

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

I hope you have all enjoyed a pleasant summer and are looking forward to the holiday season which will be upon us before we know it. Time has a way of marching on regardless of what is going on in our busy lives. It seems like such a short time ago we were gathered in Bay City, Michigan for our convention/reunion. Looking forward, we are preparing for a fabulous event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of The Four Freshmen in September of 2023, back where it all began in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Be sure to check out all the information in this issue regarding this convention, and mark your calendar now so you can start planning to be there. I guarantee you do not want to miss this one!

As I write this, I find myself going back in time remembering all the wonderful friends Tom and I made through this organization over the last 30 years who are no longer with us. On July 30th we lost one of the best in Mel Meyers. Barb and Mel have been some of the strongest and most devoted fans of The Four Freshmen I have ever known. When they lived in Toledo, Ohio I was able to visit often and was always amazed at the dedicated FF room full of Fresh memorabilia. They had items from group one right through the current group at that time. Mel and Barb had a special relationship with Bob
(continued on page 11)



Bay City to Fort Wayne

by Gil Peterson

Many thanks for the diligence and determination of Jim and Linda Williams, we were able to have an extremely successful FFS convention. Even after two postponements, they were able to keep all the terms and conditions of the original contract with the hotel as they were, without a single change. That is pretty amazing to me. One of the keys to their success was establishing a wonderful working relationship with the hotel Marketing Manager, Stephanie Ahrens, who turned out to be nothing short of an angel for us. Stephanie and all of her staff could not have been more accommodating. The FFS is deeply appreciative to each of you.

The convention got under way Wednesday evening with one of the best jam sessions we have ever had. Dave Blackwell did an outstanding job of organizing and emceeding the event. Thanks, Dave. What would we do without you.

Thanks to a grant from the FFMF, a group of four young men from the Boston area opened the Thursday Freshmen concert singing several Freshmen charts. It was delightful to see young people who love the Freshmen sounds as much as we do. They were terrific. The FFMF also sponsored Josh Evert who sang with the Freshmen and spoke to our group. Very talented!

The Board of Directors elected three new members to the Board. Congratulations to Linda Harrison, Marlene Lobsiger and Mark Schlichting. Welcome aboard. We look forward to your guidance and advice.

We had a very special guest attending the convention. Dina Sheets-Roth, manager of the Freshmen. Dina had not attended a FFS convention since 2007 in Portland. It was great having you with us, Dina. Join us again soon.

The new CD, *The Four Freshmen featuring Emmet Cohen*, was available in the 113 Club. If you have not purchased one yet, they are available at the Music-Mart and you need to get your copy soon. You'll simply love the it!

The Thursday and Friday night Freshmen concerts were marvelous. Group #27 is a very special group. Their performances were simply superb. They have a very close relationship together and that comes shining through with their instrumental and vocal renderings. If you have not had the privilege of hearing Group #27, if they happen to be anywhere near you, do yourself a favor - go see and hear them. I can guarantee you that you will love this group.

All in all, Bay City was a terrific convention. Thanks to all of you who made it happen.

On to Fort Wayne

If you missed Bay City, you will not want to miss the 2023 Convention to be held in Fort Wayne, IN. The contract has been recently signed and the dates for the convention will be September 21 to 23, 2023. Our Co-Chairs are Dave Blackwell and Marlene Lobsiger. Many of you may remember they Co-Chaired a very successful FFS convention in 2013. The 2023 Convention will be the 75th Anniversary of The Four Freshmen, (1948-2023). Dave and Marlene are planning to make this convention even more amazing than the 2013 Convention. You will want to make every effort possible to attend. All of the information will be in the January issue of the *Fresh News*. Put these dates on your calendar and don't let anything keep you from being there.

Stay safe and stay healthy.....I will see you in Fort Wayne!