

HELP!.... WANTED

FFS is actively recruiting volunteers, we really need some help! The loss of our long time editor of Fresh News has sorely indicated our serious lack of depth in personnel. Thus we need someone with the necessary interest and skills to move into this most important position within our organization. Fresh News is published four times a year and requires the ability to devote the time and energy to collect, review, edit and prepare materials for publication. The actual printing and mailing is professionally handled by contractors but the content must be assembled and communicated timely. Some experience with such efforts obviously a plus and modest computer skills are required. It will be more efficient to discuss this by phone and explain the procedures should you have an interest in a volunteer, non-paid dead-end career. If you have an interest give me a call and we can go over the process and details. The necessary green eye shade, sleeve garters and #2 pencils will be provided. Let me hear from you, please!

Tom Purvis, Chairman, Board of Directors
419-684-9208 or 419-684-9512

Other Atlanta Scenes (continued)

Other convention activities included Friday daytime bus tours in the area, daily afternoon two-hour singing sessions for "Wannabe" fans with Ross Barbour directing us and sharing more of his own memories of the songs we are singing, a meeting of those who are active on the Four Freshmen Yahoo Group, and a Four Freshmen Society Board meeting.. Saturday activities included Society State Representatives meeting to discuss their activities and ideas and the just under two-hour "Fresh Talk."

The Atlanta convention was the first with frequent updates from the gathering each day shared online with the world, using the resources of Twitter. Those posts still can be found online at <http://twitter.com/fffanfare> (no Twitter account needed to access them). This Twitter page is dedicated to news about the Four Freshmen.



My Personal "Bucket List"

This past weekend in Atlanta, Georgia was my extremely fortunate attempt to accomplish my own personal version of that movie. I can tell you that Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson had nothing on this old man after three magnificent days at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

To begin my thankful appreciation I must start with expressing my deepest appreciation to organizers Chaz and Gael Cone. I've attended hundreds of Four Freshmen concerts and several conventions. This was (to me of course) the epitome of grandeur and panache. To those who know me, it's no big secret that The Four Freshmen are my all-time favorite singers/musicians/recording artists and that I have been a devout "fanatic" since the very beginning. My "Number One Hero" has always been Ross Barbour so you can readily understand why I jumped about three feet off the ground when I received the e-mail telling us that we were going to be seated with Ross, his lovely wife Sue, along with former FF member Autie Goodman and his son plus some other guests. Another good friend of ours - Richard Obney - also was at our table. Sadly his companion for the event was unable to attend due to her mother's health problems. Richard took a lot of beautiful photographs and video that we are enjoying immensely.

From the time I checked into the Crown Plaza Ravinia until it was time to load up the car on Sunday and head home I had three days of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. From walking through Club 113 and seeing all the memorabilia, records, CDs, DVDs, pictures and items up for bidding in the silent auction to Ross relating many personal stories during his leading "Wannabe" sing-alongs, there was something to see and do almost every waking moment. It was very nice getting to finally put faces with names at the Four Freshmen Yahoo meeting that moderator Phil Stout ran for us.

The jam session was very enjoyable and some extremely talented musicians performed. Of course I was anxious for the dinner to end so we could finally see and hear what we had all traveled so far to enjoy. Friday night's concert began with a large jazz ensemble that rocked the rafters and got everyone pumped up and ready for Bob, Brian, Curtis and Vince. After a few numbers Brian announced that coming up later this year would be a concert at a jazz festival in California with the guys performing songs from the album "Five Trombones" and they were going to do several numbers for us. It was terrific and everyone thoroughly enjoyed all the music.

The concert on Saturday evening was just the Freshmen self-contained. A lot of folks seemed disappointed that several of the songs they had done on Friday were repeated. I didn't care. I love everything they do...and of course lip-synch right along with them. Of course I could list about 50 or 60 tunes I'd love to hear them do but I'm sure would be very difficult. The bit the guys did with "Blue Moon" had the whole place laughing hysterically. You need to see the YouTube videos and enjoy it all again.

After each show the guys met with their legions of fans for photographs and answering everyone's questions. These guys are truly gracious and extremely friendly - a hallmark of all the Freshmen since the very beginning.

So my personal "Thank you!" to Chaz, Gael, Ross, Flanigan (who celebrated his 83rd birthday (with everybody including Miss Georgia of 2009), naturally Bob, Brian, Curtis, Vince, and of course Pamela who allowed me the opportunity to just be a bit crazy for a few days with The World's Greatest Entertainers!

Four Freshmen Forever!!!
Ray Gardner, Leesburg, FL