

Our President, **Neil Lantz**



FFS Volunteers Make It Happen

It's been my pleasure over the past seven years as President to work with dozens of volunteers who continue to dedicate their time and energy to support the activities of the Society, especially as it pertains to planning and execution of our annual conventions. Unfortunately, space limitations make it impossible for me to list everyone, but I do wish to salute the prime movers who did so much to lead the 2019 Convention as well as those who are already hard at work in planning the 2020 event. Working closely with FFS Board Chairman Gil Peterson, who also chairs the Convention Coordination Committee (CCC), the 2019 Convention was under the leadership of Co-chairs Kathy Bazz and Nancy Driscoll. Together with their local committee, Kathy and Nancy executed a most entertaining and enjoyable experience for all of us who attended. I sincerely appreciate their leadership and thank them and their dedicated committee for all that they did to make the Denver gathering another great FFS event.

Looking ahead to next year, the 2020 Convention will be held September 24 – 26 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City, Michigan under the enthusiastic leadership of Jim and Linda Williams. Bay City sits adjacent to the Saginaw River a few miles from the entrance of Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. The Williamses, who reside in Bay City, are in the process of recruiting other Freshmen fans to join their local committee. Many thanks to Linda and Jim and their growing team for their volunteer spirit on behalf of the Society. Further details on the 2020 Convention will be forthcoming soon.

Thanks also to another team of hard working volunteers – the FFS Corporate Board of Directors and Emeriti Directors, all who are listed in this issue. As well, I wish to express appreciation and congratulations to retiring Board members Mel Meyers and Yasushi Ichiura, both of whom volunteered faithfully for many years in a variety of roles.

Congratulations are offered, also, on the election of two new members to the Board of Directors, George Nosky and Hank Roysden. George and wife Ellie have been members of the Society for 22 years. George serves as the State

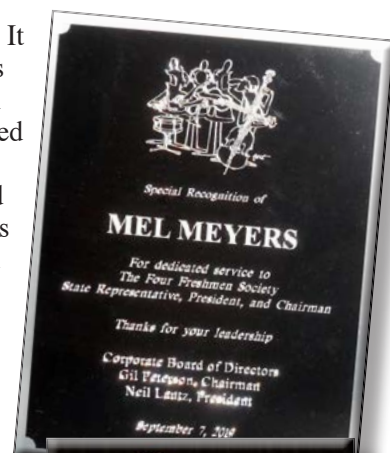
Thanks for the Memories

by Mel Meyers

The Denver Convention was great for me. It brought back memories of meeting Flan, Ross and Ferreira and the rest of the Four Freshmen through the years. One of my most remembered was the 50th Anniversary Convention in Las Vegas. This was my first convention. I walked out on the patio and saw Flan and Joe Williams having a drink. My thought was this is a good place to hang out. So we have! We have gone to many concerts and sold CDs for the guys. We went on many cruises with them. On the first cruise, we sat at the same dinner table with Bob Ferreira and have remained friends for many years. I have been honored to serve in many capacities in The Four Freshmen Society including my last endeavor as CEO. I enjoyed serving for several years until my health started declining.

Now in Florida, we hope to continue supporting the Four Freshmen for many years to come. So, to all who helped in my offices, I say, "Thanks. Thank you all for this wonderful honorary Plaque."

And to all the Four Freshmen and The Four Freshmen Society, I say "Thanks For The Memories".



Representative for Michigan and most recently volunteered to become the Midwest Regional Director. Hank has been a FFS member for 25 years, is the West State Rep for Ohio, and Co-chaired the 2017 Convention in Dayton with wife Sue. Both George and Hank will continue to do a great job on behalf of the FFS membership and the Freshmen.

Volunteerism for the Society is critical to its success. I can't express my appreciation enough to all of the volunteers I've mentioned along with the dozens of other who have served over the years as Board members, Officers, State Reps, Convention Co-chairs, and members of local convention committees. Collectively all of the volunteers have worked in so many ways to make our organization the best vocal/instrumental jazz support group in the world...thanks to everyone for jobs well done!