh...provides an attractive, safe and compact downtown area with an exceptional array of things to do. Cultural tours, riverboat rides, science centers, art and historical museums, the zoo, aquarium, aviary, universities, athletic events and great restaurants abound. Sightseeing atop Mt. Washington is breathtaking, and the unique shopping and smells of the Strip District are memorable. We promise you good times. Pittsburgh is one of the most affordable destinations in the world, combining the amenities of a great city with small town charm.

The Hilton Hotel...is an excellent choice for our convention headquarters. The rooms and suites were recently refurbished and this large, modern facility houses a fine restaurant, an outdoor cafe, lobby coffee bar and a popular sports lounge. Add the several shops and you may choose not to leave the grounds. However, once you check out the view of Point State Park, the Three Rivers, PNC Park and Heinz Field, one may want to get a little closer to the scene. Take the free downtown shuttle, or walk to most anywhere. The topper is the magnificent Hilton Ballroom, expandable to 17,000 sq. ft. I hope we use every available foot of space for the dinner concerts. The group and fans will love the acoustics and lighting, first class all the way. The Hilton maintains a very visitor friendly reputation.

The decision for our Task-Force to make application for the 2006 convention was made easier, at least for me, by the Society "Big Shots" that live in Western Pennsylvania. I have some great folks to work with: Trafford, Camlin, Lininger, Persun, Hillgrove and the Lydics. The list also includes Purvis and Baldwin, who are within hailing distance, give or take a couple hundred miles. Another big plus is having my wife, Karen, working by my side. We have been able to call upon The Morrisons (Grand Rapids 2004) for their advice as well as the incomparable Chaz Cone. The list keeps expanding.

I have heard from so many Society members who mentioned that the convention is about the Four Freshmen. This is a nice way to say limit the amount of time utilized for other acts. I agree heartily with that thought. We do have the opportunity however, to bring in Sue Raney as a very special guest artist. She has long been a true friend of the Freshmen. We are excited about her appearance and feel she is a terrific compliment to our favorite group.

Looking forward to seeing you next August!

FN October, November, December 2005



View of Pittsburgh Hilton.



Pittsburgh task force Left to Right - Lininger, Trafford, Lydic, Persun, and Baker.



View of downtown Pittsburgh