

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT! Back to the Beginning... 75 Years Later

By Pat Kirkpatrick, Gretchen Roth, and Mary Scrogam

We three want to tell all of our Four Freshmen Society members, old and new, how excited we are to once again be a part of the Four Freshmen Society Convention Committee, 2023, just as we were ten years ago. We are anxious to welcome everyone to Fort Wayne, Indiana, our city, where "it all began at the 113 Club." To us, this gives special meaning to the 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration.

Our Convention Committee for 2023 has many of the same members who planned the Fort Wayne Convention ten years ago in 2013. Some of us, including we three, are classmates from Fort Wayne North Side High School. (Many others, husbands, wives, old friends and new friends, all Freshmen Fans, were involved in planning and making that convention possible.) Our enthusiasm for The Four Freshmen was awakened by another classmate, Neil Lantz. Neil invited us to attend the Indianapolis Convention in 2008. We loved the music and the Society members made us feel so welcome and provided such a good time that we have attended many of the conventions since then.

At a recent get-together, we (Pat, Gretchen and Mary) were brainstorming hoping to find ways to contribute to the 2023 Convention. We even wore our 2013 Convention shirts to the get-together and Ken took our picture. We enjoyed reminiscing and sharing memories of when we first heard The Four Freshmen and their timeless music.

Pat: "I was first aware of The Four Freshmen sound while working on the 2013 Convention. I wanted to join my friends who were so enthusiastic about the project. I have been a devoted fan ever since."

Gretchen: "My husband, Stan, is a musician and a Stan Kenton fan. He introduced me to The Four Freshmen in 1956 at Ball State University. We've loved their music all these years."

Mary: "The Four Freshmen performed at Michigan State University, where I was a student in the fifties. My friend was a big fan and took me as his guest. I was hooked."

Our readers might enjoy remembering where and when they became fans of this special vocal jazz music.



Pat Kirkpatrick, Gretchen Roth, and Mary Scrogam
Committee Members of the Four Freshmen Society 2023 Convention

The Four Freshmen have added three new members since the Fort Wayne convention. We are so happy to welcome Bob and the newer members, Tommy, Ryan and Jake to our city. We are sure they will find local people, as well as Society Members, friendly, helpful, and enthusiastic.

Fort Wayne boasts many attractions. The Embassy Theater and the Botanical Gardens were featured as side trips ten years ago and are still highlights of our downtown. Within walking distance are the newly developed Promenade Park along the Saint Mary's River, the Landing with its historic vibe, several restaurants and the (Vera) Bradley Hotel incorporating its distinctive décor as well as its bar and two fine restaurants. A short distance away by car or shuttle is excellent shopping at Jefferson Pointe. This is just a very short list of the attractions Fort Wayne has to offer.

Save the date September 21-23, 2023. We had so much fun hosting The Four Freshmen Convention ten years ago, we can't wait to do it again. See you there!

